Katie's Major: Spanish, Pre-Pharmacy

Program: CIEE Alcala Language and Culture, Summer

Academic Life: I took two classes in each of the four-week summer sessions for a total of twelve credits. This included a Spanish literature class, two Spanish culture classes, and a Spanish medical translation class for health professions that I absolutely loved! One unique aspect about the medical translation class was that it included a two week-long shadow/mentor experience with a doctor at the local hospital.

Spain as a Second Home: I realized within a few short weeks that I had a special relationship with my Spanish parents Pili and Luis, my sister Raquel, and my little brother, Nacho. The opportunity to live with a family instead of in a college apartment allowed me to immerse myself immediately into the Spanish lifestyle and language. Sometimes when I’m talking about my Spanish family to my friends here, I forget to include the “host” part, and then everyone gets a bit confused, but they really do feel like my family to this day. They welcomed me into their home, opened their hearts to me, and helped me adjust to living in Spain. My sister and I went shopping at the mall, my little brother played ping-pong with me, my dad and I watched movies after dinner, and my mom taught me how to cook arroz con leche and paella. One of the most difficult things I had to do while abroad was leaving my Spanish family once school was over.

Effect on Career Aspirations: I am now in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at UW–Madison and my improved ability to speak fluently in Spanish is quite important to me in my future career. I am confident that I will be able to reach a wider range of patient populations and provide patient-centered care to more people because of my Spanish language skills.

“I am much more outgoing when meeting new people and facing new situations.”

Katie posing with a statue of Don Quixote in Alcalá de Henares, Spain.