

# MADRID, SPAIN

## MCKENZIE HENSEN

**Program:** WIP Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spring

**McKenzie's Majors:** Psychology and Spanish

**Academic Life:** For this program, you are required to take at least two Complutense courses which are classes taught in a regular classroom setting in the university with all Spanish students and up to 5 exchange students. These classes were very challenging as the professor is teaching to native Spanish speakers and in a Spanish style. They usually don't use powerpoints or notes but instead lecture for the two hour class. You are also required to take Reunidas courses which are only with American students in the program taught by a Spanish professor. These classes usually have about 40 people or less and are an hour and a half long.

**Housing:** I lived with a host mother for the first month I was there while I searched for an apartment on my own. My apartment was only a bus ride away from school in a safe neighborhood. I lived with four other girls from other countries who all spoke Spanish and were around my age.

**Advantages to Studying Abroad:** There were many experiences I had abroad that I couldn't have had in the U.S. My Complutense classes were far more challenging than those at Madison for me and taking classes with Spanish students forced me to interact with their culture and language even more. I now feel much more confident in my Spanish. I was also able to solve several problems that came up without any assistance that I never would have encountered at home.

### **Advice for Someone Considering the Program:**

Be prepared for a challenging course load. I think many people look at study abroad as easy schooling with lots of traveling, but this program has very difficult classes. They are definitely manageable, but you will need to work hard to receive good grades and succeed in your classes.



McKenzie on a city visit in Spain.

**“Although it is challenging, it was extremely worth it. You will gain a far higher level of the language.”**

