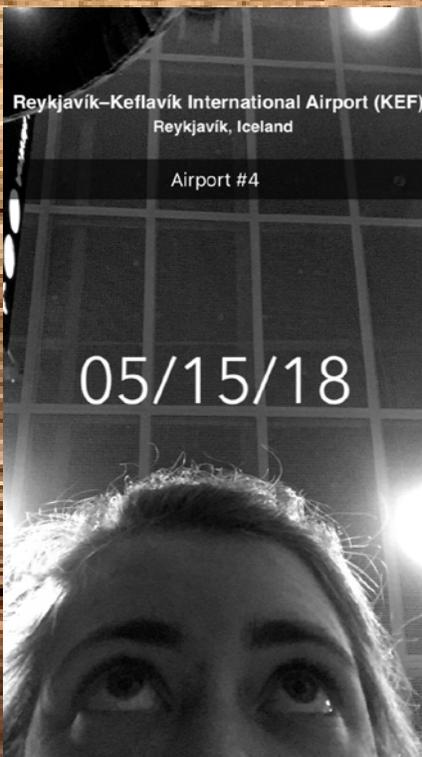


Iberian Peninsula Study Abroad

Summer 2018



Ciudad Real, Spain

Host City

I really enjoyed my time in my host city. I got to see a lot of the city by walking around looking for places to eat, and I was able to cultivate my Spanish skills with the locals.

My host family was great! My host father taught me how to cook paella, and my host mom taught me how to make lots of traditional Spanish meals such as tortillas and gazpacho.

We got to enjoy small town Spain, which was a nice environment to take classes in.



Ciudad Real, Spain



Ciudad Real, Spain



Ciudad Real, Spain ~

Toledo, Spain

May 20-25

Toledo was a great experience! We got to tour the most beautiful cathedral I've ever been to, eat our first tapas, and see an incredible Spanish sunset.

This was a great introduction to Spain and the classes we took this summer. We also took Spanish classes, which came in handy when trying to survive in Spain for six weeks.



Toledo, Spain



Toledo, Spain



Toledo, Spain



Toledo, Spain



Toledo, Spain

Lisbon, Portugal

May 25-28

Lisbon was a cool experience because we got to try some Portuguese food and hear Portuguese language, which was different than anything I had ever tasted or heard.

We also got to learn a lot of cool historical facts about Portugal during our tour of the city. After the tour, my friends and I explored the city, and I got to get to know my peers a bit better.



Lisbon, Portugal



Lisbon, Portugal



Lisbon, Portugal

Setubal, Portugal

May 27

During our trip to Lisbon, some friends and I took a day trip to Setubal, which is a secluded beach on the coast of Portugal. It was a beautiful beach, and we got a lot of bonding time between the train rides and the time on the beach.

It was a very relaxing afternoon, and a great way to spend time with friends and get to know each other better.



Setubal, Portugal



Setubal, Portugal



Setubal, Portugal

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Madrid, Spain

May 31

We took a day trip from Ciudad Real to Madrid to visit a construction site and explore the city. We didn't get much time to walk around the city, but in the few hours we did get, we climbed the tallest tower to see a great scenic view of the city and went to the geographic center of Spain! I got to know some of the Spanish kids in our classes much better through this trip, and I definitely became closer friends with them. It was a very fun day, and I learned a lot about the people I go to class with.



Madrid, Spain

Valencia and Villarreal, Spain

June 3

This was a very memorable day because we left at 4:00 in the morning to go to Valencia, Spain. While we were there we got to eat some delicious paella, played some intense beach soccer, and toured the largest aquarium in Europe! After a couple of hours in Valencia, we got on the bus and drove to Villarreal. We got to watch the Spain vs Switzerland national soccer teams play each other in a friendly match in the FC Villarreal soccer stadium, which was a great way to get to know some of the other students in the program.



Valencia, Spain



villareal, Spain

Bakio, Spain

June 7

For the first free weekend, Victoria Childress, Byron, Matt, and I went to northern Spain. We started in Bakio, Spain, and we hiked about 20 miles along the Atlantic coast of Spain through the foothills. We saw some beautiful sights, and incredibly blue water. We hiked to a small church on top of a mountain island. After our 20 miles, we went to the nearby beach, sat on the sand, and got to know each other better.



Bakío, Spain



Bakío, Spain



Bakío, Spain



Bakío, Spain

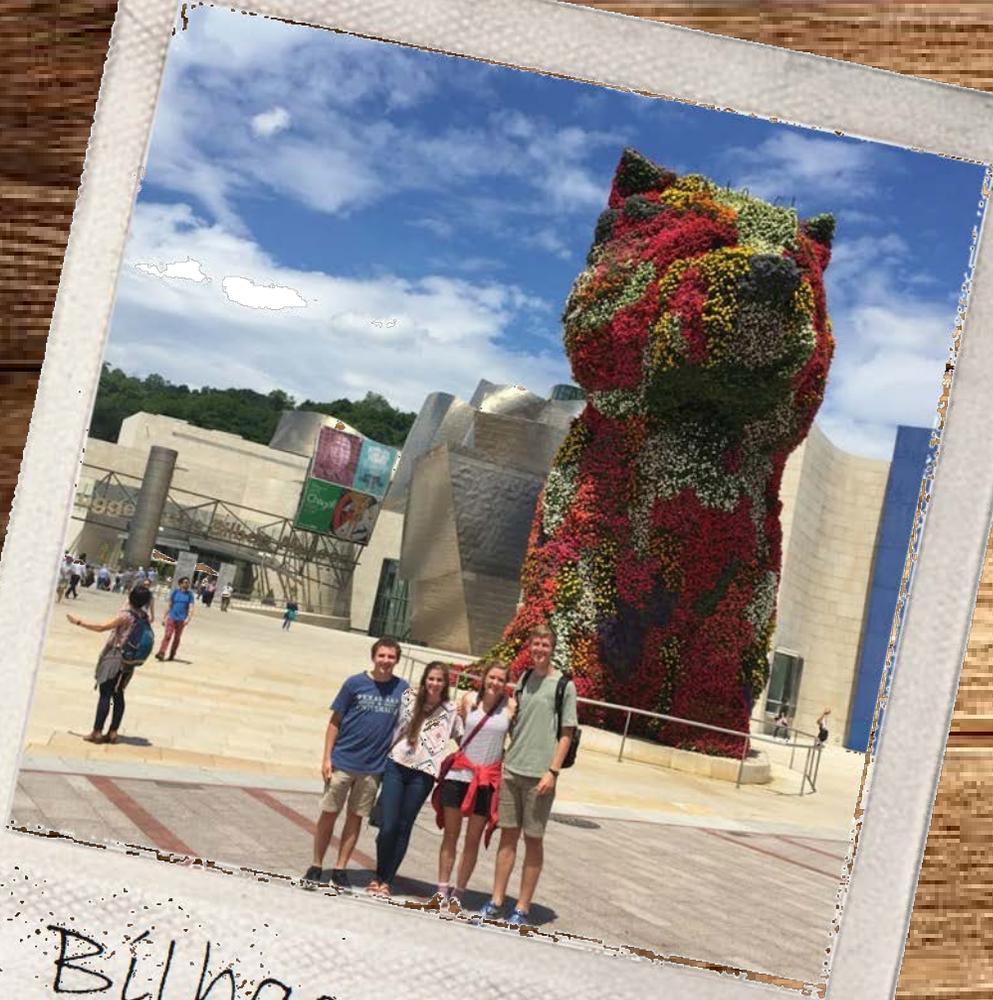


Bakío, Spain

Bilbao, Spain

June 8

During the first free weekend, after we went to Bakio, we journeyed to Bilbao, where we went to the Guggenheim Museum, a world famous modern art museum. It was an incredible piece of architecture I'm so glad I got to witness.



Bilbao, Spain



Bilbao, Spain



Bilbao, Spain

San Sebastian, Spain

June 9-10

Our last leg of the trip to Northern Spain consisted of a trip to San Sebastian. There we hiked through the mountains and played on the beach. The waves in San Sebastian were incredible, and it was fun to watch the surfers take on the massive waves. The weather there was rainy, so we didn't get to stay at the beach long, but we also got to walk around the city and see some cute markets and street vendors.



San Sebastian, Spain

Granada, Spain

June 14-15

One of the group weekend trips we took was to Malaga and Granada. In Granada we went to the Alhambra, which was an incredible experience to have. The architecture of it was indescribable, and I am very grateful to have gone to this incredible place.



Granada, Spain

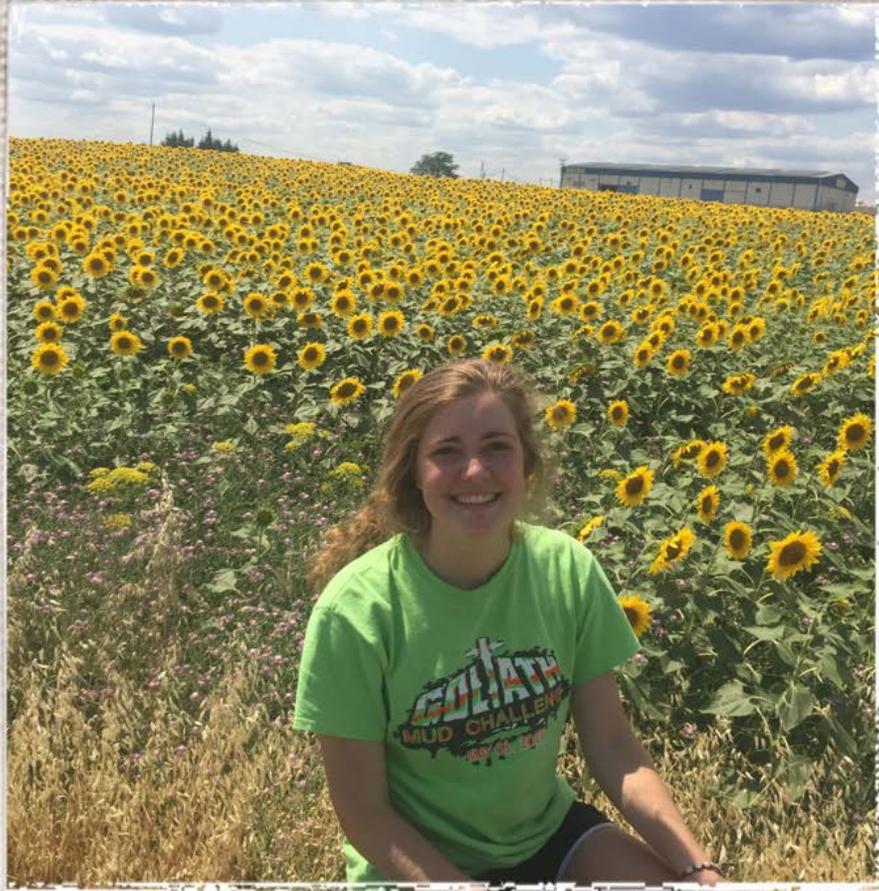


Granada, Spain

Malaga, Spain

June 13-17

On our way to Malaga, we stopped at a sunflower field. During our time in Malaga, we hiked the Caminito del Rey as well as spent time on a boat with all of the other students. It was a very memorable experience, and it was my favorite group trip we took.



Malaga, Spain



Malaga, Spain



Malaga, Spain



Malaga, Spain

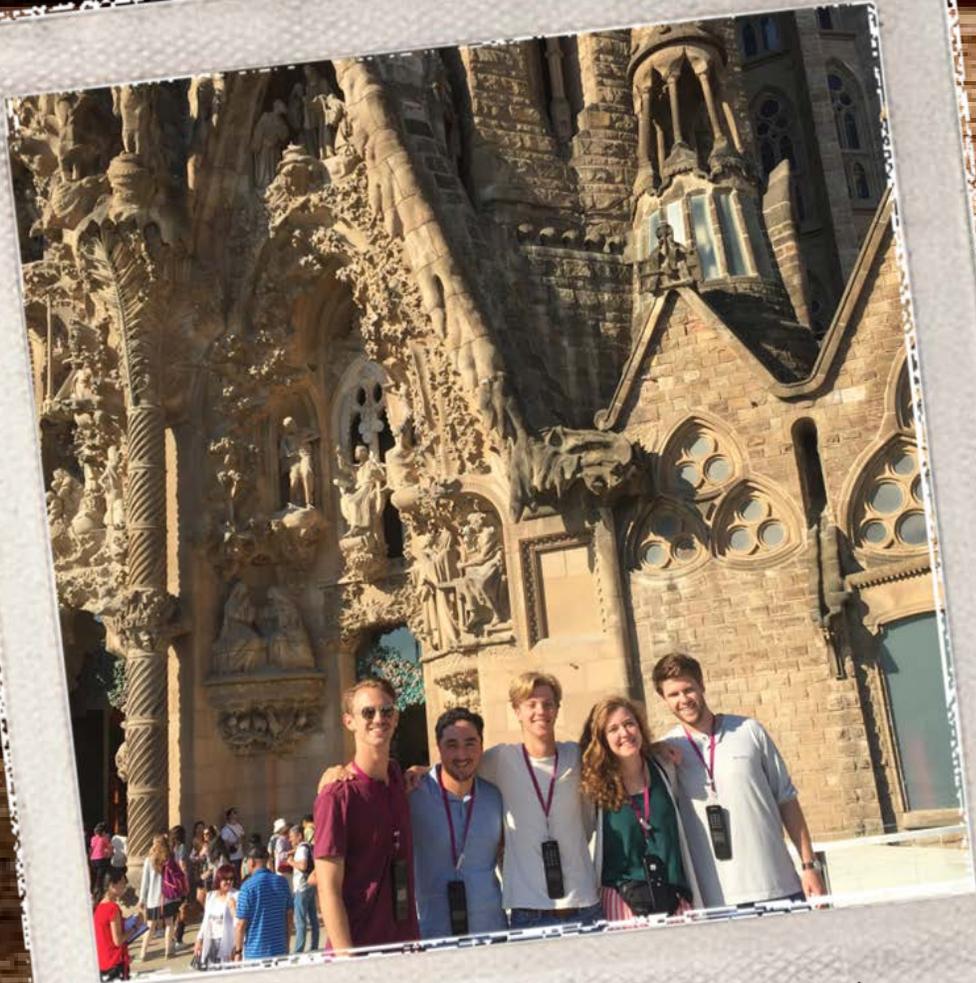


Malaga, Spain

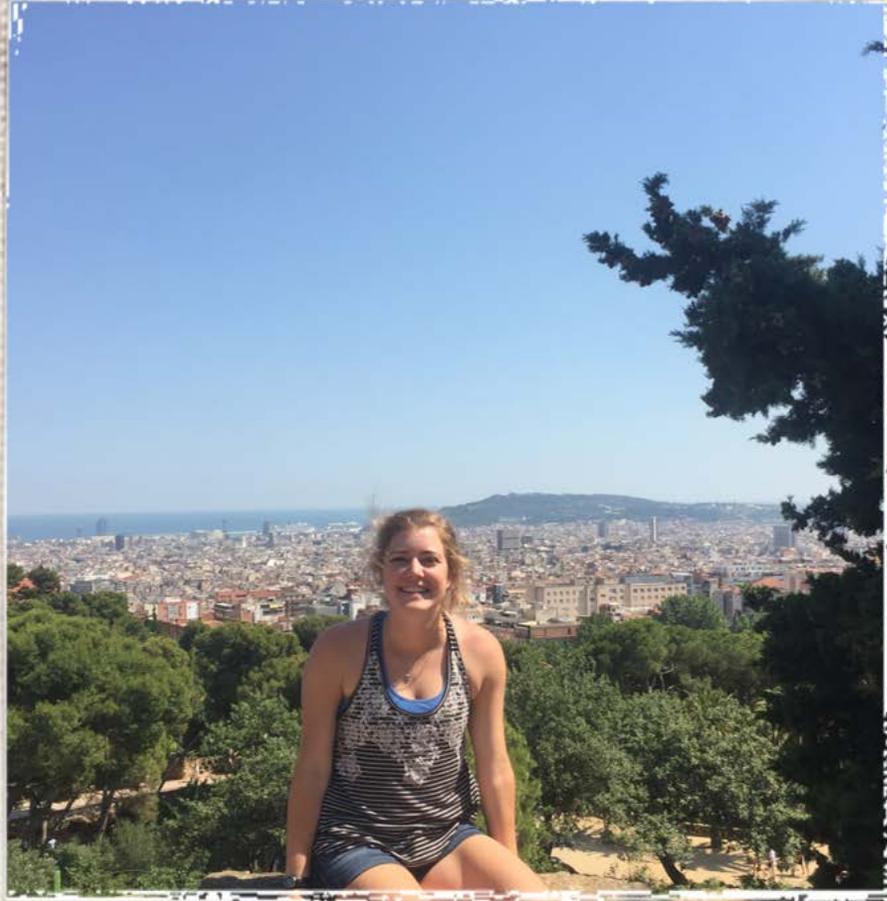
Barcelona, Spain

June 20-24

The last weekend I had in Spain, I took a trip to Barcelona with Chris, Jeremy, Joey, and Jackson. It was a ton of fun, and we spent four days exploring the city. While we were there, we hiked up to a bunker from the Spanish civil war, which was a great scenic view of the city. We also went to the Sagrada Familia, which was incredible, as expected. One night we took a cooking class and learned how to make seafood paella, tapas, and sangria. We also went to Camp Nou, which is the soccer stadium that Barcelona plays at as well as spent time on the beach. While we were there, the summer equinox occurred, which is also the feast day of San Juan, so there was a large celebration all night long on the beach. Barcelona was arguably my favorite city that I went to, and I'll never forget it.



Barcelona, Spain



Barcelona, Spain

CAMP NOU EXPERIENCE



Barcelona, Spain



B

Barcelona, Spain



Barcelona, Spain

Overall thoughts

Overall, this experience was one to remember, and I learned so much from all of the experiences I had abroad. I enjoyed the classes I took as well as the relationships I made. I grew a lot this summer, and I am greatly appreciative of everything this experience gave me.