



# Starting a New Chapter in Sevilla



After two years since my last time in Sevilla, where I studied abroad, I am back—but this time, to work as an English assistant through the NALCAP program. Living abroad has been a dream of mine ever since my college experience, and I still fondly talk about the unforgettable memories I made while I was in Sevilla, almost as if they happened yesterday. Being accepted into the program and returning to this beautiful city feels like a dream come true.

It's been a month since I arrived, and while the first few weeks have been a whirlwind of settling in and adjusting to my new routine, I've come to realize just how grateful I am for this opportunity. Every day feels like a learning experience. I work with young children, building relationships with them, their teachers, and the local community. I never imagined that I would experience the joy of kids running up to me, shouting "Teacher! Teacher!" and giving me the biggest hugs. That moment, every single day, is something I look forward to at work.



Visiting the Fall 24 ICS Christmas Party



Tiffany with her new roommates

I live and work in Aracena, a small town about an hour from Seville, famous for its jamón. My roommate and I commute with other teachers from Seville to this quaint village every day. I never would have known about Aracena if it weren't for this program, and despite the fact that most of the teachers here don't speak much English, they've welcomed me with open arms, making me feel like part of the family.

I arrived in Spain at the perfect time, during the festive holiday season, and it's been magical to experience it all. Every street in Seville is adorned with unique light displays, and large Christmas trees line the main strips of the city. On December 6th, Spain celebrated its Constitution Day, and I had the chance to witness the children singing the national anthems of Spain and Andalucía with such pride.



Christmas Market below the Setas

It was an amazing experience, seeing how connected they are to their country's traditions. And, of course, Christmas here is a big deal, but the most unique celebration I've witnessed was on January 6th, when the city hosted a grand parade for Three Kings Day. The joy and excitement during the event were contagious, and it's a holiday tradition I'll never forget. These festive celebrations have given me a deeper appreciation for the Spanish culture and the lively spirit people bring to the holidays.



The parade of the Three Kings



Tiffany in the Plaza de Toros in Sevilla

I still have half a year left in the program, and I'm looking forward to continuing to learn and grow during this time. The more I immerse myself in the city, the more I feel at home. Sevilla truly has a special place in my heart. A dear friend I met while studying abroad here returned to visit over the holidays, and it brought back so many memories. We spent time talking at Las Setas, recalling the incredible experiences we shared, which made me realize how powerful the friendships formed during study abroad can be. Revisiting my old school and neighborhood also reminded me of the amazing time I had while living here.

Now, I'm creating new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. I've discovered my favorite café, my go-to comforting spot (Plaza de España), and even my favorite grocery store. I'm excited for what's to come and for the opportunity to continue exploring the culture, while also learning more about myself. This experience is teaching me to be fully independent, to carve out my own life, and to embrace everything this beautiful city has to offer.



A Flamenco dancer in the Plaza de España



Tiffany with her old ICS classmates