

San Sebastian, Spain

Jackson Keller



Program: USAC Spain: Spanish, Basque, European Studies, and Psychology in San Sebastian, Summer 2018

Major: Film and Media Arts

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



While abroad, I earned the Language Immersion Badge. I earned this badge through the classes I took: an advanced grammar course, a conversation course, and a poetry course. These courses certainly helped with my fluency and language abilities. I refined my grammar

and reviewed difficult grammatical concepts in a way that has permanently improved my Spanish. I continued to work on oral conversation skills. I learned vocabulary unique to poetry, but also gained a deeper appreciation for the beauty of the Spanish language, as well as the elements of this beauty that reside in the nuances of words themselves, nuances that cannot be translated exactly to any other language. However, I also learned just as much, if not more, outside of my classes. I lived with a host family, I made Spanish friends, I attended cultural events, I spoke to strangers. For whole days I would think entirely in Spanish, forgetting English and truly immersing myself. I learned the things that can only be mastered through practice of the language. I learned about the exceptions to the rules. I learned colloquial "lived" Spanish – the language of real life. I learned how to navigate a new culture with a second language, and how to make a new city feel like home.

Transferable Skill:



The main skills I developed abroad were my Spanish language skills. I have been using these since returning home, speaking with native Spanish-speakers whenever possible, answering friends' questions and doubts about the language as some of them have begun to learn it, looking for opportunities to use my Spanish in internships and

volunteering. But, I also developed other important skills, like balancing recreation and work more equally, in a way that causes me less stress and allows me to enjoy life more. I spend less time obsessing over my work and stressing .



“My program was an enjoyable experience. The memories I have from it will always be among my most cherished, and my experiences abroad will always play a pivotal role in my past. but it also changed my perspective on everyday life, realigning my priorities, enabling me to realize what I enjoy and giving me the confidence to chase that.”