

# MADRID, SPAIN

## SHELBY POLIZZI

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

**Shelby's Majors:** Spanish and International Studies

**Academic Life:** Studying at the Complutense de Madrid was a challenge that taught me so much about myself and the Spanish language. The program consisted of five classes total, three classes in the Reunidas program, which consisted of only American students from the program. These classes were comparable to Spanish classes at UW-Madison. The other two classes were taken at Complutense de Madrid and consisted of up to five international students and the rest were all Spaniards. These classes were a challenge, but they taught me the most while studying abroad in Spain. I received a tutor for the Complutense classes which helped tremendously.

**Housing:** During the first month I lived in a homestay with one other girl from my program. Our señora would cook us typical Spanish meals and offer great conversation. Being placed in a typical home setting in Spain, and in a situation that showed me what every day life in Spain is, was incredible. The remainder of the time I lived in an apartment that I found myself during the first month. I lived with 5 other girls, from all around the world. Being able to have the experience in an apartment was amazing.

**How Studying Abroad Sets You Apart:** Studying abroad helps you to look at life in new ways. You see other parts of the world and you realize how things can be made different or better and you are able to realize that there isn't just one way to do things. You are given the chance to be so much more independent than you ever thought you could be, but at the same time you learn to ask for help.

**Tips For Someone Considering Study Abroad:** Choose a program that will challenge you in every way, take classes in a different language and take classes that will be hard for you. You learn a lot from traveling and the experiences you have but you also learn a lot when you take classes that truly test your education.



Shelby enjoying a fútbol game at the Santiago Bernabéu stadium in Madrid.

**“I learned more about the language, culture and myself than I had ever thought I would.”**

