

Oviedo, Spain

Mariah Martin



Program: Intensive Spanish Language & Culture - Summer 2019

Major(s): Human Development and Family Studies

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



During my learning abroad experience in Oviedo, Spain, I was able to work on earning the Language Immersion Badge. While in Spain, I feel that I was able to learn Spanish better than ever before. Living in a country where the first language is

Spanish was so much different from speaking Spanish in the United States. In Spain, I had the opportunity to live with a host family where Spanish was the only language ever spoken, attend my Spanish classes where the teachers spoke Spanish and aided me in my Spanish Education, and I had the opportunity to interact with the community each and every day. Out of all of the years I have taken Spanish courses, I have never learned better than I did in Spain. Here, there were University

of Utah students of all different levels of Spanish and by the end, myself and so many of my peers felt that they had received not only one of the most amazing experiences of a lifetime, but a phenomenal educational and cultural experience. Not only was I improving my language in school, but each and every day through exploring beautiful, Northern Spain.



Transferable Skills:



Now that I have returned from my program, I am applying the skills I learned in Spain in my everyday life. With school, I have decided to further my education in Spanish and keep up with the language by pursuing a Spanish Major. Not only am I taking more Spanish language and culture courses, but my friends from my study abroad, as well as Spanish speaking friends from home, have decided to meet up each week to practice our skills with one another. Not only am I incorporating what I have learned in Spain in this way, but I am also watching tv and listening to Spanish music, interacting with the Spanish speakers in my area in public, as well as volunteering with families at Primary Children's Hospital who speak the Spanish Language. Incorporating these different activities into my life have

helped to maintain and transfer the language skills that I developed while abroad as well as create strong relationships with my community.

“If you’re brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.” - Paulo Coelho (author). Before I left for my study abroad in Spain, I was nervous and I didn’t know what to expect. On the trip, we read the Alchemist and I was taught to reach for the stars because what lies ahead could be positively life-changing.