



Knightly Adventures Abroad

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Complete this Sentence:
If I could do it over, I
would... have rented an
apartment

Major(s): FLIS/Accounting

Years/Term Abroad: 2006-2007



Name of program and why you chose it: Bilateral Exchange and Teaching Assistantship. *I chose this program because it allowed me not only to become completely immersed in Spanish culture, but also to share my language and culture.*

Describe the Housing Situation: I lived in a dorm that was about 15 minutes from where my classes were held.

Best Memory: Snorkeling for the first time in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. I conquered my fears and saw fish more beautiful than I could have ever imagined!

How has this experience enriched your Bellarmine educational experience? I have gotten to see the U.S from an outside perspective and understand the inner-workings of another society.

Greatest Challenge: Learning that some values I considered universal are actually cultural, and adapting to this concept.

Experiences with Culture Shock or Reverse Culture Shock: Politeness and "the customer is always right" mentality are not found in Spain to the same degree as in the U.S. This was a shock, but it forced me to become stronger and more assertive.

What you know now that you didn't know before going abroad: Unfortunately, the world is plagued by cultural misinformation. The only true way to combat this is to increase person-to-person cross-cultural contact and rely less on cinema, soundbites and sensational journalism.

Advice to future study abroad participants: Don't be afraid to let go of your initial reactions or judgments about a host culture, and travel as much as you can!



Studying abroad offers a crash course on determination, perseverance, self-confidence and cultural awareness. You'll come back stronger, smarter, and more prepared to make a difference in the world.