

MADRID, SPAIN

CASSIDY DEVAULT

Program: WIP Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Year

Cassidy's Majors: Nursing; Spanish

Academic Life: The program in Madrid is considered an immersion program, and therefore we spent the year taking classes that would allow us to become proficient in the Spanish language. We took a combination of classes; some classes were part of Reunidas with other American students studying abroad and others were with the local Spanish students. Most of the classes consisted of 1-2 exams and a final paper, and our final grade was based off of those few evaluations, making it a very academically rigorous program. The variety of classes offered in this program allowed me to learn more than just Spanish grammar, but also different cultural aspects in Spain.

Living in Madrid: I lived in an apartment with three other Spanish students in the neighborhood known as Moncloa, which was a 5 minute metro ride from the central part of the city and a 10 minute bus ride from the university. It was a very cute apartment in a great location, and living with Spaniards greatly improved my Spanish speaking abilities.

Benefits of Study Abroad: I feel that I have a much more well-rounded view of the world after studying in another country. I no longer just consider my viewpoint in things, but rather I think about how it affects other people and other countries. I appreciate the diversity in the world so much more than I did before.

Lifestyle Differences: In Spain, people take life one day at a time and they aren't obsessed with time. In the US, everyone is obsessed with doing as much as they can in as little time as possible. The lifestyle is definitely much more relaxed in Spain, and I was able to spend my days enjoying my cafe con leche while having an hour long conversation with my friends. It's a country that really teaches you to enjoy life and not worry so much about the little things.



Cassidy on a tour of Segovia, Spain, with the Catedral de Segovia in the background.

“The academics in the Madrid program are fantastic, and so are the people that run it.”

