Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  - The professors were great. I would say very similar to professors here.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  - Some, not all.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  - With some professors it was more formal, with others, the relationship was the same here.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  - Yes, but as is the trend in Spain, don’t always bank on the “hour” being what they say. As an example, for a 5 o’clock office hour, I often had to wait till 5:30 until they actually started.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  - Yes, in the sense that they were in Catalan and in Spanish. Also, they way majors work there is that if you’re a Poli. Sci. major there, you jump right in as a first year, and the next 4 years of classes are essentially planned out. This being the case, I took 4th year classes and not having had the first 3 years of a certain subject definitely added to the difficulty level. All this being said, I kept the same GPA there as here, so it’s not at all impossible!!

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  - 10 point system, more or less 8-10 is an A, 7-8 is a B, 5-7 is a C… and so on, for the most part.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  - Daily, there was less hw to do, less reading, but I had to write much much longer papers. For the most part, I would arrive in class on the first day and find that I had 1-2 huge papers and a final exam at the end.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  - Written exams, but for most of my classes, participation, talking in class, went toward the grade.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  - Gemma, the liason advisor for UAB, was so so nice, but didn’t help too much in finding classes that were sure to count back at UCSB for my majors. I had to do all that research and talking to both my Spanish profs. and UCSB ones.
  - For grading, for my classes instructed in Catalan, our program advisor gave us a grade boost, considering how much more difficult Catalan made our experience for that class. If we had received a 7.5, he would give us an 8 or 8.5 depending on the professors feedback of our performance.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
Oh oh yes. Making sure that every class I enrolled in would come back to count for my MAJORS was very time consuming and stressful, and I had to do that all on my own. And aside from the university, you clearly have to have some level of independence to be able to find your own housing, travel within Europe, deal with rent, mail, etc.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
  - Yes. They especially liked to hear the “American” perspective to a lot of issues. (I was in Poli. Sci. classes)

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
  - The majors are on a track system so all classes and years build on each other.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  - It’s the same system as here, a class would be 2-3 days a week, I never had Friday classes. Classes were about an hour.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  - It depended on the teacher. Some were really punctual and class started on time, but other professors would arrive 20 minutes late… every time. I would drink in class but I wouldn’t eat food. No one really did.

### Language

- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  - Spanish and Catalan

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  - Spanish and Catalan

- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**
  - Being instructed in Spanish was of course more difficult than taking classes here. You learn to adjust quickly though. It especially helped if they professors accompanied lecture with a powerpoint. Catalan was another story. Much more difficult, but I just made a point of it to talk to my prof. after class to go over, in Spanish, the overview of the lecture, to make sure I was on the right page.

### Host University

- **How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?**
  - If I remember correctly, UAB has 75,000 students, but on campus on a daily basis, I would say that it looked equitable to UCSB’s population. It reminded of Berkeley’s campus a little. Lots of trees, green grass, modern buildings, really pretty, but spread out.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
  - Local students come from all over. Some live on campus in the dorms, some live in the smaller towns up where UAB is located, and many come from Barcelona.

- **If not located in the city center,
- How far or close is it to the city?
  - 30 minutes by train
- What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
  - Train (FGC), T-10 (ten time pass) cost about 15€
- Could students take cabs - cost?
  - You wouldn’t, its about a 45 minute drive. It’d be too expensive
- How long would it take to get to the city center?
  - All in all, it was about an hour trip up to school. I lived in the city center and had to walk about 15 mins to the train station, 30 minute ride, then 15 minutes to walk from train stop to classes

- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?
  - I believe so? I never looked too into it.

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
  - Yes, Abacus, the bookstore, was located right on campus. There you could buy your actual text books, pens, ink cartridges, notebooks, etc. There were also bookstores (where you could buy textbooks) all over Barcelona.

- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
  - Yes, there were many computer labs. Within actual departments, in the library, etc. Yes, you could bring laptops. WiFi campus.

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
  - Cafes, clothing stores, hair salons, travel centers, bank, candy store, book stores

**Housing**

- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  - Home sat was an option, but no one in our program really did that. I lived in an apt. that I found on Loquo (craigslist).

- How close are they to campus?
  - UAB is 30 minutes outside of Barcelona, I lived in the city center.

- How did you find your housing?
  - On Loquo

- Where did you live and with whom?
  - I lived right in the city center, about 5 minute walk from the UB (very center of city). I lived with international students from all over Europe and two other people from my program. Living with UC students was a total choice, not everyone did. My landlord had total control on who our other housemates were.

- If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?
  - No, we just found the ads, called up the landlords and made appointments to see places. My landlord chose who we lived with. We only rented our rooms.

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
- I had an apt. from 1900. It was beautiful. Tall ceilings, terrace over-looking the street, hard-wood floors, so yes. Much nicer than IV.

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?
  - I paid 450e a month. This was one of the highest rents of anyone in our program, but I had an exterior room with a terrace, huge room, fabulous location, etc.

- How/who did you pay for housing?
  - I paid my landlord in cash.

**Food**
- What was the food like?
  - Spaniards love their ham and bread. I didn’t eat out very much. We cooked a lot of Italian food, “Mexican” food, salad… etc.

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
  - I ate at home mostly.

- How much was an average meal?
  - When I ate out, it would vary- anywhere from 6e to 13e.

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
  - Lunch was usually at about 2-3

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
  - Difficult but not impossible.

**Travel/Safety**
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  - metro, taxi, bus… public transportation in Europe is amazing.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  - Yes, very. Flying w/in Europe is super super cheap (for the most part).

**Host City/Country**
- What was the weather like?
  - Humid and hot in summer, rainy and colder than here in winter (but not bad, in any season)

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  - San Fransiso, I suppose
- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  - walk everywhere, amazing beaches, hikes, clubs, etc. everything was fun 😊

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  - Very very international. Barcelona is a port city. On a daily basis, you see people of all cultures.

Culture

- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - Time & punctuality
    - not as punctual as here.
  - Eye contact & staring
    - they keep to themselves more, but people do look at you
  - Relationships
    - guys are more pushy than here. You give them attention, they will think something’s is going to happen. You can’t be as flirty there as you would be here.
  - More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    - the older generation definitely dresses up to go on the metro or to go to market. Students are age are much more casual. Think dreds and mullets
  - Alcohol consumption
    - they drink a lot, as do all the international people
  - What culture shock did you go through?
    - none really, I knew it would be different than here- culture shock for me was excitement
  - Other?

Banking

- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  - yes, visa and mastercard absolutely

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  - no, was not necessary

- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
  - caixa, caja

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  - yes