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Study Abroad Testimony

My study abroad experience was in Valencia, Spain, for one month and it was one of the most transformative experiences of my life. I learned so much from the school, my host family, and my friends. The classes were taught in both English and Spanish, so I had no trouble asking questions. The teaching methods used in class helped me learn much faster than I usually do. This mixed with the immersive nature of living in Spain with a host family allowed me to practice my Spanish outside of class for the entire month. My host parents taught me a lot about the culture and current events in Spain as well as helping me understand more colloquial terms and phrases. The friends I made also taught me a lot about international events and multilingual communication.

I was worried I would have trouble communicating with students from other countries, but most if not all were able to speak English. At the very least they were all able to speak enough that we could supplement with our shared knowledge of Spanish. I even found that communication with other people living and working in Spain was not very difficult. I learned the necessary phrases very quickly from friends and classes so I was able to communicate. The locals even helped me improve my broken Spanish to where I was able to flawlessly communicate at most of the stores, cafes, and attractions I visited.

After classes ended at night and on the weekends, the school had little events the students could attend. Every Monday the new students would go on a walking tour of the city with tapas afterward. We saw flamenco, art exhibits, and went to the beach often. Over the weekends we

could visit a bigger exhibit, like the local aquarium, or a nearby city. My first weekend we visited a castle in Xátiva, Spain, built around the beginning of the last millennium. We were able to learn about the architectural changes that took place between the Christian rulers and the Arabic rulers as well as the history surrounding other parts of the little town. Outside of the school I was still able to travel all over the city visiting the Zoo, the beach with friends, gardens, and roman ruins right beneath the old city center. I always felt safe around the city, especially when I was with friends. I was able to explore Valencia, learn more about myself and my capabilities, and earn college credits while I was there. I would recommend study abroad to anyone who is considering it!