Maryam Adewumi is a graduating senior majoring in Business Economics. During her time at the university, she shares that she has been blessed with the opportunity to not only study abroad three times, but also intern at a Big Four accounting firm in Lagos, Nigeria. The summer before her junior year, she had the opportunity to intern at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Lagos, Nigeria. She was in the Risk Assurance Services department where she worked under a government consultant trying to improve conditions in Lagos for school aged girls in the area. She credits interning abroad for giving her the travel bug!

Maryam’s first time studying abroad was spring semester of her junior year. She traveled to Ethiopia with the UC African Students Association for a service learning experience. Program participants visited Addis Ababa University and took a course on Women’s Studies, in addition to going to a women’s shelter and junior high schools.

Her second program took her to Montreal, Canada. This study abroad was very different because it was an honors seminar. For this class, students had to create their own business plan from scratch with students from the University of Quebec in Montreal. In order to create the business plan, students had to communicate virtually with team members in Montreal and later, in order to present the final product, the Canadian team came to UC! Maryam proclaims, “This was by far the most challenging course I have ever taken. It taught me how to work in teams, how to deal with language barriers and how to create my own business. Though challenging, it was also the most rewarding class I have taken at UC.”

Recently, Maryam returned from her final study abroad with the UC African Students Association where they traveled to Morocco! Very similar to the Ethiopia program,
participants visited multiple universities and schools to interact with other students. Her favorite part of the experience was when they spent the night at a boarding school in the Atlas Mountains. UC students were able to spend so much time with the native students - hiking, playing soccer and even learning Arabic!

From all three experiences, her greatest take away is that college students are the same in every country! They all have goals for the future, want to better the lives of those around them and love interacting with new people. These WONDERFUL experiences have forever changed the way Maryam sees the world. She chose to study abroad to not only learn more about the countries and cultures where she visited, but also to learn more about herself. By being placed in a new environment, one becomes more introspective which allows for self-growth. Maryam’s only regret regarding studying abroad is not starting sooner in her college career!