

Student Spotlight – Vanessa Baugue

How long have you been at USM?

I have been at USM for about one year and three months. In total, I have attended three semesters as a full-time student.

What made you choose USM?

The Tourism and Hospitality program made me choose the school. One of my family members attended the school and reading reviews from past graduates about their experiences at USM played a huge role in my decision to move from South Africa to USM.

What made you decide on your major?

I have always been passionate about tourism and hospitality and taking a leap later in life to pursue it felt right as I had rediscovered that there's more to do in this field through my travels.

Anything you would like to mention about your major or any classes or faculty that you've enjoyed?

I started this major in South Africa, and moving to USM has challenged me to think about the changes I would like to make in a leadership position and how to impact my community positively. This all started when I transferred to USM, the way that my major has been designed to have classes that compel one to think about world issues within their course critically. I have enjoyed being taught by my TAH professors they bring a wealth of professional experience, and being able to have a voice and share what I know with them has always been welcome. I still remember my first few weeks in the US and USM, having some of my professors guide me through the courses and reassuring me that everything was ok and they were there every step of the way.

What plans do you have after graduation?

I will work in my hospitality field as a room manager in training for a year to get industry experience, and thereafter, I will do my master's in hospitality management at Boston University.