TOLEDO, SPAIN

SAVANNAH MATHE

Program: UMN Internship and Spanish Language, Summer

Savannah’s Major: Biology

Academic Life: I chose to do the full time internship so I only had class two and a half hours per week plus 30 hours at my internship site. In class we discussed current events, concerns, and positives of our internships, and went through the assigned readings. The other students in the class were all US students from University of Minnesota, Notre Dame, Ohio State, and UW-Madison.

Internship Experience: I assisted nursing, physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy, and cafeteria staff at a site in Toledo, Spain. In speaking only Spanish, I helped the nurses take care of bedsores and other injuries. In PT I helped the patients walk and stretch. I helped the occupational therapist to lead exercise and memory classes and discussions about the residents’ health. This internship helped me to gain a lot of patient experience while becoming more educated about healthcare in another country.

Study Abroad with Future Career Aspirations: This study abroad experience really helped to improve my Spanish. I am a pre-Physician Assistant and being fluent in another language in the healthcare field will be really helpful. You can learn a lot about your career because it’s hands on experience and you’ll figure out if it’s something you’ll enjoy doing for the rest of your life!

Advice to Someone Considering Toledo: Spain is a wonderful country to study abroad in and I really enjoyed being in Toledo. I was interested in a smaller city to study in because I really wanted to get an authentic experience, different than what I experience here in Madison.

“You learn a lot about yourself, especially the fact that you are capable of doing so many things you never thought you could.”