

Oviedo, Spain

Savannah Talbot



Program: University of Oviedo Exchange, Spring 2017

Major: Recreational Therapy

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



I attended the University of Oviedo and I took five Spanish language courses in their Spanish for exchange students program. Taking these classes gave me over 200 hours of Spanish while I was abroad. I also lived with a host family, and neither of the parents knew any English which meant I was speaking Spanish practically 24/7. I was also presented with the opportunity to teach English to children that

were family friends of my host family. This helped me immensely with my vocabulary because the kids would ask me what certain words were and I would have to think about it or look it up, and that would broaden certain genres of words I would use. I would also speak to them in Spanish when they were not able to find a word in English or speak in English.

I truly realized the Spanish skills I had developed when my Dad visited me in Spain when my program had ended. We went to dinner with my host family and with them not speaking any English, I had to be a translator. I was able to see how my abilities to understand and speak Spanish had become so advanced that I was able to keep the conversation fluent.

Transferable Skills:



I have been able to integrate my experience abroad by becoming a Peer Advisor for the Learning Abroad department at the University of Utah. I am able to share my experiences abroad with perspective students and help them with knowledge that I gained by going through the same process as them and possibly the same place that they wish to experience. It has allowed me to gain a professional view of learning abroad and how it has enriched my life since returning.

I was also able to accomplish multiple transfer credits while abroad to practically complete my Spanish minor at the University of Utah. I am continuing classes to maintain my Spanish, but I only have 6 more credits to complete for the minor. The experience of being immersed into the culture and language gives me a professional advantage, because I will be able to put that I am proficient in Spanish on my resume, and living in a different culture gave me independence and competencies that are extremely important in a professional work environment.



“If learning a language is a goal that you have set for yourself, studying abroad is the best way to accomplish that. You can take language classes for years, but until you immerse yourself in the language and culture you will never truly understand the language.”