

**PARAGUAY**

**Name:** Alejandra Maldonado  
**Program:** Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology (Degree)

I started my studies at Malaspina in January 2003 after working for a year at a rural school in my home country, Paraguay. Making the decision of studying abroad, leaving “home” behind, was a hard one to make. I was leaving the children whom I loved working with, my family, friends, and my dogs. And, although being away from home is sometimes hard, coming to Canada to study is something I would never regret having done. British Columbia is a beautiful province, Nanaimo a small community and Malaspina an institution that has a lot to offer. And it is the people who make all the difference. I’ve been in Nanaimo for three years and aside from the knowledge gained from taking academic courses, I’ve also learnt many wonderful things about life, people and myself.

When I came to Malaspina I was planning in majoring in psychology and later specializing in child development but in my first semester, I took an anthropology course and I found it so fascinating that I changed my mind. I am now in my fourth year of university and will be graduating in April of 2007 with a major in Anthropology and in Global Studies. After graduation, I am planning on going back home and would like to work with people. I am thinking of applying to nursing school and I am looking forward in being able to work in community projects and apply the knowledge I’ve gained while being a student at Malaspina.