

# IAP Parent Profile

## Madrid, Spain



Laura's parents, Jacqueline and Gary, supported her decision to study abroad in Madrid, Spain for an academic year.

### **How did you feel when your daughter first mentioned studying abroad?**

We were excited and encouraged her to sign up for the program. It was one of the things she wanted to do before she graduated.

### **Did you have concerns about your daughter studying abroad?**

Her safety was the first concern we had. It was important to know Laura would be safe and have a support system in place if she needed help while she was abroad.

### **What are the benefits of study abroad?**

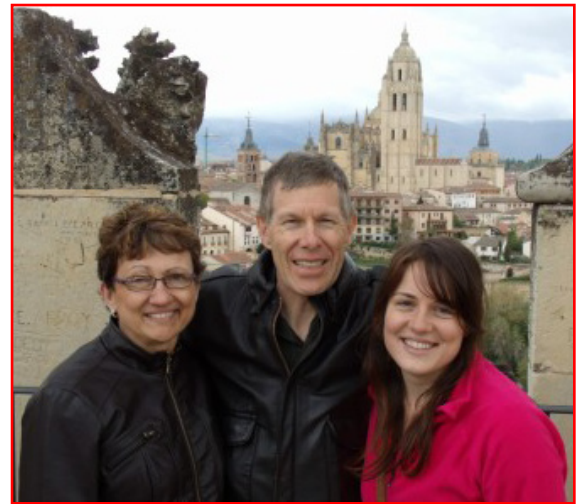
She now has a greater sense of independence. She was able to navigate a foreign country successfully; find an apartment, arrange her travels in Spain and surrounding countries and balance studies as well as becoming more fluent in her second language because of language immersion. Laura became at home in her host country.

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

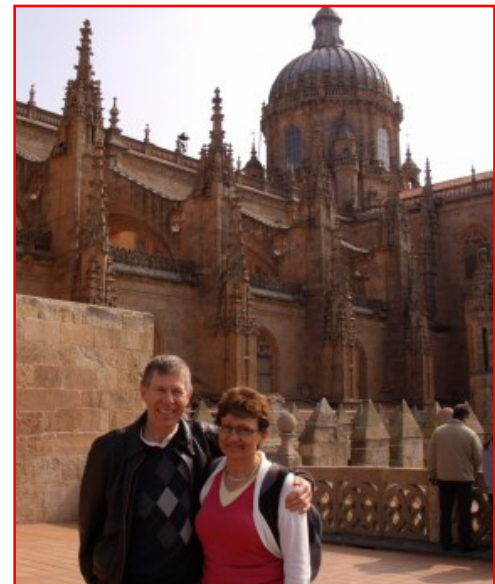
Talk to other parents who had children study abroad. Ask them what they feel their children got out of the program. Share your concerns. They had them too. Talk to students who were involved as well and ask what they feel were the pros and cons. For most students the cons will never outweigh the pros.

### **How did your daughter change after studying abroad?**

Self growth would be one of the most noticeable changes. Laura has a clearer view of who she is and an increased awareness of what she can do. She had self confidence when she left and it is more defined because of the experiences she has had studying and living abroad.



Laura and her parents in front of the Castle Tower in Segovia, Spain



**"Living abroad has fostered an even greater love of travel for Laura and has only added to her adventurous spirit."**