

# Adventuring With Abby

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EDGE  
PROJECT

## Project Summary

For my EDGE Project, I studied abroad in Tallinn, Estonia for the fall semester of 2018. Being fully enrolled at Tallinn University of Technology was a great experience that I won't be sure to forget anytime soon. During my time abroad, I gained a valuable insight into the political and economic aspects of the Baltic States all while exploring Estonia and the nearby countries.

## Project Highlights

I was able to teach a bi-weekly English course to students from all around the world. Fortunately, the class was a success and I gained a new love for teaching. Due to this experience, I was able to apply and be accepted into the Peace Corps to teach English in China for the next two years. If I wasn't given the opportunity to teach in Estonia, I wouldn't have even considered applying for my next adventure.

## From My Journal

Can a country become a bi-ethnic success story? If so, how? This is what I wanted to learn more about when I came to Estonia. As you can probably imagine, there is a large Russian minority population in Estonia due to the Soviet Union. Almost three decades later, 25% of Estonia's population identifies as ethnic Russian. The separation examined has seeped into every corner of their society—Russian schools, Russian grocery stores, Russian churches, and so much more. I was lucky enough to meet with researchers and experts in the topic to learn more throughout my time abroad.



Kasumu is a village on a small peninsula in Northern Estonia. The village is first mentioned in the 1400's and is widely known as "captain's village". It was home to a maritime school and many sailors called this place home. Even though the water was chilling, it was still beautiful to see.



Rummu is home to the ruins of an old soviet prison. The prison was established in the 1940's on a quarry in which inmates were forced to labor. Once the Soviet Union fell, Estonia left the prison behind and it is now a popular diving location.