

# Study Abroad



**VALLADOLID  
SUMMER & FALL 2019**

*Program Guide*

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***Congratulations*** on being accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire program with the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV), Chile! Living and studying in a new culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

***Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field***

***Increasing understanding of different cultures***

***Enhancing personal growth***

***Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture***

***Gaining self-confidence and independence***

***Learning skills for the future international job market***

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

Use this program guide in conjunction with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The Handbook has information that is valid for all UW-Eau Claire study abroad programs. This guide has information to assist in your preparation for participating in the exchange. It complements the Handbook, study abroad orientations, additional information in your UWEC online study abroad account and from your peer advisor, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Although all the information available at the time of publishing has been used, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email additional information throughout the semester. We also encourage you to contact your peer advisor, the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, and past program participants with your specific questions.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common goals of student travelers include advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for change, and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.

2) Given the way the program is set up, how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is to truly be immersed in the Spanish language and culture, yet you will be taking classes with all international and/or American students, how can you ensure that you get out and interact with the local population?

The information in this guide was current at the time of printing, though changes may occur at any time

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### *The Program*

For over 20 years, UW-Eau Claire students have been studying Spanish at the Universidad de Valladolid! (UVA) During your term in Spain you will live with Spanish families and study in the Cursos de Estudios Hispánicos with students from several other U.S. universities as well as other countries. Three excursions to sites such as Salamanca, Segovia, Ávila-EI Escorial, and Madrid are included in the cost of the program.

### *The Location*

Valladolid has a population of more than 300,000 and is located 120 miles north of Madrid. The Pisuerga River passes through the city, providing fishing, boating, swimming, and lovely parks in this otherwise dry Castilian city. An agricultural and industrial center, Valladolid also has a lively cultural life. A former capital of Spain, it possesses the National Museum of Sculpture, famous Holy Week processions, museums of Cervantes and Zorrilla, churches of many types, and diverse architecture. Shops, restaurants, bars, banks, museums, and civic buildings are all located in the main part of the city. Past participants note that Valladolid is a large city, and students should take all safety precautions that they would in a U.S. city of similar size.

### *The University*

One of Spain's oldest universities, the Universidad de Valladolid was founded in 1241 and dates to the time of Ferdinand and Isabel, who were married in the city. It currently enrolls 37,000 students. As a foreign student, you will participate in a special program of Hispanic Studies through the University's Cursos para Extranjeros. **You will not have any classes with Spanish students!** Classes are held in a recently built section of campus in the northeast part of the city.

## *Academic Calendar*

### Summer 2019:

Departure from U.S.	June 1
Official Arrival	June 2
First Day of Classes	June 3
Program End Date	July 26
Departure Date	July 27

### Fall 2019

Departure from U.S.	September 28
Official Arrival	September 29 before noon
Orientation	September 30
First Day of Classes	October 1
Program End Date	December 13
Departure Date	December 14

## ACADEMICS

*Your Study Abroad Handbook has additional information on academic topics such as: maintaining eligibility, registration, class attendance, credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad.*

### *Academic Information for Fall Registration in Valladolid*

You will not need to do anything to register in Valladolid, since you will be taking a set schedule of courses based on your classes completed at UW-Eau Claire and your UVA placement exam.

### *Credits and Course Load*

Summer students will earn 6 credits; fall students will earn 12 credits on this program. Students in the Valladolid program are **required to take all classes in the program.** Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and must be approved in advance by the CIE.

## Classes

Your classes will meet in the Centro de Idiomas building. Your classes will be with other students who are learning Spanish, from the U.S. and around the world.

**Summer:** Your credits will depend on your placement level.

UVA Placement	UWEC Credit
Spanish A1	SPAN 101
Spanish A2	SPAN 102
Spanish B1.1	SPAN 201
Spanish B1.2	SPAN 202
Spanish B2.1	SPAN 301
Spanish B2.2	SPAN 302
Spanish C1	SPAN 410
Spanish for Business*	SPAN 340
Spanish for Health*	SPAN 420
Spanish Literature**	SPAN 363

\*These courses have a UVA pre-requisite of level B1.2 and a UWEC pre-requisite of SPAN 202.

\*\*This course has a UWEC pre-requisite of SPAN 302.

**Fall:** All students will take include: Grammar, Conversation, Spanish Culture, Spanish Literature, History of Spain, History of Spanish Art, Geography of Spain, and European Union.

12 UW-Eau Claire credits are assigned for the semester as follows:

### **EITHER\*:**

3 credits for Span 302 (earned through completion of Gramática Española at the appropriate level)

### **OR**

3 credits for Span 410 (earned through completion of Gramática Española at the appropriate level). You may only take 410 if you have already completed Span 302 at UW-Eau Claire.

### **AND:**

#### **UWEC Class**

3 credits for Spanish 405  
3 credits for Spanish 363  
3 credits for Spanish 356

#### **Valladolid Classes**

Expresión Oral  
Literatura  
Historia,  
Geografía,  
Historia del Arte,  
Cultura Española  
**combined**

### **Important Notes:**

Fall students who have completed 302 at UW-Eau Claire prior to study abroad must take 410 in Valladolid. **This means that you must take the "Advanced" or "Superior" level of the Gramática Española class.** If you do not test into that level, please notify the CIE immediately.

Students having completed 301, but not 302, at UW-Eau Claire prior to study abroad will take the appropriate course determined by the Valladolid placement exam **for 302 credit.** Depending on your placement exam, you may be in the "Intermediate", "Advanced" or "Superior" level of Gramática Española, but you will earn 302 credit regardless. **You cannot earn 410 credit in Valladolid without having earned 302 credit at UW-Eau Claire.**

### **Class Schedule**

**Summer:** Classes meet four hours/day, Monday-Friday, in the mornings.

**Fall:** Class schedules will vary by week and month. Classes meet Monday-Friday, and each class will meet for different amounts of time. Specific class schedules may change several times during the semester, but a typical class



day will start around 9:30am and most days end at about 2:00pm, so you can go home for lunch. A class may occasionally meet after lunch, but that will usually only last for a few weeks.

### ***Assignments and Exams***

Compared to classes at UWEC, you will not receive a lot of homework in Spain. Most people have 10-30 minutes of grammar assignments to complete each night and sometimes 10-20 minutes of reading for literature. So, you don't have a lot of daily work, but don't let that fool you into thinking that the classes are easy!

Exams are comprehensive and require a good amount of studying. **DO NOT start studying the night before!** Go over your notes each night starting at the beginning of the semester, then start studying more in-depth about a week or two before an exam, midterm, or final. Exams are similar to those here. There is a lot of writing involved - you will have essay questions and short answer responses more often than multiple-choice exams.

### ***Additional Class Requirements***

As part of your classes, you will also be required to attend three to four cultural events on campus or in the community. There are many options, movies, music, theater--and you choose what you want to attend.

### ***Immersion Requirement***

This program fulfills the immersion requirement for Spanish majors or minors.

### ***Service-Learning***

If you are interested in completing your service-learning requirement in Spain, ask one of your professors how to get in touch with Cruz Roja for volunteer opportunities. There is detailed information on how to do your service-learning abroad in the Study Abroad Handbook.

### ***Grades***

Grades are assigned by the professors at UVA according to the Spanish system. A grade report with Spanish grades and U.S. equivalencies is sent to UW-Eau Claire at the end of the semester. The U.S. grades and credits appear on your UW-Eau Claire transcript and are included in your GPA. The grade conversion scale is as follows:

Valladolid Grade	UW-Eau Claire Equiv.
9-10	A
7-8.99	B+
6-6.99	B
5-5.99	C
0-4.99	F

Note that UW-Eau Claire students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail, and that grades from Valladolid are figured into your UW-Eau Claire GPA.

### ***Transcripts and Credit Transfer***

A transcript for your program will be sent from UVA to UW-Eau Claire. Transcripts usually arrive four-six weeks after the end of the term. Because this is later than the UW-Eau Claire semester, your MyBlugold CampS account will initially indicate "NR" (not reported) for all courses. This will be changed once the grades arrive. **If you are a senior studying abroad for your last semester, be sure to read the information about transcripts and graduation in your Study Abroad Handbook.**

### ***Spanish Academic System***

Although you are going to a program for international students, it is important to keep in mind that you are not going to a U.S. classroom abroad. These courses are taught within the Spanish university system by Spanish professors. Higher education in Europe is very different from that in the U.S.

**Students are expected to learn fairly independently and often work together**

**outside of class to understand or expand upon the materials presented.** There is little time allowed for discussion or classroom participation, and short quizzes and daily or weekly assignments are very uncommon. Grades are largely based on major exams and/or papers. You will have comprehensive exams in the middle of the term and again at the end of the program.

If you have questions for professors that cannot be asked during class, the time to ask is either right before or right after class. Spanish professors are not required to hold office hours; the time they expect to interact with students is during class. That said, do not be afraid to ask questions. The professors are more than willing to answer both academic and cultural questions for you.

Spanish students obtain their academic degrees by taking comprehensive exams at various points during their university education. The exams require students to integrate knowledge from several areas. Less emphasis is placed on individual courses. Specific course syllabi with dates and topics, required in U.S. higher education, are generally unknown. Classes often have no required textbooks. This gives U.S. students the impression that Spanish instructors are unorganized or not well prepared when in fact, they are working within the framework of a different academic system.

Another difference to note is that “student services” is a relatively unknown concept. The university is there to provide access to academic resources. It does not have the mission, common to most U.S. institutions, of “student development.” University students are considered adults who will work their way through the system, asking questions when necessary. As a newcomer to the system and

the culture, you will find it necessary to ask questions often!

### ***Study Space***

On campus, the Centro de Idiomas has a study room in the building, and there are multiple libraries in different buildings nearby that are great study space.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

*Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### ***Cost Estimate***

You can find the most current cost estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the [CIE Valladolid webpage](#). Be sure you are looking at the correct term. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire and what you pay directly to other vendors.

### ***Personal Travel***

The amount spent on personal travel varies greatly from student to student. Consider both your budget and your priorities. Students who want to be involved in their host community generally spend less time (and money) traveling. Others travel every weekend with correspondingly high costs and fewer close connections in their new home.

Past semester participants who responded to our money survey spent between \$870 and \$4000 on personal travel, with the average of those reporting at \$2340.

Those who reported spending on the lower end of the range noted that they had traveled 3-4 weekends, mostly around Spain. Those in the mid-range reported traveling about every other weekend, plus before or after the



program. Those on the high end traveled just about every weekend and before or after the program.

### **Currency Exchange**

The currency of Spain is the Euro. One euro has 100 cents. There are eight euro coins, ranging in amount from one cent to two euros and have different designs in the various countries that use the Euro. Bills range from €5 to €500 and have a standard design across countries.

The exchange rate as of January 11, 2019 was 1 Euro = \$1.11834 U.S. You can find current exchange rates at <https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

*In addition to the scholarships listed in your Study Abroad Handbook, this may also apply for Valladolid students.*

### **Hilda Belle Oxby Scholarship**

Advanced students of Latin American studies or Spanish, with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and 3.5 in Spanish are eligible to apply. Contact the Foreign Languages Department for application details. This scholarship generally has a March deadline.

## **MONEY ABROAD**

*In addition to the information in the Study Abroad Handbook, past participants report the following about Spain.*

### **Credit/Debit Cards**

If you are going to take a credit card (strongly recommended by past participants), Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted within Europe; American Express is not. You are usually asked to show another form of identification when using a credit card (a passport, driver's license, or ISIC student card should all work fine).

El Corté Inglés (a Spanish department store) accepts Visa without problems. There are some stores that have Visa marked in the window but don't accept it. ASK FIRST! Some stores will not sell sale items on credit cards. This holds true all over Spain.

### **Personal Checks**

It is difficult and expensive to cash personal checks or money orders from the U.S. It is generally possible only if you have opened a bank account in Valladolid, and even then, there is a processing fee and at least a week's wait before the money is available. If you have an American Express card, an American Express office will cash a personal check. There are specified limits on how much you can cash at one time or during one month. The nearest American Express office is in Madrid. There are also American Express offices in Málaga, Valencia, and Barcelona.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

*Additional information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### **Medical Facilities in Valladolid**

You can choose from many different types of medical facilities in town: private doctors, clinics, medical centers, private hospitals, or big main hospitals. Unless it is an emergency, the private sector is usually quicker. Your host family will help you get in contact with the appropriate facility/doctor. You can also ask staff members at the language center about where to go to get medical care, or go to the CISI insurance portal for addresses.

Past students asked about English-speaking counselors in Valladolid. The following information was provided by Assist America, with the caveat that this information is not an

endorsement of the practice, and it does not guarantee coverage by CISI.

*The following psychologists at the practice below speak English. Payment should be made at time of service. Keep your receipts and file for reimbursement with CISI if the treatment received is covered by the policy:*

Leticia Sordo Ruiz

Psicóloga

C/ 20 De Febrero, 9 - 2 Dcha,  
Valladolid, Spain.

Tel: +34 983 370 989

Email: [info@psicologialeticiasordo.com](mailto:info@psicologialeticiasordo.com)

Website:

<http://www.psicologialeticiasordo.com/>

Hours: M to F from 9:30 am to 3 pm & 4 pm to 9 pm.

### ***U.S. Insurance in Spain***

**In Spain, with the CISI insurance**, if your charges are less than 1,000 Euros, **you will have to pay up front** since the Spanish physician and/or hospital will not process bills for less than that amount through a U.S. insurance company. Most facilities accept cash and many accept VISA cards as well. Be sure to **get a receipt** in order to file your CISI claim. In other countries, you may need to pay up front regardless of the amount.

To put this in perspective, a past student who was hospitalized overnight for stomach pains had a total bill of 300 Euros. This included x-rays, IV, doctor visits, prescriptions, everything.

### ***Emergency Contacts***

General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook, and UVA staff are available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at orientation; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times. The information is also on the Contact Names and Addresses page of this guide.

### ***Safety in Spain***

Safety in-and-around Valladolid will be discussed during orientation in Spain.

For specific information on crime and road safety in Spain, see the [Spain Consular Information Sheet](#). If you are the victim of a crime, or if you are arrested abroad, get in touch with the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy. U.S. consular offices will do what they can to help U.S. citizens in serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. They can often direct you to a reliable doctor or clinic, help you contact family, or re-issue your passport.

## **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

*Passport information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### ***Visa***

A visa is official permission to visit a country and is granted by the government of that country.

Spain is one of the Schengen countries. Because the summer and fall Valladolid programs are less than 90 days, you do not need a student visa. In fact, as fall students were informed in the Learning Content section of your online study abroad application, **because the program is less than 90 days, you are UNABLE to get a student visa for the program.** This also means that if you plan to travel before or after the program, **you cannot be in the Schengen countries for more than a total of 90 days.**

Therefore, because the Fall 2019 Valladolid program is 77 days long, you can only plan to remain in the Schengen countries for a **combined total of 13 days before or after the program.** If you leave the Schengen area and go to the United Kingdom, for example, but must return to Spain or to another Schengen

country to fly home, you must be sure to save at least one of your 90 days for the return to the Schengen area. Plan your travel carefully!

You can find a complete list of Schengen countries here:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/schengen.html>

## PACKING TIPS

*In addition to the general packing information in your Study Abroad Handbook, you will receive a packing list at orientation. In addition, you should know the following about Spain.*

### ***Clothing and Climate***

Although people often think of “sunny Spain,” Valladolid is not on the Mediterranean! The average temperature in September and October is 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures range from 30-50 degrees from November through February, and it rains frequently.

Weather in March, April, and May ranges from 40-70 degrees. Central heating is uncommon, and the damp cold can feel much colder than the actual temperature.

Summer temperatures are warmer, with highs in the 80s and lows in the 50s.

The Spanish dress less casually than the average American. Students generally wear jeans to class, but they dress them up with a nice blazer or sweater, or shirt and nice shoes.

Some students have commented that since they were not in class with Spaniards, it does not really matter what you wear to class. While this is true on one level, if your goal is to fit in as much as possible in Spanish culture, it is worthwhile to make the effort.

It is uncommon in Spain to wear tennis shoes for non-athletic purposes. Some clubs may even deny entrance to individuals wearing tennis shoes or jeans.

### ***What to Pack***

Your peer advisor will provide a suggested packing list at the Orientation 2.

### ***Appliances***

The standard electric current in Europe is 220 volts. U.S. appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 110 volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need to buy **both a converter and a plug adapter**. Ask about which adapters fit Spanish outlets when you make your purchase. Some past participants have said their converters did not work, even though they said they were for Spain. Therefore, many people choose to buy the appliances abroad.

## GETTING TO SPAIN

### ***Travel Arrangements Summer***

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Valladolid.

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Study Abroad Handbook.

Because UVA has summer courses starting weekly, rather than one large start date as they do for the semesters, they do not provide group transportation from Madrid. You can travel by bus or train. Depending on when you make your arrangements, you will either report them to the CIE or directly to your host family. Some host families may be able to pick you up at the bus or train station; others may direct you to take a taxi to their home.

### ***By Bus:***

**Option 1:** You can take a bus directly from Barajas airport (Madrid). If you arrive early in the morning, you will have a long wait, because the first bus leaves the T4 (T4 Terminal) in the afternoon. The bus company is "Alsa," and you can find the schedule here:

<http://www.alsa.es/compra-y-horarios/aeropuertos/madrid-barajas/?searchType=airport>

**Option 2:** If you do not want to wait, you can take a subway or taxi and go to the "Estación Sur" in Madrid. You will again travel to Valladolid with the bus company Alsa ([www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)), but there are more frequent departures than there are from the airport. The trip takes 2 hours and 15 minutes.

### **By Train:**

If you prefer, go to Valladolid in a fast train, (which is more expensive), you can take a taxi (about 20 €) or catch a train from "Cercanías" (C) at the airport to the "Chamartin" station, and then take a train to Valladolid. There are Cercanías from Airport-T4 to Chamartín Station about every 12 minutes:

<http://www.renfe.com/viajeros/cercanias/madrid/index.html>

You can find the train schedule from Chamartín Station to Valladolid-Campo Grande. This is the website: [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)

### **Travel Arrangements: Fall**

You need to arrive in Madrid on the date and by the time listed in the "General Information/Academic Calendar" section at the beginning of this guide if you wish to take the University bus to Valladolid. Transportation from the airport in Madrid to Valladolid is provided by UVA on the fall arrival date. The group will meet at the Punto de Encuentro (Meeting Point) T1 (Terminal 1). If you arrive at

a different terminal, you will need to make your way to Terminal 1. Once you get through customs and claim your baggage, make your way there. It is on floor 0 (planta 0), close to the pharmacy and Missing Items Office (farmacia y la oficina de objetos perdidos). A representative from the University of Valladolid will meet you there.

If you miss the group transportation from Madrid to Valladolid, either because you are planning to travel independently, or because your flight is delayed, **you will need to contact your host family and travel to Valladolid on your own.** See the "Travel Arrangements-Summer" section for information on independent arrival.

Once you know whether you are arriving by bus or train, and at what time, contact your host family by phone or email with this information. They will let you know if they are able to meet you at the bus or train station, or whether you will need to take a taxi to their home. Please copy Rubén Caramazana, the host family coordinator, on the message. His email is [rcaramazanag@funge.uva.es](mailto:rcaramazanag@funge.uva.es).

### **Orientation**

The day after you arrive, you will have a city tour and a brief orientation to the program.

## **HOST FAMILIES**

You will live with host families, to maximize your exposure to Spanish language and culture. Your homestay begins at 12:00am the day of your arrival and ends on the final day of the program at 12:00 noon.

The families involved in the program come in all shapes and sizes, two parents with several children, a widow and her child, an older couple whose children are on their own, a single woman, etc. Some of them have had students

for years; some will be hosting for the first time.

Host families generally live anywhere from a 20 to a 45-minute walk from campus. Many students do walk, but those who live further away may wish to buy a bus pass. How to do this will be explained at orientation in Valladolid, and your host family will most likely be able to explain this to you as well.

### ***Family Placement***

You turned in a housing preference form with your acceptance materials and you will be placed with a family based on the information you submitted. You will share your family with another international student (usually another UW-Eau Claire student, or student from the U.S.). Single rooms may be available at an additional charge. On your housing preference form, you should indicate if you want to be in a family with small children, pets or no pets, smoking or no smoking, etc. **Keep in mind that this is a preference list only, and that "families" come in many forms, from single women to retired couples.**

Family assignments are made by the administrative office at the University of Valladolid. Two to four weeks prior to the start of the program, the CIE will receive an email with your host family's address, a short description about the family members, a map of where they are in Valladolid, and information about other host families near you. We will pass it on as soon as we receive it.

In most cases, your family information will include an email address. Before going to Spain, it is a good idea to email your host family and thank them in advance for having you. You can also introduce yourself and ask them a bit about themselves. If you noted specific food needs (gluten-free, vegetarian) on your housing form, it would be good to

mention them again. You may even want to send a picture of yourself.

Most students from UW-Eau Claire have been happy with their families and with life in Valladolid. In any new living situation, there are some adjustments to be made. It is very important to ask your family for guidelines. The more flexible you are; the more pleasant life will be.

Some students have noted that they felt more like renters than like they were living with a host family. For suggestions on how to become more a "part of the family," see the Get Involved with Your Family below.

### ***Meeting Your Family***

If you arrive independently, you will contact your family ahead of time to discuss how you will get to your address.

If you arrive on the group bus from Madrid, your family (or one member of your family) will meet you at the bus station in Valladolid and then take you home.

Keep in mind the **traditional Spanish greetings!** Two women or a man and a woman greeting each do the "European" kiss on each cheek. If two men are greeting, they usually shake hands.

### ***Type of Housing***

Most Spanish host families live in apartments. This is very common in Europe, although in the U.S. more families tend to be in single-family houses.

### ***What's Provided***

A double, furnished room, with bedding  
One shower/day, towels provided  
Three meals/day (as long as you are home at mealtime)  
Laundry ~ once/week

## Utilities

Electricity, water, and telephone use are very expensive in Europe, and some families impose restrictions on the use of hot water and the telephone. Many families are on the plan where electricity is discounted at night and extra expensive during the day, so ask when you should shower (don't take long, hot showers), wash clothes, etc. Don't ever forget to turn off the lights when you don't need them. Use natural light from windows whenever possible. Turn off the water when soaping up, brushing teeth, etc.

**Most families require the use of a public pay phone even for local calls.** Ask permission each time you use the telephone. Keep phone calls to a minimum. Long distance calls are not itemized, so it is not possible to find out from the bill how much a particular call cost. Use a pay phone for long distance calls, or get an international calling card. There are numerous pay phones throughout the city so you should have no trouble finding one close to your home. You can also use Skype or Google Talk on your personal computer to talk to friends and family back home.

Cell phones (móviles) have become a near obsession in contemporary Spanish culture (perhaps even more so than in the U.S.!). Some past participants have found it economical and convenient to purchase cell phones for their time abroad. If you think you might be interested, stop in a cell phone store for more information. These stores are everywhere and are not difficult to find.

## Internet Access

Only about 82% of Spanish households have Internet access. Requiring host families to have internet would unfairly disadvantage willing host families. Be prepared to not have access at home, and be pleasantly surprised if you do. In the words of one past participant: *"It was hard at first because I didn't have*

*Internet! I hated not being able to Skype and Facebook whenever I wanted, but in the long run it was great. I spent a lot more time walking around the city and doing things in Spain, instead of sitting at home and going on the Internet."*

## Laundry

Your laundry will be done by your family once a week. You may want to wash some special items by hand. Most Spaniards don't have dryers, so they will hang your clothes on the line to dry which could take a day or two. Make sure you always save some clothes to wear!

## Weekends

With the above standards being somewhat stricter than U.S. students are used to, the lack of restrictions on hours may be surprising: discos often close at 6:00 am and Spanish families usually "sleep in" on weekends! Again, do not assume that you can come in as late as you like. Discuss it with the family first. If they wish, let them know where you are going and when you expect to be back. There is an unfortunate stereotype that American college students drink excessively. For your own reputation and safety, avoid reinforcing this stereotype.

## Financial Arrangements

Some U.S. students are offended that their host families receive money for having them in their homes. They are concerned that the family is only interested in them as a "customer." While the University of Valladolid screens families to try to ensure that they have cultural interests for participating, **most households participating do so at least partially for economic reasons.** This is only logical, given the size of the typical Spanish home, the current economic situation in Spain, and the disruption that hosting a student causes to family life.



Even for families with cultural reasons for participating, it is not easy to welcome a stranger into their home for a semester. The entire family needs to adjust its schedules and habits to accommodate this new person. In addition, there are very real costs associated with having another person in the home. Receiving some monetary compensation for this is only fair, and most families would not consider hosting otherwise.

Keep in mind that any relationship is a two-way street. **It is as much your responsibility to fit into the family as it is their responsibility to include you in their daily life.** The more you put into the relationship, the more you will receive!

### ***Get Involved with Your Family***

Get involved as much as you can with your family. They are an important resource for you to learn from and a great resource to help you experience the culture of Spain! You may have an interest in cooking. By taking some mixes or recipes from home, you may easily gain entry into the kitchen. The Spanish are very proud of their Mediterranean cuisine and are often thrilled when individuals show an interest in Spanish cooking. Conversation is important in Spanish culture. You can spend hours after a meal chatting and watching television or learning to play Spanish card games.

Remember that you are a guest in your family's home. Offer to do some things around the house, like helping with meals or dishes. Keep your room and other areas of the house that you use tidy. And be aware of noise levels, particularly if you are coming home later at night.

### ***Changing Families***

If you discover that you absolutely cannot get along with your host family, talk with the Program Coordinator at the UVA about it so that appropriate changes can be made. (UW-

Eau Claire is not involved in the actual family placements, and changes must be done through Valladolid.) But remember to give the situation some time and to be flexible and open-minded.

## **MEALS AND FOOD**

You will receive three meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Remember that you are a guest (even if a paying one) in your family's home, and that this is not a hotel situation. Do not insist on being able to do things as you would in your own home. This is particularly important when it comes to food customs. You are most likely used to snacking when you wish, eating on the run, or inviting friends to meals. Be prepared for the following:

***Breakfast:*** a quick, small, informal meal. It usually includes coffee or hot chocolate, bread or toast or a little muffin with jam, digestive cookies (kind of like Graham crackers), yogurt, and/or a piece of fruit. Depending on your host family's schedule, you might eat breakfast while they are still sleeping or at work.

***Lunch:*** (la comida, NOT el almuerzo): the biggest meal of the day in Spain. Many host families serve a three-course meal. Some people describe Spanish food to be filling and carb-heavy, especially during the fall/winter. The first course is often a salad, stew, soup, or vegetable puree. The main course is some type of meat or fish with rice, potatoes, or garbanzo beans. The third course is "dessert" which is typically fruit and sometimes yogurt. On special days you might get a pastry, flan, or ice cream.

***Dinner:*** a small meal usually served between 8pm and 10pm. Salad, tortilla or a fried egg, croquetas, and slices of cheese and meat are typical. Fruit or yogurt is also served after dinner.

### General Food/M meal Etiquette

The refrigerator is often off-limits, and between-meal snacking is less common than it is here. You may get hungry between meals, especially at the beginning. **Snacks are your own responsibility: go to the supermarket and buy some snacks or fruit that you can carry with you to school.**

In general, Spaniards have **very good table manners**. Watch how your host family eats, bread is usually the only food that is acceptable to eat with your finger. A fork AND knife are generally used throughout the entire meal. If there is something unfamiliar on your plate (e.g. a whole shrimp), and you have no idea how you are supposed to eat it, just ask!

If you know you will miss a meal, let your family know and ask how you should handle the situation.

Depending on your specific home situation, you will probably not be *expected* to help with setting or clearing the table for meals. Do it anyway! This is a great opportunity to talk and develop your relationship with your host family. In addition, these small efforts show that you are a considerate and appreciative guest in their home.

In Spain, inviting a guest into your home implies a close relationship, it would be more common to gather with friends at a restaurant, while the home is reserved for families.

### Some Typical Foods to Try

- **Tortilla española:** an egg and potato omelette, eaten hot or cold, sometimes as a sandwich filling.
- **Croquetas:** small, fried patties, cakes, or balls stuffed with meats, vegetables, fish, and/or cheese
- **Lentejas:** lentils

- **Paella:** saffron-flavored rice dish served with meat, seafood, and vegetables in a buttery sauce
- **Potaje:** garbanzo bean and spinach stew - delicious and warming when it is cold outside!
- **Jamón Ibérico/Chorizo:** a "tough" sausage, almost like jerky.
- **Churros con chocolate:** you probably won't get these at home...but they are a great treat at cafes!

This is a good website if you want more information about Spanish food:

- [http://spanishfood.about.com/od/discoverspanishfood/a/spain\\_meals.htm](http://spanishfood.about.com/od/discoverspanishfood/a/spain_meals.htm)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Activities/Events

Information about university/community events is posted weekly on the main bulletin board in the Cursos building and in every classroom. You will need to make an effort to find out what is going on. Keep your eyes open for information about the excursions offered by the Cursos, they are often not planned or publicized too much in advance.

**Dance:** Go to Colonial Cubana for salsa lessons on Thursday nights.

**G.U.M.:** If you are into outdoor activities, ask your professors how to get involved with this organization. They organize outdoor trips and activities every couple of weekends.

### Intercambios

On Friday nights Spaniards who are studying English at the university and students from the U.S. meet up at school for a language exchange program. Each native Spanish speaker is paired with a native English speaker, and you spend five minutes talking in Spanish then 5 minutes talking in English before you talk to new people. **Past participants**

emphasize that this is the easiest way to meet a lot of new Spanish friends!

### *Local Churches*

Some past participants have gotten involved in congregations in Valladolid, not just attending Sunday morning services, but going to dinners and other activities hosted by the church.

### *Sports Clubs*

There is a sports center on calle Ruiz Hernandez, where you can get information on getting involved in just about any sport you can think of, volleyball, basketball, soccer, track, swimming, hiking, you name it, they have groups and activities. The website of the sports center is: <http://fuentelamora.es/>

### *Teaching or Tutoring English*

Another way to get involved is to be an English tutor. There is no formal way to go about this (it isn't set up through the university), so if this interests you, **you will need to seek out the opportunities**. You can ask your host family, professors, or friends you meet at Intercambios if they know of anyone who is interested in being tutored in English or wants to practice speaking English. Some past participants posted flyers in their neighborhoods, public libraries or at the University, offering to teach English to kids or adults. Past students have tutored young children and created lessons every week to teach them, others met weekly at a café with a Spanish student their age to help them with English homework. Still others were conversation partners with adults who wanted to improve their fluency. Some were volunteers, while others were paid.

## COMMUNICATION

*General information on platforms for keeping in touch with people at home is in the Study Abroad Handbook, along with information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address.*

### *Time Difference*

Spain is seven hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, 1:00pm on a Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 8:00pm on Thursday in Valladolid.

### *Computers and Other Technology*

Some students wonder if they should bring a laptop to Spain. Past participants recommend bringing a laptop if you have one, as well as extra batteries.

### *E-mail/Internet*

Again, **host families are not required to have internet access**, so you cannot plan on having access at home. E-mail is available in a building (Alfonso VIII) about a 10-minute walk from your classroom building. **Don't be fooled into thinking that this means you have access like you do here.** For example, in past semesters this lab was open from 9am-2pm and 5pm-7pm on weekdays; 9am-2pm on Saturdays.

UVA has free Wi-Fi, so if you have a laptop, connecting there is no problem. You will need a password for access, and that password changes on the first of each month. You can get the updated one in the administration office of el Centro de Idiomas.

There is also free Wi-Fi in the main town square (Plaza Mayor), so students who do not have Wi-Fi at home frequently bring their laptops to the square to use it there.

Another possibility is public libraries. You will receive the name and address of the largest one at orientation. Your host parents may be able to direct you to one closer to home. You will ask for a library card (which will require showing a copy of your passport and having two passport-sized photos), and then you can sign up to use a computer for an hour at a time.

The above options are free. For additional access, past students recommend using Internet cafes.

In the words of a past participant: *"Just because you have Internet in your home does not mean that your connection will be amazing. Many of us are used to a speedy and smooth-running connection here, but that is often not the case abroad. Skype calls may have pretty poor quality at times. It is also not uncommon for your home Wi-Fi to abruptly go out for several hours or even a whole day. Overall, the Internet connections worked pretty well; just don't expect it to be perfect!"*

### **Snail-mail**

International airmail takes 7-10 days to cross the Atlantic in either direction. Packages usually take at least two weeks, and sending from Spain can take longer than receiving in Spain.

### **Telephone Information**

Phone lines in Spain are incredibly expensive. The bills that your host family receives are not itemized like they are here, so if you were to make any phone calls from their house line (teléfono fijo) the family would not be able to bill you for them because they wouldn't know what to charge you. Discuss with your family whether they will allow you to use the house phone to call home or not. Plan on making all of your local calls from the phone booths. You can receive phone calls at your host family's house with no problems.

### **From the U.S. to Spain:**

If you want to call someone in Spain before you arrive, you must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you dial 34, the country code for Spain, and the rest of the number.

It may be most economical for your family or friends to call you in Spain. Past participants

have told us that a great phone card is from Nobel.com. The rates are great; the only catch is that it does expire after three months. But, CALL AROUND to set yourself and your family up with the best deal, or you may be surprised at your first bills!

### **From Spain to the U.S.:**

To "phone home" while you are abroad using a calling card or calling collect, you must dial an access code to get an American operator. There are many forms of phone cards that you can purchase so you will want to look around for the best value.

Phone cards are also sold at most of the newspaper stands ("kioskos") located throughout the city. Ask for a "tarjeta telefónica" for "llamadas internacionales." The cards are sold in denominations of 6 or 12 euros (approximately \$7 and \$13 at the December 2016 exchange rate). The 6-euro card gives about 140 minutes of call time. Instructions for these cards are located on the back.

### **Making Local Calls**

There are cabinas or phone booths on just about every block. You can buy phone cards (tarjeta telefónica) to use at almost every kiosko (kiosk). You simply insert the phone card into the phone (looks like a credit card slot at an ATM) and make your phone call. This is probably the best method to use if you have to make any local phone calls. You can also use these cabinas to call home using a phone card if that is what your family prefers. They really are everywhere so there will be one by your house.

### **Cell Phones**

In case you missed this earlier, cell phones (móviles) have become a near obsession in contemporary Spanish culture (perhaps even more so than in the U.S.!). Some past participants have found it economical and convenient to purchase cell phones for their

time abroad. Past participants report that phones were usually around \$40-50, and they just purchased minutes as they needed them. Calling people is incredibly expensive, however, texting is quick and cheap. If you think you might be interested, stop in a cell phone store for more information. These stores are everywhere and are not difficult to find.

Many students also choose to bring their smartphones with them to Spain and call home over Wi-Fi. If you don't have a smartphone, an iPod touch or tablet works well, too. Most students use Facetime, Skype or WhatsApp.

### ***Courteous Communication***

If Skyping/using other communication apps in your apartment, use headphones, close the door to your room, speak softly, and end the conversation immediately if it is time for a meal.

### ***Language***

You have been studying Spanish for years, and now you are going to apply your language skills in day-to-day life. Here are some things to keep in mind.

#### **Before You Go:**

Start listening to Spanish music, movies, TV in Spanish. Get your ear accustomed to it before you get there!

Also, start reading it, beyond what is required for class. One past participant says, *"I changed my phone language to Spanish a few months before going. I also started reading newspaper articles from "El Pais", the main Spanish newspaper, not only to practice reading but to know a bit about current events before I got there."*

**Fluency:** In the words of another past participant, *"I am going to warn you right now:*

*you WILL NOT be fluent after only three months in Spain. I definitely improved in my reading, writing, listening and speaking, but I will never sound like a native. Don't expect to come home fluent, or you will spend your whole time abroad frustrated with yourself. Take things one day at a time and you will be so impressed with yourself. There were days where I would all of a sudden realize that I was participating in classes that were only in Spanish! It's definitely a great feeling to see how much your Spanish speaking ability is improving."*

#### **Speaking:**

Speak as much as possible. You have SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES to speak Spanish (since you're living in Spain). And there are so many people willing to help you get better:

- Professors:** It's their job to help you improve, so they will correct you in class and will require you to speak often. They are always willing to help explain things or sit down and talk with you about things you don't understand.

- Families:** It is very likely that your family has been hosting American students for a number of years. This means that even when you say the wrong thing, chances are they will understand you. Don't be afraid to speak with your family at meals, after meals, during down time, at any possibility.

- Spaniards:** The Spaniards of Valladolid KNOW that you are not a native speaker even before you open your mouth. In most cases, if you are making an effort to communicate with them, they will be very kind and patient with you. In addition to this, get to know students who are also studying at the University. Many of them are studying English and would LOVE to get together and talk. One thing to remember: you need to make the effort to get to know them.

#### **Common phrases:**

Here are some words and phrases common in Spain that you may find unfamiliar if you've learned Latin American Spanish:



**Alumno:** (instead of estudiante)

**Naranja:** (for both the fruit and the color orange)

**Patata:** (instead of papa, meaning potato)

**Ordenador:** (instead of computadora)

**Servicio/Aseo:** (bathroom – instead of baño)

**¿Qué tal?** – instead of ¿cómo estás?

**Movil:** - instead of telefono celular

**VOSOTROS:** This is a form that is not covered much in Spanish classes and is more or less that "ya'll" form. Spaniards use this ALL THE TIME but luckily, it is a very easy form to catch onto. The vosotros is used almost always in place of uds. (unless you're in a very formal setting)

**Tio/Tia:** This is a phrase that is used as "dude" and is said to friends

**Vale:** It means "OK" and is used a lot as a filler word

**Venga:** Another filler word. Often Spaniards will say "venga, hasta luego" when they're saying goodbye

**Hasta luego:** "see you later!" which is used when people run into each other on the street, or when they're saying goodbyes. However, they kind of run the words together so it sounds more like "ha-uego"

## TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

*See additional travel information in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### Guidebooks

Past participants recommend "Let's Go: Spain and Portugal" and "Lonely Planet" guides.

### Bus

For travel within Spain, many past participants highly recommend traveling by bus rather than by train. Buses in Spain are clean and nice and are typically faster and less expensive than trains.

### Train Travel

Point-to-point tickets are usually less expensive in Spain than using a rail pass. Rooms and food in southern Spain were the cheapest participants found in all of Europe. You can check train times and routes on <https://www.raileurope.com/> This Web site also lets you know if the train you need *requires* reservations. If it does, be sure to reserve a seat ahead of time so you can take the train you need.

## CULTURAL NOTES

### A Brief History of Spain

Spain became a part of the Roman Empire in 206 CE. Once the Roman Empire began to weaken, the Visigoths took over the territory of the empire that is now Spain. From then it was a battle of what group ruled over Spain. After the Visigoths, the Muslims, who came up from Africa, took over until, eventually, the Catholics (known as the Spanish) started to take their territory over starting at the north. Granada (south of Spain) was the last territory that became part of what we know as present-day Spain in 1492, during what is known as the Reconquista.

Also, at this time, exploration of the seas was taking place and the Spanish government financed Portuguese navigator Christopher Columbus for his voyage which led to the discovery of America. Spain gained a lot of power and wealth with all the colonies and resources they found in the Americas, first with Cortes in Mexico and then in Peru with Pizarro. While these voyages across the oceans were taking place, Spain was enforcing a religious persecution of all non-Catholics known as the Inquisition. Spain's status as THE power in Europe was short lived however, when their once invincible Armada was defeated by the English. This defeat was followed by Spanish losses in the Americas with Civil Wars and



Revolutions leading to independence in Latin America.

After their loss of the Americas, there was a period of relative stability until revolts in Morocco led to the three- year Spanish Civil War. It ended with Francisco Franco taking over power and becoming dictator.

During World War II, Franco was a supporter of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. After Franco's death, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King and has held that position ever since. Now that Spain is a parliamentary monarchy, they have also joined the EU and have had several prime ministers, including Zapatero and the current Mariano Rajoy.

<http://www.factmonster.com/country/spain.html>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sp.html>

### ***Government***

Spain is a parliamentary monarchy. This means that there is a king, but the official governmental power falls in the hands of the Prime Minister. The current King of Spain is Felipe VI, married to Reina Letizia. The current Prime Minister is Mariano Rajoy. Rajoy was appointed in December 2011 and represents the Partido Popular.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sp.html>

### ***Population***

The population of Spain is estimated to be 48,958,159 as of 2017 of which almost 70% are Roman Catholic and 30% are of other religious denomination. The official language of Spain is Spanish Castilian, however the other

predominant languages are Catalan, Galician, and Basque.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sp.html>

### ***Cultural Basics***

Spanish people are very friendly and open once you get to know them. While in America it is common to smile at strangers on the street, people in Spain tend to keep to themselves unless they know each other.

When you first meet someone, shaking hands with them is usually what you should expect. Once you know a person, girls may say hello and goodbye to each other with a kiss of each cheek (starting with the left) and boys may do a double hand shake with the left hand on the forearm.

There are a lot of religious (Roman Catholic) festivities in Spain and as a guest in Spain, it is expected that you respect their traditions and, if you choose, may participate in their celebrations. Spanish people are very laid back and easy going.

People in Spain put a lot of importance on how they dress so, for example, wearing short shorts (girls) or khaki shorts (boys) is not very well viewed by Spaniards and you can expect looks.

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/spain-country-profile.html>

## WEB RESOURCES: SPAIN

Valladolid	Spain	Travel
La Universidad de Valladolid <a href="http://www.uva.es">http://www.uva.es</a>	All About Spain <a href="http://www.red2000.com/spain/index.html">http://www.red2000.com/spain/index.html</a>	ALSA: Bus Information <a href="https://www.alsa.es/">https://www.alsa.es/</a>
UVA Library <a href="http://biblioteca.uva.es/export/sites/biblioteca">http://biblioteca.uva.es/export/sites/biblioteca</a>	Political Resources: Spain <a href="http://www.politicalresources.net/spain/spain.htm">http://www.politicalresources.net/spain/spain.htm</a>	RENFE: Train Information <a href="http://www.renfe.com/">http://www.renfe.com/</a>
Current Events in Valladolid <a href="http://elgusanillo.com/ocio/cine/cartelera.asp">http://elgusanillo.com/ocio/cine/cartelera.asp</a>	Lonely Planet--Spain <a href="http://www.lonelyplanet.com/spain">http://www.lonelyplanet.com/spain</a>	MADRID METRO <a href="http://www.metromadrid.es/es/index.html">http://www.metromadrid.es/es/index.html</a>
Valladolid's Main Theater <a href="http://tcalderon.com/">http://tcalderon.com/</a>	El Prado, Madrid <a href="http://www.museodelprado.es/">http://www.museodelprado.es/</a>	Tour Through Spain <a href="http://www.tourspain.es/">http://www.tourspain.es/</a>
Bus System in Valladolid <a href="http://www.auvasa.es/">http://www.auvasa.es/</a>	Spanish Language <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language</a>	Tourist Office of Spain <a href="http://www.spain.info/en_US/">http://www.spain.info/en_US/</a>
About Valladolid <a href="http://www.valladolidturismo.com/">http://www.valladolidturismo.com/</a>	SPANISH NEWS <a href="http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/spain.htm">http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/spain.htm</a>	Costa Del Sol <a href="http://www.CostaSol.com/">http://www.CostaSol.com/</a>
Soccer in Valladolid <a href="http://realvalladolid.es/">http://realvalladolid.es/</a>	Spanish News Update <a href="http://www.topix.net/world/spain">http://www.topix.net/world/spain</a>	Bullfighting <a href="http://www.red2000.com/spain/toros/">http://www.red2000.com/spain/toros/</a>
	El Pais Newspaper <a href="http://www.elpais.es">http://www.elpais.es</a>	Spanish Soccer <a href="http://www.soccer-spain.com">http://www.soccer-spain.com</a>

## CONTACT NAMES & ADDRESSES: SPAIN

GENERAL UW-EAU CLAIRE & CISI CONTACT INFORMATION IS IN YOUR STUDY ABROAD HANDBOOK.

### *University of Valladolid*

Isabel Paul Garcia  
CENTRO DE IDIOMAS  
Universidad de Valladolid  
Depto. Español para Extranjeros  
"Campus Miguel Delibes"  
47011 Valladolid, Spain

Telephone: 011 34 983 18 46 70  
Fax: 011 34 983 18 46 71  
E-mail: [isabel@funge.uva.es](mailto:isabel@funge.uva.es)

### *UW-Eau Claire*

Center for International Education  
Cheryl Lochner-Wright  
Study Abroad Coordinator  
E-mail: [lochnecb@uwec.edu](mailto:lochnecb@uwec.edu)

3 Schofield Hall  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone: (715) 836-4411  
Fax: (715) 836-4948

### *U.S. Embassy in Madrid*

Calle Serrano, 75  
28006 Madrid, Spain  
Telephone: (34) 91 587 2240  
Emergency after-hours telephone: (34) 91 587 2200

Ask to speak to the duty officer if you need emergency assistance outside business hours.

Facsimile: (34) 91 587 2303  
E-mail: [askacs@state.gov](mailto:askacs@state.gov)  
Website: U.S. Embassy Madrid  
<https://es.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/madrid/>  
U.S. Consulate General Barcelona  
<https://es.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/barcelona>

# WHAT PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID ABOUT THEIR TIME IN VALLADOLID

*I will never forget my experience in Valladolid. The teaching staff really cares about you and my Spanish improved so much. My host family was amazing and I always felt like part of the family. There are so many opportunities to travel so I got to see so many places. It has changed my life in so many ways. -Rachel*

*Being in Spain made my classes more interesting because you really wanted to know what class was about to understand the culture that you are living in. I am so glad that I decided to study in Spain, it was a life changing experience- and I would recommend it to anyone!! -Meghan*

*It was a great time to learn Spanish and get a much better understanding of Spain's culture. -Stefan*

*AMAZING. Every day is an adventure, but at the same time, little by little, you create a real SPANISH LIFE with friends and favorite places. This is the best part of studying abroad. You become intertwined with the culture. -Ashley*

*My study abroad experience was even better than I had expected. My host family became like my real family and my Spanish skills improved immensely. I also gained a new sense of independence and more self-confidence. The time passed too quickly, and this is an experience that I will look back on with pride and will remember forever. -Sara*

*Studying abroad in Spain was the best experience of my life thus far. Although at times it was hard, I have learned so much, not only about myself, but also another culture and language. -Calli*

*The only word I can think of to summarize my experience in Spain is amazing. Living with a Spanish family, taking classes from native Spanish speakers, traveling on the weekend to important cities you learn about in class. A lot of people say studying abroad is a once in a lifetime experience, I think studying abroad is an experience that my life would not have been complete without. -Nicole*

*I loved Spain. I actually found out while studying abroad that I am a complete homebody and should never live so far away from home, but I couldn't have imagined a gentler way to have found that out about myself than through this trip. It was so helpful to be studying in a foreign culture yet with other students from Eau Claire. It was the perfect mix for those who crave independence, but still would like the option to feel at home or 'return to the group'. I thought taking classes completely in a foreign language would be the most difficult task ever, but the professors here are so understanding it turned out to be extremely fun and the most educational experience of my life! -Loni*

