

Major: International Studies — Spanish

Why did you choose Madrid?

I've always wanted to visit a Spanish-speaking country to better my language skills. As soon as I realized that it was really affordable, I got really excited and I had to go on the next trip that was planned for Spanish majors.



Housing:

I stayed with Señora Norka — I loved her! She was so nice. She was a hip older lady, very fashionable and she had art all over her apartment. She was very friendly and talked a lot with us when we got home each day.

“Studying in Madrid made me more confident in myself and in my Spanish speaking. I felt, ‘Wow! - After all these years of study, it really paid off!’”
— Nikki



Nikki (left) with her host mother Señora Norka and her roommate, Krystal (right), another Mount Mary student, while living in Madrid on the 2010 Spanish immersion program.

Academics:

I was in classes with people from China, India and all over the United States. The class size was about 15. We had culture and conversation class and then grammar and language, but all at the level you tested at, based on the placement test at the beginning.

Biggest cultural difference:

We'd go out to eat and people would sit and talk. It was nice to not feel pressured to leave and to feel welcome to stay and talk. I appreciated spending time with people more. They were more relaxed, spent quality time with their friends and valued relationships.

Most memorable:

Even though Spain is one country, I felt like there was a lot of diversity in the country. We talked with a hairdresser from France, and a lot of the vendors were from Morocco and other places. We met so many people from all over the world — Italy, Mexico, England — and we didn't just learn the dances they do in Spain, but dances from all over.