

MADRID, SPAIN

ALLISON EBBEN

Program: WIP Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spring

Allison's Majors: Nursing; Spanish

Academic Life: I took five classes that all counted towards my Spanish major. The classroom setup was very similar to that of UW-Madison, except for the fact that all of my classes were generally smaller because there were no “large” lecture classes. The teaching style in Spain is much different. The time for classes is a two-hour minimum, two times a week. Additionally, the grading is much different. The majority of classes have final exams or final papers which are worth around 60-100% of your grade, meaning that there is little homework.

Housing: I lived in an apartment with six other Spanish people (guys and girls). I loved living with native speakers because it allowed me to build a connection with people my age that could also help me build a better foundation for the Spanish language. It was also great because I became friends with their friends, and learned all of the latest slang.

Tips for Future Students: This program is very independent, which means that you may have to put in a little more work than you figured. It's up to you to select your classes, to find an apartment, and to handle taking all of your classes in Spanish.

Skill-Building: One of the biggest skills I gained while being abroad was being able to adapt to any situation. When you're studying abroad, things seem to pop up and you have to learn to roll with it. There were times that I was supposed to do things for my classes, but I hadn't understood correctly so I didn't do it. However, working hard to turn things in and talk with professors was something I had to learn how to do. Traveling is also another time where things go wrong, and I had to learn how to figure things out for myself, especially when I was in a location where I didn't speak the language!



Allison on a visit to El Escorial in Madrid.

“My intercambio partner was very similar to me and we ended up having dinner bi-weekly with her family!”

