



# Jada

from

Mississauga West

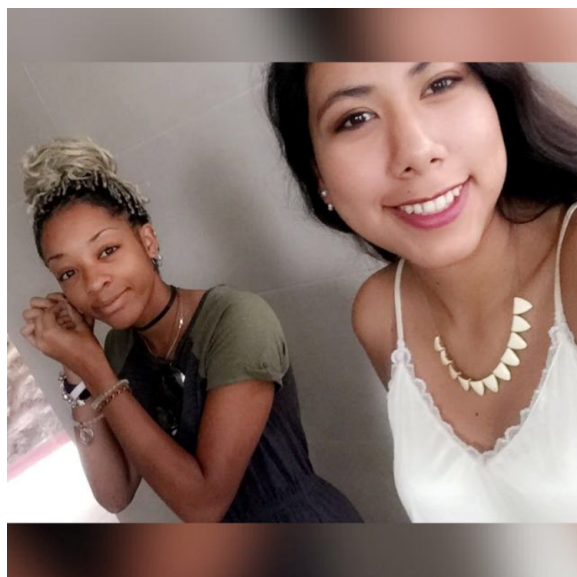
to

Peru

*“No longer an Exchange Student!”*

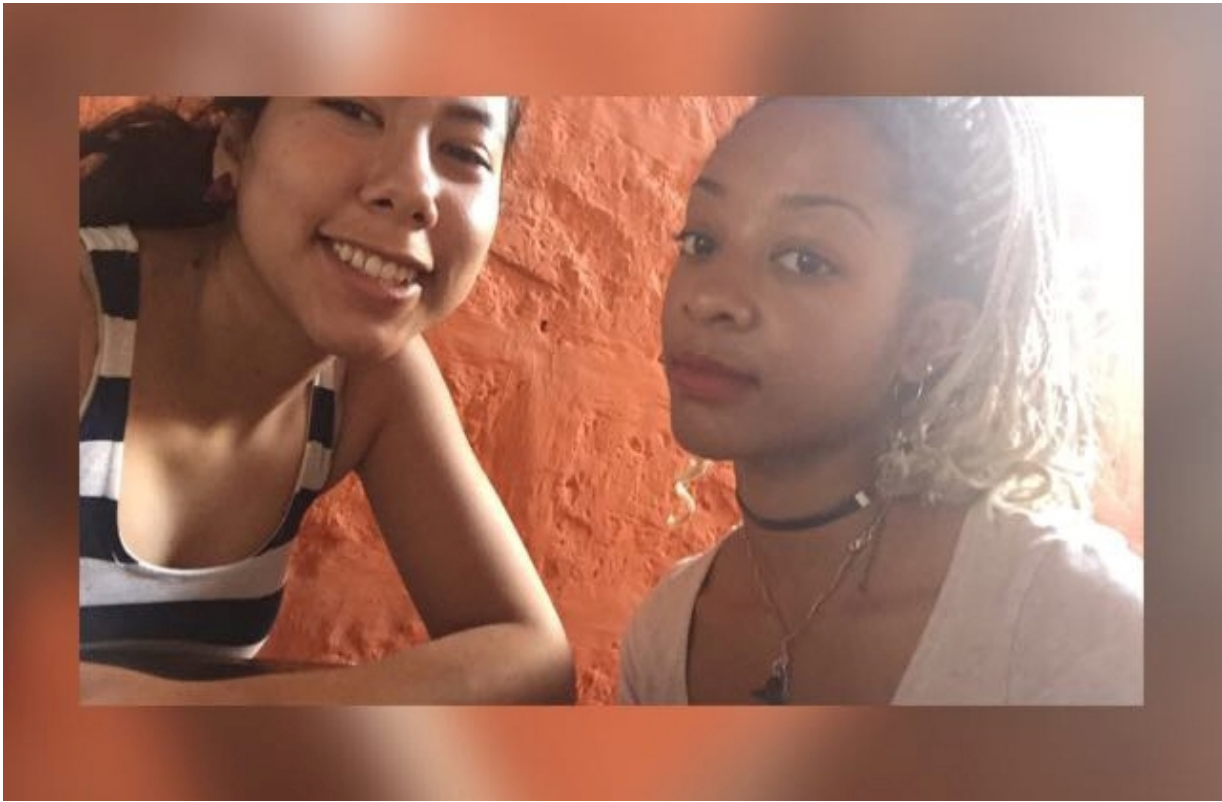
*Less than two months left*

Just thinking about the fact that I'm going back to Canada in some weeks, makes me feel odd. I really don't have a set idea of what it will be like, (same feeling I had arriving to Peru) and I don't know how I will act. Hopefully I don't have to go in to therapy for dealing with homesickness from Peru!



*Changing families*

In March, I changed families. I also changed provinces, from Lima to Arequipa. I currently live with my host mom and host sister, here in Arequipa. I truly love my family here, and can say that I absolutely need to come visit Peru again. If not for the food, Machu Picchu or to continue learning Spanish, it would definitely have to be to visit my current family here. My host sister of this family is going on exchange to Slovakia, so our plan for me to stay another month won't work. My host mom also keeps reminding me of how I'll be leaving soon and how she won't have anyone to laugh with or laugh at (as a joke).



### University

If I would of stayed in Lima, I would have gone to USIL (Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola). Since I've moved to Arequipa, I go to USMP (Universidad San Martin de Porres).

I'm extremely happy that I get to go to University, because I remember at the beginning of the year, Rotary Peru told the exchange students that those under the age of seventeen wouldn't be able to go. My problem was that I just turned sixteen in October, so I definitely wouldn't be able to go. School in Peru was certainly an "experience" to say the least, but I needed something different. Although it was a bit different, it was still school, and I needed to see how university was. Before I left to Arequipa, I attended an orientation for USIL, and found it very interesting. There were a lot of foreign students, not just from Rotary,



everyone seemed really nice. The university was big with two campuses and reminded me of U of T. To me, that was the real university experience. Sadly I only got to go to that University twice before I moved to Arequipa. In USMP, it looked more like a school. I think that my school in Canada is actually larger than the university. There a lot less students, but all the exchange students in Arequipa went, except two who chose to go to school. I'm currently taking three courses; Ingeniería, Las ciencias de la computación and Filosofía. Although I'm taking three courses, I don't actually have a lot of classes. In my classes I've also made a lot of Peruvian friends. They treat me like their age and are so surprised that I'm just sixteen, because apparently I look older than them even though most of them are eighteen or nineteen.

### Spanish

Although I only have a little less than two months left, I've still been learning Spanish constantly, and still have more to learn. It's truly amazing how little Spanish I knew at the beginning of the year and how much I've learned. Moving to Arequipa undeniably helped me more with learning Spanish, because less people here speak English than in Lima. In Lima, every other teenager or child spoke English, and here it's rare for anyone who hasn't lived in Lima or an English speaking country to know English. I remember at the beginning of the exchange year, it was easier for me to learn Spanish because my first host family and everyone at my school spoke English and they would often teach me words. The problem with that, is that at times, I would catch myself only speaking English for long periods of time, and I feel like I could've learned a lot more if I only spoke Spanish with everyone. Nonetheless, I still have learnt a good amount of Spanish in Lima to the point that I could speak better than some of the exchange students who already took Spanish in their home countries. To this day, my host mom and host sister teach me how to pronounce certain words and letters. For example, for the longest time, I've been pronouncing "Yo" as it's written in English, but they've taught me that It's pronounced with a slight "J" and "Y" sound; kind of like "Jyo" (Hopefully that made sense). They also bug me sometimes when I pronounce things "the English way" by repeating what I said in the way that I said it, which makes me realize how ridiculous it actually sounds. Although it can be frustrating at times, I'm really thankful that they pull my leg like that because it actually helps me learn the essentials of Spanish.

### Conclusion

Since this is my last BeaverTale, I would like to wish good luck to the Outbounds going out to their countries and I hope that their exchanges go as wonderfully as mine. To any inbounds reading this, I hope you guys enjoyed your exchanges and hopefully we can all talk about them and show each other how much we've grown when we get back. To the rebounds, you all probably know how I'm feeling in this moment and a salute to you for staying strong like I'm trying to right now (although it is quite difficult). And last but not least, I would like to thank all the Rotarians for making this possible and I want you to know how truly grateful I am. Exchange has changed my life drastically and I don't think there will ever be a time in my life where I won't think about my year. One of my friends here on exchange already went to Japan for one year, and is doing another year here in Peru, and I was thinking about doing that too because of how much I loved my exchange here. Sadly, I can't, so I'm just going to enjoy my final moments here and forever be grateful for this opportunity given to me.

Saludos

*Jadita*