

## My Study Abroad Experience in Spain

Last spring, I got the opportunity to study abroad in Alcala de Henares, within the community of Madrid in Spain where I stayed with a host family. I attended Instituto Franklin, the international study branch of the Universidad de Alcala. I took courses on literature, culture, and translation and interpretation studies. Instituto Franklin also gave tours around the city and showed us how to take the train to Madrid. We visited two museums in Madrid, Reina Sofia and el Museo del Prado. We also took a trip to Toledo, a World Heritage site, and Segovia to see monumental aqueducts. We took weekend trips to the region of Andalucía and to Cuenca. In Andalucía we visited three cities, Sevilla, Granada and Cordoba. We received guided tours by dedicated professionals with a passion for Spanish history. We visited important landmarks, cathedrals, and even a palace. I had a great time getting to know the country and its vibrant culture. Students wanting to study abroad should talk to their advisors early to plan out the courses they want to take and make sure they will transfer over. Get a student transportation card as soon as you arrive, for only 20 euros a month you can ride the bus and the train unlimited all over Madrid. Sign up for conversation exchanges as it is a great way to meet people to practice your Spanish on and help them with English. One thing I especially loved in Alcala was volunteering at La Casa de Acogida, their homeless shelter and soup kitchen. The people there are incredibly sweet and those who stayed there had so much history to share. I would definitely recommend getting involved in the community as it can help you get accustomed to your new surroundings and meet people you normally would not.



Toledo

Ambar Cordero





Ambar Cordero

Royal Palace



Ambar Cordero



Sevilla



Granada



Ambar Cordero



Córdoba



Volunteering

Ambar Cordero



Segovia