Instructors
- **What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?**
  Very similar, they are always willing to help you if you ask

- **Could you call them by their first names?**
  Some of them said we could

- **Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?**
  No it was pretty similar if not less formal since there were never any TAs

- **Were they available for help during office hours?**
  Yes

Courses
- **Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?**
  Not in general, only in the sense that they were taught in Spanish

- **Was the grading system similar to UCSB?**
  Its on a scale of 1-10

- **How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?**
  Most of the classes had a final essay, except for the language classes, those had homework and presentations

- **Did you have oral and/or written exams?**
  Yes, both

- **What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?**
  I got help when I asked for it from the professors

- **Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?**
  Definitely, you need to be the one to ask questions to get what you need.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
  Depending on the class, some it was and others it wasn't

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
  Not much different, only that the classes were all in Spanish and it was all American students in the classes
- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?  
Each class was twice a week for an hour or hour and a half and you take about 4 or 5 of them

- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?  
Culture was different but not drastically. Being on time was not a huge deal, but you definitely could not eat or drink during class.

Language  
- In which languages were the courses offered?  
Spanish only

- What language did you take your courses in?  
Spanish

- If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.  
I thought the classes were fine, the teachers could tell your level of Spanish and taught accordingly, especially since you are put in class based upon your Spanish level. I found the level of Spanish to be fine.

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?  
Smaller than UCSB for sure. It reminded me of a private school but it is public. It was in a suburb so not many buildings, but a few stores and restaurants.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?  
Most students live at home, but some who didn’t live in the area lived in student dorms next to campus.

- If not located in the city center,  
   o How far or close is it to the city?  
About a 20-50 minute trip depending on where in Madrid you were coming from.

   o What type of public transportation could you take? cost?  
Mostly buses or the metro

   o Could students take cabs -cost?  
Yes but usually only at night, which shouldn’t cost more than about 10 euro from the center of Madrid

   o How long would it take to get to the city center?  
Depends where you are coming from, maybe 30 min walking, 10 min on the metro or 5 min in a
- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join? 
I didn’t notice any, but there probably were

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books? 
Yes, but you got readers from the library

- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops? 
There were computer labs, but they got very full at certain times of the day, I would recommend a laptop

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc) 
Lots of restaurants and shopping but that’s it.

**Housing**
- What types of accommodations are available to UC students? 
For the semester you could only live with a family

- How close are they to campus? 
Depends on what you choose, some are 10 min walking distance and others are 40 minutes on the metro

- How did you find your housing? 
EAP provided it for me

- Where did you live and with whom? 
I lived in Madrid with an older woman and her daughter

- If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?

- How/who did you pay for housing? 
The housing is paid for before you get there so it should already be set up

**Food**
- What was the food like? 
Pretty bland, although some dishes were very flavorful. They love bread and eggs and potatoes
- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  I always ate breakfast and dinner at my homestay but I always had lunch on campus either in the cafeteria or in a restaurant.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  Around 6 euro.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  Depending on their schedule, but around 2pm for lunch and then some families fed the students around 8pm but others didn’t until 10pm.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  Yes, there were some options for vegetarians, but I wouldn’t call it easy.

**Travel/Safety**

- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**
  The metro is used the most for sure, but you can always walk or take a bus and if necessary there are always taxis.

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**
  Yes I felt safe. Be aware of your surroundings and try to always stay with another person. There are always people out and about but try to stay in well lit areas and take taxis home.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
  It was pretty easy, there are a lot of flights that are pretty cheap.

**Host City/Country**

- **What was the weather like?**
  The weather was pretty cold in January/February but got decently warm after that. Don’t wear flip flops or tank tops before June.

- **Describe your host city? Which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
  New York is similar in the sense that people are always about and taxis are abundant but it is similar to San Francisco in that the people are pretty laid back and not usually in too much of a hurry.

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
  All kinds of site seeing, eating tapas, had picnics at the park.

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and**
international businesses?
Very international in the sense of tourism come may, but not very culturally diverse. Becoming even more international currently

Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  o Time & punctuality
    People are usually about 15 minutes late, it's usually not a big deal

  o Eye contact & staring
    People will stare at you all the time, just get used to it, especially old ladies.

  o Relationships
  o More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    People are always put together with their outfits, aka no sweatpants or sweatshirts or flip flops.

  o Alcohol consumption
    They drink like we do at UCSB, they do things call botelloning where they get alcohol from a local store and then drink outside before the clubs. Drinking doesn't usually start until midnight and lasts until 6am

  o What culture shock did you go through?
    The timing of everything, get used to doing everything a little bit later than you are expecting. Also how much people stare and call out to you.

  o Other?

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Yes

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No, it wasn't 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?
  There were ATMs everywhere, and the fees depend on your credit card

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  Yes