

Oviedo, Spain

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Program: University of Oviedo Exchange, Spring 2017

Major: Pre Nursing

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



Earning the Language Immersion badge came with many challenges, all of which made me a stronger Spanish speaker. The biggest challenge was moving 8 time zones away from all of my family and friends to immerse myself in the culture and community. Although this was the biggest challenge, it was also the one that benefited me the most. Constantly being surrounded by the language

was intimidating at first, but it became natural and eventually I was thinking in Spanish without even realizing it. I was forced to practice every day. Being pushed out of my comfort zone helped me gain confidence and improve my speaking, writing, listening, and reading. I was interacting with my professors, peers, my host mom, the little girl I taught, and members of the community, as well as consuming the media in Spanish. Being a part of the community helped me learn from experiences in addition to what I was being taught in school. This helped me learn more colloquial sayings and slang, things textbooks don't always teach, but will help me sound more like a native speaker in the future. I believe that living in Spain helped me gain an appreciation for the language and culture that I wouldn't have had otherwise. I was a huge motivator to become fluent.

Transferable Skills:



The most obvious skill that I learned from my experience is Spanish language proficiency, which I have been able to use in school as I continue my education and finish my Spanish minor and in my job as a certified nursing assistant. I also learned responsibility, time management, and budgeting which relates to planning ahead and staying organized. I used all of these to prepare for my experience,

throughout my time there, and after I returned because balancing a schedule, allocating money, and organized plans are key to any adult's life. Interpersonal and communication skills were important because I was interacting with so many new people on a daily basis and I needed to account for cultural differences.



"Studying in Oviedo was definitely the most challenging, rewarding, and beneficial thing I have ever done. I learned so much, and not just about the language, but also about the host country, Spanish culture, and most importantly, myself. This was the highlight of my college experience and it will always be an important part of who I am."