

LINDSEY'S MAJOR: Spanish

TERM ABROAD: Spring 2006

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I really wanted to improve my Spanish skills and I had never been to Europe. I also wanted to be in a bigger city, and I loved the freedom and integration with Spaniards that this program provided.

FAVORITE CLASSES: *Music and Means of Communication.* I got to write and record my own radio show in Spanish and put music to a silent film. Also I took an Art History class at the Prado Museum that was amazing!

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: I found an apartment one mile from the university in a great neighborhood. I lived with four Spanish students and shared a room with another American student. We all became really close friends, and some of the best times in Spain were right in my own apartment.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: Expressing myself in another language and culture. All the common phrases that we say in the U.S. don't translate to Spanish. You almost have to reinvent yourself in a Spanish setting which is really beneficial in the long run. It gives you a different perspective and allows you to be who you want to be.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: How blunt everyone is in Spain. It takes some getting used to, but at least you know what they really think.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: I wish I would have more fully developed my opinions of the U.S. before I went to Spain. I was not prepared for how much my opinions would change and how frequently Spaniards would ask for my opinion. Study abroad students are representatives of our country and people abroad want to hear our opinions.

EXPERIENCE WITH CULTURE SHOCK OR REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK: Coming back to the US was more intense than arriving in Spain. You look at the U.S. with a completely new perspective. Everything looks fresh and different even though this is the country you have lived in your whole life. It makes you form new opinions of the U.S. and, in the end, it enhances your life here.

lindseywineholt

Madrid, Spain



— Lindsey Wineholt demonstrates how the Roman Aqueducts brought water to the city of Madrid.

“Be open and ready for anything. Studying abroad was one of the best experiences of my life, but it was nothing like I thought it would be. *It was better.*”

IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD... go for a whole year instead of just a semester. A semester just isn't long enough. By the time you are comfortable with the city and the people, it's already time to go home. My only complaint is that I didn't have enough time!