



# A New Adventure



Studying abroad this semester has been an exciting new adventure for me, especially as someone who had never been to Europe or lived outside the United States before. I am from Boston, Massachusetts and go to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Fortunately, I have adapted very well to the new environment and culture.



Great lunch with friends

What has helped the most to fully embrace Spanish culture is immersing myself in it. This has been made easier by my amazing host family and the convenient location of my homestay. I've also found the ICS crowd to be very friendly and open to meeting new people and trying new things. Likewise, Spanish people are incredibly welcoming, social, and friendly. My Spanish isn't the best, but the locals have been very kind and understanding. It has been very easy for me to make friends in and outside of the ICS circle.



In nearby Parque María Luisa

Before studying abroad, I was unfamiliar with Spanish cuisine, but after moving to Seville and trying a variety of new dishes, I fell in love with it. My favorite dish is definitely *Patatas Bravas*, delicious crispy potatoes with two creamy sauces. The biggest challenge for me so far has been the lack of Asian cuisine in Seville. Back home and in Hawaii, I'm used to having easy access to a wide variety of Asian food, so this has been an adjustment. However, traveling to different places in Europe and exploring their Asian and local cuisine is something I've been looking forward to.



With my friend, Chanalei

Academically, I find the workload to be really reasonable. As a student who takes my classes between ICS and EUSA, I find it easy to balance school, my internship, and leisure. Another aspect of studying abroad that I enjoy is traveling. So far I have traveled to multiple cities in Spain, as well as Lisbon, Portugal. I find it convenient that there are planned visits and trips in ICS. We have Fridays off from school, making it very easy and convenient for students to travel.

Overall I am very happy to be studying abroad and encourage others to take advantage of this opportunity. Though I still have many weeks of this program left, I am already feeling sentimental for when I have to go home. I am having a great experience and the time is going by very fast. For the rest of my stay I will be taking full advantage of what study abroad has to offer by continuing to meet new people and embracing new opportunities. I already know this experience has changed me in ways I never expected. If you're considering studying abroad, take the leap—you won't regret it!