Major/Minor: English/Spanish  
Country: Spain  
Program: Immersion  
Term & Year Abroad: 2008-2009 Year

**Instructors**

What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
They lectured more

Could you call them by their first names?
I wouldn't only to show a sign of respect.

Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
No

Were they available for help during office hours?
Yes

**Courses**

Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
Easier; however your entire grade is usually based on one final examen which could make it more difficult.

Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
Grading is done on a 1-10 scale

How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assigments or just finals?
Mostly classes with just finals.

Did you have oral and/or written exams?
Written exams.

What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
Tutorials were set up by the EAP program for some difficult classes where the teacher would review material and answer questions.

Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
Not necessarily

Was classroom participation expected?
Rarely

How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
Mostly lecturing and a lot of note-taking

Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
Mondays/Wednesdays and Tuesdays/Thursdays for about an hour and a half.

What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
Punctuality was important even though Spanish students were usually late. Eating/drinking is not allowed.

Language
In which languages were the courses offered?
English/Spanish

What language did you take your courses in?
English/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 found that writing exams was more difficult because teachers look at quantity more than quality and since you're in a class with Spanish students you obviously will write less and your grade may suffer. But, if you talk to the teacher they are usually very accommodating.

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?
Larger than UCSB. Small, college town but with departments spread out over the city.

Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
All of the above.

If not located in the city center,
How far or close is it to the city?

What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
Bus-1.20 euros / Walking / taxi -about 5 euros

Could students take cabs -cost?
See above.

How long would it take to get to the city center?
15 minute walk

Are there student Clubs on campus that UC students could join?
Not sure.
Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
Bookstores are around the city. One is usually near all of the departments.

Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
Yes. Laptops are generally only used by American students, making them stand out in class.

What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
Depending on your facultad there is pretty much everything around.

Housing
What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
Apartments, dorms.

How close are they to campus?
Very close.

How did you find your housing?
Fliers posted around the city and calling and visiting apartments.

Where did you live and with whom?
City center with 2 Spanish students.

If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?
No.

Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
Nicer because you get your own room and pay a significant amount less.

Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?
Cheaper. About $400

How/who did you pay for housing?
Paid in cash to a landlord.

Food
What was the food like?
Tapas bars/Restaurants/ fast food like Mcdonalds and Burger King. Spanish food contains a lot of olive oil, ham, and cheese.

Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
Restaurants/ Tapas bars or at home.
How much was an average meal?
Tapas - 2 euros each

What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
Lunch 1-4 Dinner 9-11

Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
Eating out might be difficult but buying food at the market is easy to find.

Travel/Safety
If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
Bus system was very good but sometimes crowded on school days.

Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
Yes, but never walk alone at night or even during the daytime in certain spots that EAP will tell you about. Always keep purses and wallets close.

Describe the public transportation in your host country?
Bus system was relatively cheap and went almost everywhere. Trains were more expensive and slower but are also an option. Flights out of Granada are hard to find cheap but you can take a 5 hour bus to Madrid or other nearby cities.

Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
Sometimes difficult if you want to find a good deal.

Host City/Country
What was the weather like?
Very hot in summer and cold in winter. It snowed a couple of times in the city but nothing that sticks.

Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
Granada is a walkable city that is very Muslim influenced. It has magical sights like the Alhambra but also is very modern in that is known as a college town and has a great nightlife.

What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
Flamenco bars, going to the Mirador de San Nicolas, the Alhambra, reading/getting sun in Parque Triunfo, going to the university pool.

How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
Almost always has tourists and being a college town there are many international
students.

Culture

Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
Time & punctuality- Spaniards live in the present and are pretty lax on time

Eye contact & staring- Eye contact is important and there is a lot of staring, especially from older generations.

Relationships- More open

More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
- People dress up more in general. You would never walk out of the house in sweats. People also dress matching their colors more noticeably.

Alcohol consumption –
No one really takes shots or drink to get trashed. Beer and wine are the main alcoholic drinks.

What culture shock did you go through?
Stores close on Sundays and during the week during siesta 2-5pm

Other?

Banking

Were credit cards widely accepted?
Yes

Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
No, but probably should have.

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?
Yes but my bank charged me foreign fees.

Were there ATMs on campus?
Yes