

What's the best advice you can give future students to maximize their experience abroad?

"Be open minded and be willing to try new things. Pretend like every day is your last day in Madrid and regardless of how tired you are go out and explore. You can sleep when you get home."

"When trying to learn a new language, refrain as much as possible from speaking English with your friends. It makes it much more difficult to completely immerse yourself in the language you wish to learn."

"Take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself, don't limit yourself to certain expectations!"

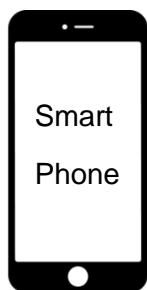
What items did you not bring that you wish you had?

- Nicer clothes for going out
- Good water bottle
- Portable phone charger
- Small bag for weekend traveling
- Lightweight rain jacket
- More shorts

What items did you pack and NOT need while abroad?

- Long pants (it's HOT)
- Make-up
- Heels
- Hair dryer
- Soap
- T-shirts/ Nike shorts (girls)

Which devices would you recommend others take in the future?



Most common ways to communicate with family and friends back home:

#1. Through WiFi-enabled smart phones apps

- Skype
- Whatsapp
- iMessage

#2. International calling/text plan with U.S. cell phone

Spanish in Madrid

"It was a great experience! I learned a lot I didn't expect and it changed me as a person, in the best way. I came back with a better mind set of my priorities and expectations out of life, society, school and happiness."

"I learned A LOT. I think I learned more this month than I have in the whole time I have been studying Spanish. However, I still have a lot to learn, I didn't realize how fast a month would pass!"

Approximately how much did you spend out of pocket during the program (in USD)?

	Max Value	Average Value
Communication (cell phone, Internet charges, etc.):	500.00	94.29
Food:	1,200.00	366.07
Going out/free time:	600.00	178.57
Lodging:	500.00	60.36
Other:	100.00	3.57
Personal travel/excursions:	1,500.00	363.93
Program related travel/excursions:	180.00	17.12
Required books/supplies:	50.00	31.64
Souvenirs/gifts:	1,000.00	107.14

What credit cards were most accepted?



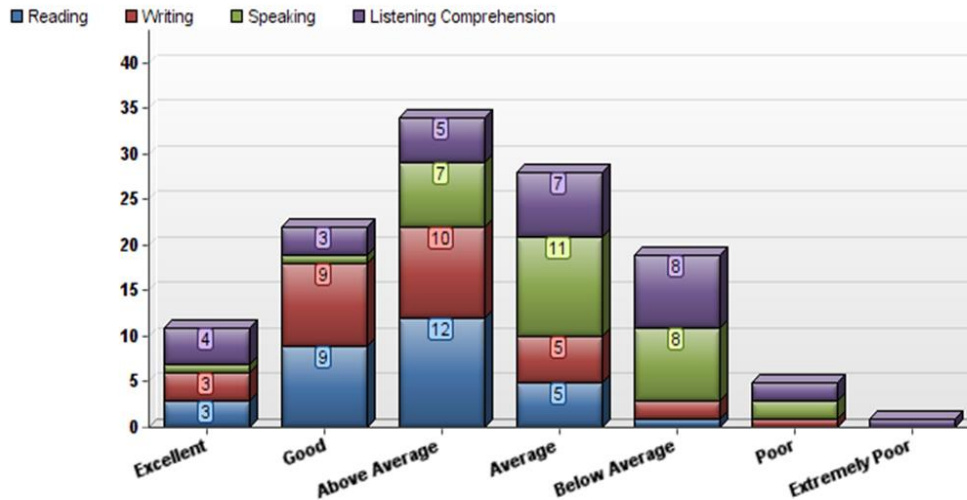
What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?

"Look for great deals on certain nights and picnics in the park are so fun and cheaper!"

"I would recommend keeping up with how much you've spent at the end of every day. Being aware of how much you have in the bank at all times can you help you make frugal choices."

"Going to the local grocery stores and buying simple ingredients such as bread, butter, cheese, fruit, etc. is the way to go if you want to eat healthy and save money."

Self – reported language proficiency before the program:



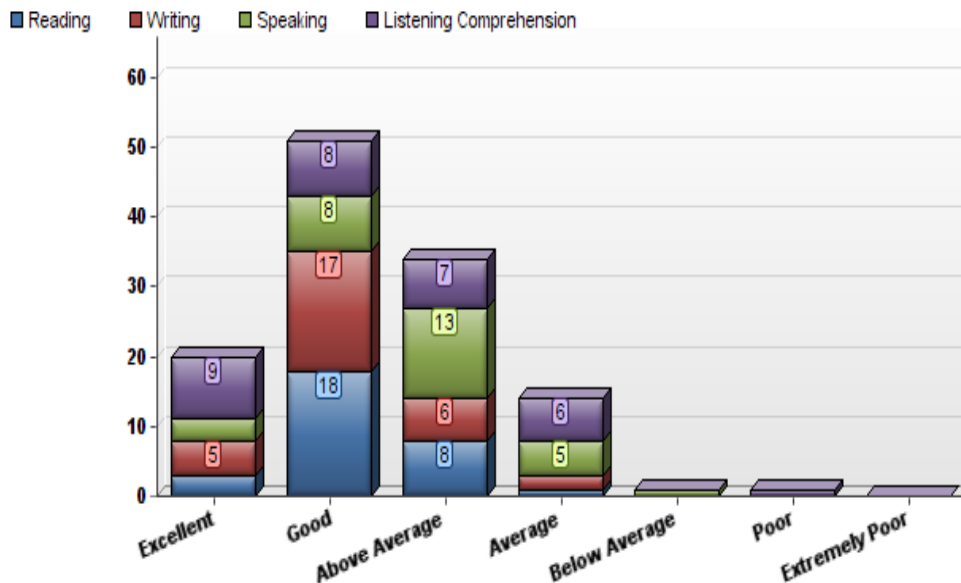
Majority of students said that living with a host family allowed them to gain a greater understanding of Spanish culture.

“I couldn't have had a better homestay family!! My host mom is wonderful and I hope to stay in touch with her. I cried when I had to leave because she is my Spanish mom.”

“I was able to learn more about the Spaniard culture through discussions with my host family and by simply observing their living styles. The food that was served to me also sparked countless discussions about the traditional food culture in Spain.”

“Let the future students know that there is no air conditioning I was taken aback by this. It was an amazing experience otherwise!”

Self – reported language proficiency after the program:



How might students best get to know the people and culture of Spain while abroad?

“Live with a family! They are wonderful people and will love you like their own. I ate like a Spaniard, spoke like a Spaniard, and dressed like a Spaniard. I couldn't have been happier!”

“Make an effort to not only speak in Spanish to your host family, but to speak to the locals when you order food, buy things, and walk in the streets even if they speak to you in English. Make them think they assumed wrong by speaking to you in English!”

“Explore alone is my best advice because you are less likely to speak English and talk about American things with your friends”