

Spanish Language & Culture--Alicante, Spain

Studying Abroad with Salese Clark,
Business Administration Marketing Management
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ABSTRACT

A truly eye-opening 5-week journey into the realm of foreign languages during the noteworthy Summer Quarter of 2023, orchestrated by professors from the Universidad de Alicante, alongside Dr. Loly Alcaide Ramirez from the UW Tacoma, bestowed upon a select group of 13 UWT students the unparalleled opportunity to elevate their Spanish language proficiency to unprecedented heights. The TSPAN Foreign Study in Spanish (10 credits) course consisted of three 5-day in-person classes where students worked diligently from 9 am to 2 pm. Each three of the instructional sessions was conducted by experienced native speakers, with an emphasis on enhancing the student's comprehension of Spanish grammar and vocabulary, as well as refining their conversational skills in terms of fluency and precision. The instructional approach also included Spanish literary, artistic, and cinematic insights. Lastly, Dr. Loly Alcaide Ramirez's online TIAS 498 Independent Study 2-credit class focuses on Alicante's cultural practices and history in the community. Students submit research reports and weekly reflection check-ins that examine the experience of activities and apply knowledge gained while studying abroad in Spain.



FUNDING METHODS

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REFERENCES

Build on your time abroad. Study Abroad | Brown University. (n.d.). <https://studyabroad.brown.edu/return-home/build-your-time-abroad>
Intensive Spanish in Alicante, Spain (Summer 2023): Office of Global Affairs. University of Washington Tacoma. (n.d.). <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/oga/sa-spain-summer-2019>



PURPOSE

The objective of this study is to explore the Spanish culture and local traditions in Alicante, Spain, utilizing personal experiences, selected readings, and assignments. With host families and Spaniards, students were encouraged to enhance cross-cultural communication. As well as learning about immigration issues from Africa. Moreover, the festivals of San Juan hold significant cultural importance for the city of Alicante at the end of June to celebrate the arrival of summer. There were stunning fireworks, outdoor music concerts all night long, floral offerings, and parades.



DISCOVERIES

One of the oldest cities that was founded by the Phocaeen Greeks in 324 BC. Alicante's historic buildings host notable museums and galleries. In a 17th-century baroque palace, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA) is remarkable. The Cathedral of San Nicolás de Bari in Alicante built-in Herrerian Renaissance style on the site of a former mosque has a restrained façade, but its fifteenth-century Late Gothic cloister, which remains from medieval church and is linked to the cathedral by two lavish Baroque doors, is striking.

Alicante's heritage, culture, castle, mile-long beaches, island, restaurants, inexpensive pricing, nightlife, warm weather, lovely old town, sunsets, nice people, and San Juan festivals are also worth seeing. Tapas, Spain's hallmark dish, varies by area. For breakfast, lunch, and dinner, Spaniards eat bread (pan). Pan con Tomate is quite popular with a side of coffee.



ACTIVITIES

- ❖ SAN JUAN FESTIVITIES: proclamation (The Pregón), bonfires (the Plantà), open-air street party with live bomba y plena music, dances and folks in colorful traditional clothing in parades
- ❖ Guadalest and the Fonts d'Algar, Elche, and the Castle of Santa Barbara
- ❖ Tapas class: Carrer Riu Algar, 20, Sant Vicent del Raspeig (Educa Cocina).
- ❖ Museo Arqueológico Provincial de Alicante & Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Alicante (MACA)



CONCLUSION

I recommend students at least study abroad for once in their lifetime. It will broaden their horizons, discovering new personal characteristics and different aspects of life. I was able to step out of my comfort zone and develop my independence and self-management skills while studying in Alicante, Spain. I've gained the courage to explore other countries. For instance, spending time abroad made me more conscious of my surroundings because it took longer to comprehend and listen to a different language. Understanding how difficult it was to learn and speak a different language and navigate a foreign culture has taught me patience. I've prepared for sudden changes and learned to handle difficult and complicated situations. With these skills, I can adjust by being adaptable and keep pushing myself as an individual in my business career. In the long run, I want to continue practicing Spanish to be bilingual for future jobs.