

MADRID, SPAIN

LYDIA PINCSAK

Program: WIP Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spring

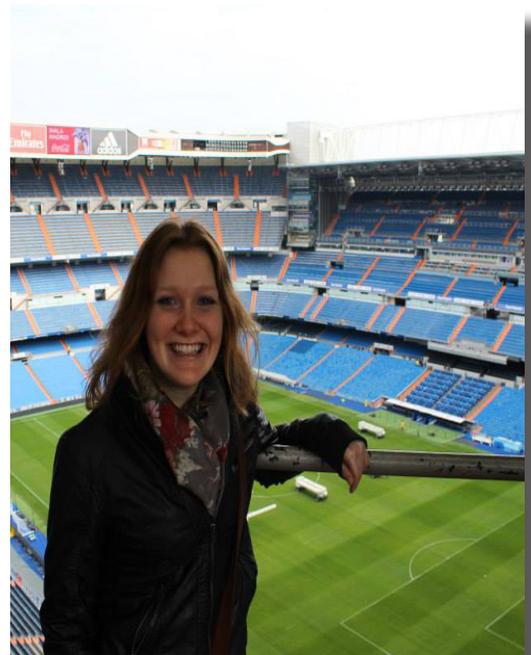
Lydia's Majors: Spanish, Political Science

Academic Life: My experience at the Complutense was challenging but also extremely rewarding. I took both Spanish and Political Science courses, all of which were in Spanish. We took three classes called "Reunidas" which were only with students from the United States and then two classes in the Complutense which were with Spanish students and other European students studying abroad. The professors were extremely helpful and very eager to work with students from the US. I had to work very hard and study a lot because of the language barrier, but it was well worth it because my Spanish improved greatly.

Madrid as a Second Home: Spain, and especially Madrid, definitely feels like a second home to me. I lived in such a great neighborhood and I loved feeling like I was a part of it. Spain itself is so diverse from city to city, and it was so interesting to be a part of its cultural patterns and traditions.

How Study Abroad has Set Lydia Apart: I think studying abroad has given me a more well-rounded perspective on the world. One important lesson I learned was that just because one cultural aspect of a group of people is very different or strange to you, that does not mean it is better or worse--just different. I now have a greater appreciation for cultural diversity, and I know what it feels like to be the foreigner who has trouble communicating and understanding the local language.

Study Abroad and Future Aspirations: I think when an employer reads my resume and asks me about my time in Spain, they will be impressed at my ability to live in another place where the main language was not English. They will see that I am able to overcome challenges and be a leader because now I am a much more flexible, independent and well-rounded person.



Lydia touring the Real Madrid Stadium-
Santiago Bernabéu.

“Madrid is such an amazing city with so much life and activity.”

