

FLL Study Abroad Programs

Spain Study Abroad



In 2012, Ms. Jara conducted the Spain Study Abroad program that took 10 outstanding students to the beautiful town of Úbeda in southern Spain. Each student stayed with a host family and became a member of the family and the community. The program took place during the first summer session, where students took Spanish 302 (reading) and 303 (conversation). The opportunities the program gave students to immerse in the wonderful Spanish culture were countless.

We read lots of fantastic classic and modern literature pieces, practiced conversation daily with local students and met with local residents to enjoy the beautiful town and learn about their traditions and culture. Other activities students enjoyed

during their stay were learning how to make pottery with Paco Tito, a renowned potter, whose museum has been declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. One of the visits included an olive oil factory where students observed how olive oil is made.

Olive oil is the main product in the region and the outskirts feature the most gorgeous landscape made of an endless ocean of olive trees. It is like nothing none of the students had seen before. During this visit students learned that olive oil is not only used to cook, it is used to make many other wonderful products. They were highly surprised when they sampled olive oil on bread with sugar and it tasted just like honey. Students truly enjoyed dancing flamenco and sevillanas (local dances). In addition, on three different weekends they traveled to the cities of Granada, Cádiz and Madrid. In Granada they visited the magnificent Alhambra and watched flamenco in the Sacromonte Caves. In Cádiz they learned a lot about Christopher Columbus and his trips to America and relaxed at the beach. In Madrid, they enjoyed art at its best by visiting the magnificent museums and theaters of La Gran Vía, ate fantastic tapas and simply relaxed at the many local cafes and bars.



However, there was no city like Úbeda that with its history, renaissance beauty, crowded cafes, delicious tapas, nice people, warm weather and blue skies charmed everyone. Úbeda truly became home to all. This trip was indeed a life-changing experience for everyone. Ms. Jara is so proud of this group that grew to be a family and learned so much, enjoyed so much and created unforgettable memories.

For more Information about the Úbeda Program, please visit our program's website [Click here](#). For questions, please contact Ms. Jara at jaram@uncw.edu. ¡Vamos a España!

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Spain Study Abroad Participants



Michael Byrd
Junior
Spanish Major
From Wilmington, NC

I chose to go on this particular trip because I really enjoyed Profe Jara's class which I had taken the previous semester and I wanted to be able to see the beautiful historic cities of Spain while learning Spanish, experiencing the culture and earning class credit.

I learned that people in other countries are not so different from the states. Cultural differences are always visible but the people I came to know on the trip would be my friends no matter where I would have met them.

I would recommend the trip to other students because you can never really know a place unless you go there and experience everything it has to offer. Aside from the learning in the classroom, the submersion in the culture really added to my knowledge of Spanish and widened my worldview.



Hannah Cheek
Rising Sophomore
Nursing major /
Spanish minor
From Apex, NC

I wanted to take my Spanish to the next level, classrooms are great, but nothing can beat really getting out there are speaking with natives.

After I came back from Spain, I noticed that I lost my hesitation to speak to others in Spanish, I wasn't as afraid to make mistakes. Also, I started to think in Spanish a lot more, it just seemed natural.

Traveling abroad is about much more than learning a language, it's about seeing the world through someone else's eyes, it's understanding that we are all one big global family. The experience will absolutely change your life.



Abigail Hernandez
Junior
Elementary Education
From Leland, NC

I had never been on an airplane and Spain has always been one of my desired travel destinations. Since it was a small faculty led program it seemed like a perfect experience.

I learned to stop and observe the world around me and to realize that there may be different ways of living but we are all in fact human as well as to embrace and embody the culture and way of life of the people around you.

I would recommend this experience to others because it is a great way to practice the Spanish language and to truly experience what it is like to live in the beautiful southern town of Ubeda, Spain!

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Skylar Elizabeth Lewis
Rising Junior
MD Psychology major
From Chesapeake Beach

I always wanted to go to Spain. Learning Spanish was the reason my parents would help pay for it.

I loved learning about another culture and seeing things through another perspective while learning a new language.

It's a great chance to experience a new life and to get out of your own head.



Morgan Elaine Miller
Junior
History/Spanish major
From Rocky Point, NC

I really wanted to experience what it was like to be fully immersed in a different culture and I wanted to better my Spanish skills.

I loved seeing the enormous amount of history all around me and I had the most amazing host family anyone could ask for.

This is the optimum time in your life to travel and see the world while there are so many resources available to you. Living with a family and seeing a foreign country is a once in a lifetime experience and it will be the most incredible experience of your life.



Kristin Pownall
Junior
Nursing major
From Glen Burnie, MD

I have always loved to travel and I wanted to study Spanish abroad. I liked that this program was over the summer and was faculty led. Also after having class with Profe Jara I knew that I would have a fantastic learning experience.

This experience was life changing. I fell in love with Spain and the Spanish culture. The food was delicious and the Spaniards were friendly. I loved my host family and I still keep in touch with them. There was learning on top of learning and I became confident in my Spanish communication skills.

I would recommend the experience to other students because when I stepped out of my comfort zone I gained new perspectives and meet great people. If people take the step to study abroad it will be an experience that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. I encourage students to broaden their worldview and immerse themselves in the language that they are studying. I found that learning Spanish was easiest when I was immersed in it.

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Cody Tyler Searchfield
Junior
Spanish major
From Charlotte, NC

When I was a kid, I had the amazing opportunity to travel across parts of Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. From the first moment I experienced another culture first-hand, it opened my eyes to a whole new world. It brought to life the stories told throughout history, and helped me from a young age to understand that no matter what country or continent a person is from, we are all human beings and should all deserve the same basic rights. That's what drove me to want to learn Spanish. I had been to Spain once, but that trip was well before I began studying Spanish, so for me the chance to go back to Spain with a decent grasp of the Spanish language was too good to pass up.

I learned so much more about the culture than I had on the previous trip: how their coffee differs from ours, what kind of music the people listen to, their views on world politics and historical events.

From this trip I have gained a closer, more intimate knowledge of the Spanish people. It's very interesting to see how the family unit is at the core of everything they do. At times, one could see stark cultural contrasts, while at other times one could clearly see that we are all people who feel the same types of emotions we do -- fear, happiness, melancholy, hunger, etc. I would recommend this program to students because this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The school has added more to the program since I travelled, therefore the students will be in Spain for a longer amount of time. I am so jealous! Not only will you be able to travel, see the world, meet new friends, but you'll also be able to go to the nearest Más y Más or Carrefour and shop around for food or other items you might need. My one bit of advice... drink lots of water. The dry environment in Spain (at least in the southern region of Andalucia) does tend to make people get dehydrated very easily if they are not careful.



Caroline Tipton
Junior
History major / Spanish
minor
From Jacksonville, NC

I was looking for study abroad opportunities when I was told about this one. It was a combination of having the comfort of knowing a UNCW professor would be in charge and being able to actually live in the home of a host family that convinced me.

Aside from a better grasp on the language, I gained a confidence that I did not think I was capable of and a thirst to explore the lesser-known parts of the world instead of just the most famous sites.

This trip is perfect for anyone who wants to go abroad, but doesn't know how to start. It is accessible, motivational, and educational without ever feeling like anything other than a vacation.