

# the final week

our group in Morocco!



I didn't realize how hard it would be to leave the study abroad program at the end of the month. Though I knew it was coming to an end, and I was excited to see my family again, I was simultaneously unprepared and saddened to leave the space that I'd grown to love.



Hi! I'm Hannah! This picture was taken at the Alhambra!

The space that I created while abroad cultivated a level of comfort that allowed me to grow in profound ways. There's an idea that we become many different versions of ourselves in our lifetimes. One moment we're burdened by our regrets and failures, the next we're proud of what we see in the mirror. There's another idea alongside this: that we become what we experience. Throughout my experience in study abroad, I had the pleasure of getting to know myself deeper. The more I experienced, the more I grew and learned aspects about myself that I wouldn't have known without this opportunity.



last day party!



my friends and I in Morocco!

last trip (to Granada) before I left!



Thus, saying goodbye to the study abroad program almost felt like saying goodbye to a part of me that I didn't really know existed, but that I deeply loved and appreciated. While those aspects of my personality still remain, I believe that with my change in environment it won't be expressed in the same way. Reconciling with this has been challenging for me, but it has brought me immense joy to know that I am not alone in this. The community that I made through this program, the friendships and deep connections that were forged are continuing to support me, even as we are miles apart.

Having staff like Evan and Lisa who continuously check in on their students, having friends who I still call and talk with to this day has been a blessing. I never could have anticipated the genuine and solid relationships that I made on this trip. The memories that I have (both in my mind and in my camera roll) sustain me with such peace because I know that I completed my study abroad experience by living it to the fullest. Returning home was a necessary ending, but I believe that necessary endings are the path to new beginnings. I'm excited to see what else is in store!