

MADRID, SPAIN

SHIA VANG

Program: WIP Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spring

Shia's Majors: Biochemistry; Spanish

Academic Life: The Reunidas classes are more or less similar to Spanish classes offered here at the UW. The instructors are all natives and speak only Spanish in the classroom. Class etiquette is different there but is to be expected of a different culture. The Complutense classes are a lot harder than the Reunidas classes. They are taught by professors in the university and you are in a class with Spanish natives. Classes are 2 hour lectures and you spend most of the time writing down notes and sometimes there are small activities for the class. In the Complutense classes, we had only 5 or less American students in each class.

Living in Madrid: I lived in a homestay for a month to start, which was part of the program. During that time I found an apartment to live in for the rest of the time. My roommates were from Spain and Mexico. After so many months in Madrid, I'd refer to it as home because I was just there for so long and I knew the city so well.

Tips for Future Students: It is very Spanish intense, but is very rewarding. Madrid is a nice city to stay in and the culture there has exceeded my expectations many times over. The food, people, and getting to travel were some of my more memorable moments.

Benefits of Study Abroad: I am now more globally cultured, and accepting of opinions. I see it as an advantage because I have gained experiences abroad that others won't have. Most jobs will require teamwork and knowing the cultures of my co-workers. Learning to respect other cultures is something I have gained from my time abroad.



Shia among a picturesque garden.

“Overall, this experience broadened my horizons to new perspectives.”

