

# MADRID, SPAIN

## MOLLY GANNON

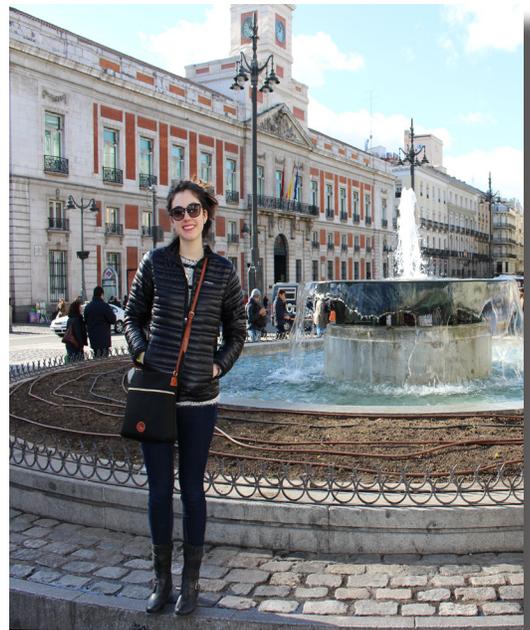
**Program:** WIP Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spring

**Molly's Majors:** Nutritional Sciences, Spanish

**Academic Life:** Complutense is a very large university, but this program is contained within three facultades (schools), so the lecture sizes averaged around fifty students. Reunidas are with other American students, the Complutense are with Spaniards or other Erasmus students. All professors are from the university and teach exclusively in Spanish. Lectures lasted from an hour and half to two hours. Your grade was usually determined by a midterm and final that was at least 50% of your grade, along with a few papers. You quickly learn that while it seems like there's not too much work to do at the beginning, the system makes it so it more or less all falls to the end of the semester! So staying ahead helps.

**Madrid as a Second Home:** Madrid has so many unique neighborhoods, it is easy to find a niche. It also maintains its traditional Spanish roots to the point where you find yourself acting more and more Spanish every day. Public transportation makes zipping across the city a breeze, and soon you find yourself rattling off names of metro stops and streets, navigating them better than your own hometown. Once I could talk with natives about which barrio they lived in and started using "Madrileño" sayings and vocabulary in daily conversation, I felt like I really had found my home away from home.

**Tips for Someone Considering Studying Abroad:** Think about what you want the focus of your study-abroad experience to be. If meeting natives and speaking Spanish is your goal, living independently in an apartment may offer the best opportunity. If you come from a small town and living away from your family is intimidating, maybe a program with great homestay option is your way to find a Spanish family substitute. You cannot predict what your experience will really be like, but you can control some logistical aspects that can start you off on the right foot.



Molly in La Puerta de Sol,  
Madrid's city center.

**“Seeing all the diverse cities and sites Spain has to offer made for some of my greatest memories.”**

