UVA in Valencia: Engineering

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How did you decide on Valencia?

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Why would you recommend Valencia?

It was nice studying abroad through UVA as I already had a built-in group that was going through the same experience I was. UVA also offered so many perks like multiple day trips, weekend trips, activities in Valencia, and Thanksgiving dinner. It was also helpful living with a host family as it made me feel like I was really living a Spanish lifestyle.

Were there major academic or cultural differences in a new country?

In terms of academics, the Spanish professors in Valencia were very friendly and always open to having conversations with students. In Spain, it felt like there was less of a separation between professors and students. Culturally, there were several things that I had heard about but did not actually understand how they would impact me living around. There were small things like lack of AC, reduced central heating, and no real water fountains that were slightly difficult to get used to.

Where did you live?

I lived with a roommate who was another UVA student and a host mom. It was fun living with a host mom because she only spoke Spanish so my Spanish greatly improved living there. It also felt like I was much more immersed in the culture and had someone who could give me advice on traveling and more right at home.

What did a typical day look like?

All the UVA students in Valencia only had class Monday through Thursday, so Friday was basically part of the weekend. I would wake up for my classes and start the day off with drinking a small cup of coffee with a little Spanish biscuit, sitting on the balcony of my apartment overlooking the futbol (soccer) stadium. Then, I would take the bus to the Polytechnic University of Valencia to take my engineering classes and later in the day go to the UVA building to take my Spanish class. I would come home between 2 and 3 pm to have lunch, and then I would usually go to a coffee shop or go on a walk around the park with friends and have dinner around 9 pm with my host mom. At night I would go to bars or clubs with my friends. On weekends I would travel with friends and explore different parts of spain.

What was your favorite trip?

Madrid, unexpectedly, was my favorite place. There are so many things to see there and even though it is a big city it is very walkable and around every corner there is something to see.

Why should you go abroad?

Because UVA engineers do not have too much space in our schedules to take languages or humanities electives, it is nice to go abroad and be able to learn a new language and experience a different culture firsthand. Additionally, although my engineering classes were taught in English, they were taught by Spanish professors who gave us so much advice and taught things slightly differently than our professors here, which was cool to experience. It can definitely be stressful getting everything sorted out before you leave so I recommend starting the process early. However, it is so worth it and I am so genuinely glad that I had the opportunity to go abroad. It is definitely one of the highlights of my UVA experience.

Interested in applying? Scan the QR code! To learn more about the program and application!