

## Interviews with Dickinson Students who experienced two weeks on Montserrat

“I thought living in the shelters for a week was a great experience. We were in Montserrat not just to enjoy the sun and fun on the island. We were there to work and try to understand the disaster that struck 10 years ago better. By staying in the shelters for a week and then the villas we were able to compare the vast differences between the housing options that were available on the island after the eruption. To imagine that some people were forced to live in those shelters for multiple months or years is very difficult to do.

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“Having only stayed in the shelters for a few days and having rooms to ourselves a true reaction is almost impossible. I can however say that knowing that they were overcrowded and undersupplied to say the least helped me to visualize what they must have looked, smelled, and sounded like. Again, I am sure no matter how uncomfortable the shelters may have seemed to us, it was nothing compared to the way it must have been for all the Montserratians who had to stay in them during the crisis.”

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“They were not ideal living situations. The beds were uncomfortable, the bathrooms were tiny and had no mirrors, and the water was cold. There was no privacy and that got annoying. The rooms were so cramped with only one, and I can't imagine 2 or 3 people living in there for more than a week. I understand that it was a great learning experience for us, so I'm not complaining that we had to stay there, I'm glad we did, but to stay there long term makes me feel awful. I don't want anybody to have to exist like that, and after coming from comfortable housing that must be difficult. It rained almost every night and it was very loud on the roofs, it was hard to sleep hearing that rain. I just realized that there weren't laundry facilities and it would be difficult not having those. Living in the shelters must literally be living out of suitcases, and I hate that for more than a few days. “