

MADRID, SPAIN

MCKENNA SPLETT

Program: WIP Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spring

McKenna's Majors: Kinesiology; Spanish

Academic Life: I took 4 Spanish classes varying in Spanish language, literature, linguistics, and I also took one European History class (in spanish!). We had two classes that were with native Spanish speakers and were assimilated into the classroom just like any other person, but we also had three classes that gave us the opportunity to learn alongside other American students. While the academic setting made it a very challenging program, I learned so much and my Spanish became progressively better over the semester given that we were required to speak it at all times.

Living in Madrid: I lived in a great apartment just north of the center of Madrid with three AMAZING roommates. Two of my roommates were Italian and taking a year to study medicine in Spain, and my other roommate was a native Spaniard studying biology.

Benefits of Study Abroad: I am more understanding of the cultural diversity that surrounds me. Being in Madrid, a city of about 4 million people, you are constantly surrounded by people of all backgrounds, not only Spaniards. To have that much diversity in one city is astounding, shocking, and also one of the most humbling experiences. Studying abroad makes you appreciative of your own culture but also the cultural differences that you become accustomed to along the way.

Tips for Future Students: If you're looking for a program to challenge you as a Spanish speaker, a student, and as a general individual, this is the program for you! You are immediately immersed in the Spanish culture from the first day and continue to learn more and more every day. Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone! It's outside of that comfort zone that you truly get to learn more about yourself and how you deal with challenges.



McKenna at a Real Madrid Fútbol Game.

“Studying abroad helps to develop character, professionalism, understanding, and patience.”

