

GRANADA, SPAIN

CODY GOETZ

Program: UIUC Spanish Studies in Granada, Summer

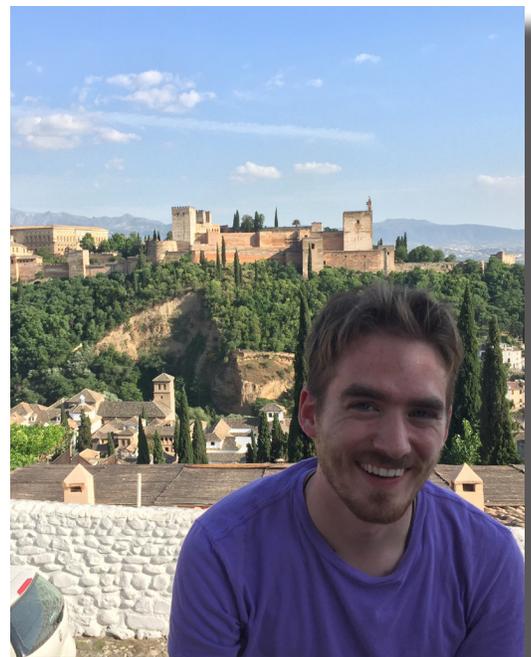
Cody's Majors: Music; Spanish

Academic Life: My academic and classroom experience was intimate and unique. There were twenty-seven students and our class sizes were very small. All my classmates were American and came from either UW-Madison, UI-Urbana-Champaign, or UI-Chicago. The two classes I took were Arab-Islamic Cultural Studies and History of Art in Spain. I highly recommend taking both of these courses as they are unique to the study abroad program and are very relevant to the local history and culture in Granada. In the art class, we also took field trips weekly to see the architecture and paintings in the city of Granada that we studied in class. Seeing these artifacts and learning how to identify their characteristics enhanced my learning experience.

Home Away from Home: Spain DEFINITELY became a second home for me even though I was only there for six weeks. Because I had such a wonderful experience with my host family (I felt like one of their own sons), it really made me feel at home in Granada. I was also able to integrate myself a bit into the local community by meeting and hanging out with gay guys. I became friends with them and some of them I still keep in contact with.

Benefits of Study Abroad: If you can survive (learn how to navigate daily life, interact with people in stores, figure out public transportation, make meaningful contacts and relationships) in a foreign country with a foreign language, everything in your own native culture and language becomes one hundred times easier. Studying abroad has fostered within me an inner resilience and realization that I can accept challenges and move through or with them with a certain amount of success and learning.

Making Study Abroad Work: I am a double major with Music and Spanish. While Music is a highly sequenced major, I was still able to find room in my schedule to fit in an experience that I will never forget.



Cody in Granada with La Alhambra in the background.

“It seems cliché but, studying abroad is one of the most fantastic times of your collegiate career.”

