I studied abroad because...
I wanted to challenge myself and step out my comfort zone by immersing myself in an entirely new culture. I knew that this was an opportunity that I need to take advantage of before I got into the workforce. I had never traveled to Europe, and I wanted to be able to have first-hand experience on life away from the United States.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...
I did not think that I would have the time to create an academic plan around my study abroad experience. The study abroad advisors did a phenomenal job to make sure that my fears of graduating on time were gone before I left.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad was...
a roasted chicken with some type of yellow rice or vegetables.

My favorite spot in my host city was...
El Retiro park. This was a big park with different cultural traditions that happened every weekend. I was able to ride boats around a lake in the middle of the park and just be able to hang out with all of my friends.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:
I was able to go to the Cliffs of Moher in Dublin with my roommates and also be able to see Drake in Dublin. This was an awesome experience, and it was amazing.

A habit I picked up while abroad:
I loved to go and watch the sunset and just to walk around the center of the city at least 2-3 times a week.

What I found most challenging while abroad was...
communicating with people in Spain. I made sure that I pushed myself to walk on my own or just to walk with one friend because it would force me to try to interact and talk with other people.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...
my ability to be able to travel to many different countries at a cheap rate. I expected many of the countries that I traveled to be extremely expensive. I was able to find affordable airfares and hotels/airbnbs that allowed me to minimize my costs.

My last bit of advice:
You should have a plan and create a map of what you want to potentially do before you go. Then you should meet with the UF students and other students that you meet and try to plan it out throughout your time. Also, attend the cultural events that happen in the city because you will never forget those times.