TOLEDO, SPAIN

HOUA LEE

Houa's Major: Journalism

Program: UMN Internship and Spanish Language, Summer

Academic Life: The institute I attended was in Toledo, roughly 40 miles southwest of Madrid, a beautiful city surrounded by River Tajo and medieval walls. Most of the students were Americans. Classes were held from Monday through Thursday and we met two times a day, twice a week. The classroom environment was very intimate. In my literature class, there were 9 students which allowed for thorough classroom discussions.

Houa's Internship: I worked at the regional TV Station in Toledo. The TV station was huge because attached to it was also the radio station. During my time there, I observed the whole news production process. Journalists and production specialists gathered news articles, wrote out news pieces, and recorded and edited them for broadcast. I had opportunities to travel with journalists to press conferences and observe that process as well. Interning in a different language will put you to the test. Communication skills are one of the top qualities employers look for; if this doesn't test your communication skills, I don't know what will.

Most Memorable Moments: The most memorable experience from my time abroad was interning at the regional TV Station. There, I met fellow interns who were native to Spain, who I still keep in contact with. Everybody was always so welcoming. Not only did I meet some incredible people, but I also gained work experience that I can carry with me.

Study Abroad and Houa's Future Aspirations: Studying abroad gave me a better understanding, attitude, and skills to go about working in a diverse world. This experience made me self-reliant, showing me ways to deal with new and difficult situations. I have been put in different environments during my time abroad and now have a greater appreciation for everything around me here in the United States.

“Never be too afraid to dive into the unknown.”

Houa in front of the Toledo backdrop.