

Oviedo, Spain

Cathryn Pendleton



Program: Intensive Spanish Language and Culture, Summer 2018



Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



This badge did not come easy – I entered into a part of the world where hardly anyone spoke English, and had to rely on the little Spanish I knew to interact with the people around me on a day-to-day basis. I learned to be patient with myself, and gained confidence – after awhile – as well as a love for speaking Spanish. My host family was very patient

with me, repeating words if I didn't catch what they said the first time, or explaining their way around a word I didn't know by using words I did. And this taught me to do the same – that those around me were able to understand what I was saying, and that if I didn't know a word I should explain what I want using words that I did. This taught me patience, and helped me learn the language better than if I had a dictionary that I consulted every time I didn't know how to say a word. There is a huge benefit to language immersion, specifically the fact that when you are constantly surrounded by the language, your ability to learn and adapt and pick up on what people are saying develops quickly. I found that in speaking to my host family and participating in class discussions, I picked up the language much quicker than if I had taken classes in Utah. My speaking skills are continually being developed, as I have continued my Spanish-speaking education here at the University, and as I practice with friends, co-workers, and people in the community whenever I get the chance.



Transferable Skills:



The main skill I acquired in participating in the program was confidence in my Spanish-speaking abilities. I continue to develop this skill of confidence and speaking a second language in school, as I have enrolled in other Spanish classes. Other skills I acquired come with the territory of gaining international experience. I am more

independent, better at adapting to new environments, and better at problem-solving and being patient in situations that could cause panic. I use these skills in my work environment and school, in creating new relationships with the customers, students, and professors around me. I will continue to develop these skills abroad as well, as I have been accepted to a Hinckley Institute Global Internship.

“I found during my experience abroad that I created a home for myself in Spain - one that I could hardly bear to leave. I grew into a person I never dreamed I could be, and that opened my eyes to the endless possibilities that all types of education - both learning in a classroom and traveling abroad in a different country - creates for students like me.”