

IAP Parent Profile

Seville, Spain



Karen's daughter Amanda studied abroad in Seville, Spain for one semester.

How did you feel when Amanda first mentioned studying abroad?

I highly encouraged her to go. Even though UW-Madison did not require study abroad as part of a Spanish major, I felt it was vitally important that Amanda do it in order to increase her fluency and fully immerse herself in a Spanish speaking culture.

Did you have concerns about your daughter studying abroad? How did you overcome these concerns?

As most parents might, I worried for her safety. Spain has such a night culture and I hoped that she would make smart choices and travel as safely as possible. Talking to Amanda via Skype and having the opportunity to meet her host mom reassured me that she was being well taken care of. Also, the study abroad program did a lot of prep work with the students to help them get acquainted and adjusted to cultural differences.

What are the benefits of study abroad?

The benefits of study abroad are exponential. Your child will not only gain language and social skills of other cultures but will make international friendships and ties that last a lifetime. They will learn problem solving and gain independence and confidence. They will become more adaptable and aware of the world around them. They will learn first hand what books could not teach them about life and people and cities and travelling and on and on and on. It truly is a once in a life time experience.

What advice do you have for parents of prospective study abroad students?

Encourage them to take this opportunity. Let them grow in a way that can only be taught by this unique situation. Help them if they ask but do not overshadow them. Trust in their abilities to get the paperwork done and organize themselves.



Amanda and Karen in Spain

