Program: CIEE Advanced Liberal Arts, Academic Year

Alexandra’s Majors: Spanish, Community & Environmental Sociology

Academic Life: I took three direct enrollment classes at the University of Sevilla and one CIEE class, a class with other students in the program. My three classes at the University were all Spanish students plus other study abroad students who chose to take direct enrollment classes. These three classes were lectures with no discussion or participation needed. There was no work throughout the semester but the final exams were very challenging with no guidance or assistance from the professors.

Biggest Cultural Difference: The most significant cultural difference for me was the academic system, since I was enrolled in classes at the University of Sevilla. The classes were challenging for me but what was really a culture shock was how they were organized. There was no work during the semester, all that was required was attending lectures and taking notes. They also grade on a 1-10 scale and the average scores are 5 and 6.

Advice for Someone Considering Your Program: Sevilla is the perfect place to study abroad and learn Spanish because the people are so welcoming and love to help you improve. The city is small enough that you never have to be worried about being lost for hours, but also big enough that there are always new restaurants to try and shops to see. The culture in Sevilla is so laid back, that it really allows you to be relaxed and realize that there are more important things in life than always being on time or getting as much work done as quickly as possible.

Benefits of Study Abroad: Study abroad helped me achieve many different things. I enhanced my vocabulary and became much more confident. It allowed me to experience first-hand another country’s academic system. I have expanded my network and have made many new valuable connections.

“I am much more competent in the Spanish language and much more comfortable speaking Spanish with native speakers.”