

Omar Howard – UF in Madrid

Major: Public Relations | **Minor:** Spanish

I studied abroad because...

I have always loved the Spanish language and since I had never been to Europe, I knew Madrid would offer me the chance to both learn Spanish and experience the European culture.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...

the fact that I had just started a new relationship. I was apprehensive to study abroad because my relationship was so new, but ultimately I chose to go, and I do not regret it at all!

A typical meal I had while studying abroad:

I stayed with a host family so every night my host father would cook something different for dinner. One dish that he always cooked consisted of either a soup or salad, a cabbage-like side, potatoes, and a chorizo.

My favorite spot in my host city was...

the neighborhood Malasaña. It was very hipster and full of cool cafés, clothing stores, and restaurants. I loved to walk around at night while the streets were crowded and just bask in the vitality of youth.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:

I saw a live Flamenco show for the first time!

The strangest experience for me while abroad was...

that I got laryngitis! It was very scary because I am a singer, and I thought I would never get my voice back.

A habit I picked up while abroad:

I often dress very European, which warrants many stares, but they are so fashionable in Madrid that I could not help but take a liking to it.

What I found most challenging while abroad was...

cell phone service. I have unlimited data in the US, but abroad I did not have that luxury, so sometimes I would be away in a different country, and I would run out of data. To manage this, I always made sure the lodging I stayed in always had wifi.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...

how much Europeans smoked! I was completely baffled that it was so common there unlike in America.

My last bit of advice:

Study abroad IS, without a doubt, one of the best decisions you will make in your life. You are full of youth and adventures; new friends and memories await you!