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Major: Sociology | **Minor:** Spanish

I studied abroad because...

I wanted to live in another country and fully indulge in their cultures along with hopes to travel to other countries while abroad.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad:

Prior to studying abroad, I was slightly nervous about using the metro system and navigating around a new city and COUNTRY all on my own. However, this never held me back I was just nervous and excited to see if I could learn to navigate through the city all on my own.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad:

Breakfast was usually a big brunch with coffee, juice, *pan con tomate*, and eggs! Lunch was also very big; the Spaniards usually have what's called "*Menú del Día*", which means menu of the day. It's typically a three course meal including a drink, an appetizer, a main course, and a dessert, usually all of which were traditional Spanish dishes! Dinner was generally the smallest meal and most of the time was just "*tapas*", which are like appetizers/snacks. They can range from different types of charcuterie to *pan con tomate*, *tortilla*, and *croquetas*.

My favorite spot in my host city was...

Chueca because it was a very vibrant and diverse neighborhood full of young adults. My roommates and I went to many different restaurants around Chueca and we constantly found ourselves having a memorable time each time we went there.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:

While I was abroad, the 2018 FIFA World Cup was going on so each day there was a game all my friends and I would get together, go have tapas, and cheer on our favorite teams!

The strangest experience for me while abroad...

happened to my roommates and I one day while at Parque del Retiro. After class one sunny day, my roommates and I decided to go on a picnic to the park. When we were at the park laying on our blankets in the sun suddenly we all got pelted by bluish purplish berries! We were all so caught off guard but burst out into a hysterical laughter. Our new shoes and clothes were now covered in dark purple stains. We never found out where the berries came from, but that definitely had to be the funniest and strangest experience while abroad!

A habit I picked up while abroad was...

journaling. Everyday I would journal how I felt, what I did that day, and what I was looking forward to. This helped me really appreciate my time abroad along with having memories I can look back on whenever I want!

What I found most challenging while abroad was...

missing my family. However, I was able to talk to my family each day, send them photos, and updates on my time abroad. It's important to keep in contact with your parents while abroad, and sharing my experience with them made me even more appreciative of what I was doing each day.

What surprised me most about study abroad:

The wonderful, intelligent, and good-hearted professors I had while abroad were not expected but appreciated and well-respected. I was surprised to have such an amazing experience with the staff at Nebrija because they all truly became my home away from home.

My last bit of advice:

The knowledge you acquire while studying abroad has no comparison to the education you would receive in a traditional classroom. You have many wonderful opportunities in front of you, don't be afraid to try new things, and always have a positive attitude!