Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  - Just like UCSB professors, they vary from person to person. Overall, they’re especially helpful once you explain you’re studying abroad, and will usually ask about your personal life to some degree once this comes up. If you get a professor who has travelled to California/ the US, you’re guaranteed to hear their story. Their lectures are just like lectures found at UCSB, but they do not regard attendance in lecture as highly as professors here. For example, if you are missing class to travel they usually have no problem with it, and they tend to care more about where you’re going and what you’ll be seeing rather than what material you’ll be missing while you’re gone.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  - This also varied from professor to professor. Most will clarify how to address them on the first day of lecture when they introduce themselves and the class.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  - I felt the relationship was either equally or maybe even less formal, especially once you visit office hours. I never treated my professors as I would my peers, but we did talk about our personal lives and greeted each other outside of class frequently.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  - Yes, professors had office hours just like at UCSB and were always willing to help.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  - My Sociology courses were in Spanish, so there was a lot of new vocabulary for me to learn at first. In regards to the actual material covered, Sociology classes seemed to be at about the same level of difficulty as UCSB, but any Spanish literature courses are definitely more difficult and require much more work (mostly reading) than anything offered at UCSB.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  - Instead of letter grades there is a numerical system ranking 1-10 (10 being the best). Teachers tell you exactly what you need to do to fall into whichever numerical bracket you want (exceptional, satisfactory, etc.). The EAP coordinator then converts your grades into letter grades for UCSB based on: the actual numerical grade you received, the grades of other EAP students, the grades of native Spanish students, and the overall difficulty level of the class. If for some reason you disagree with the conversion, you can always contact the coordinator to plead your case, but be prepared to provide work you’ve completed for the class.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  - Every class definitely emphasized the final more than anything else. The only class I actually had assignments besides the final was the Master Tutorial grammar class, which is specifically designed for EAP students. A few classes also required a PowerPoint
presentation to be given in front of the class. Most also offer an optional project (usually a presentation to the class) as a kind of extra credit.

- **Did you have oral and/or written exams?**
  - All of my exams were three-hour-long, written exams with multiple essay questions. No studyguides were provided beforehand, and most people take all or almost all of the allotted time.

- **Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?**
  - The final exam schedule was pretty flexible. Most classes offer an alternative test date in case there are scheduling conflicts or because “Erasmus” (European study-abroad) students sometimes must leave before the term actually ends.

- **What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?**
  - As I mentioned, professors have office hours and always make themselves available. Other students in class are normally more than happy to share their notes with you as well, especially if you explain you attend lecture but have trouble taking down all of the notes because Spanish is your second language.

- **Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?**
  - This is probably the biggest life-lesson I got from studying abroad. If I needed to know something for one of my classes or if I had problems understanding a concept, I was completely responsible for figuring it out myself because I didn’t take classes with other EAP students very often. Professors can tell if you’re genuinely trying though, so it definitely pays off.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
  - *Active* class participation was expected in every class I took except one. Professors of larger classes actually had a participation requirement that counted as a percentage toward our grade. Smaller ones tended not to, but I know the professors took into account whether or not they could put a name to a face while determining our final grades.

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
  - The entire schooling system is different in Spain; the government regulates required courses for their specializations so that all students in the same major throughout the country take the same core classes. Then each school has its own requirements, and finally there are a few electives available. For this reason classes tend to either have mostly Spanish students or mostly Erasmus/Study abroad students. Personally, I found the required courses usually have stricter guidelines and more work involved, whereas their electives tend to be more entertaining because professors have more freedom in designing the class.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  - Most classes met either MW or TR, and were

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  - Class culture is *very* different from the US. You cannot show up in your pajamas. It’s considered rude to be eating or drinking. People in Spain tend to be a little late in general, but most professors expect you to be on time to class. Most professors don’t worry too
much about raising your hand or anything to participate or ask a question. Like in the US, sleeping/yawning is rude, as is checking your phone, playing on your computer, and talking to other people during lecture.

Language
- In which languages were the courses offered?
  - All courses are completely in Spanish.

- 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.
  - There aren’t any placement exams—after your “immersion” in ILP you enroll in classes at la Universidad de Granada, where you are expected to speak and understand Spanish at least well enough to communicate effectively and understand most of lecture. Your common language with other students will be Spanish; DO NOT LOOK FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS. Give it some time, and your Spanish will improve quickly. Make friends with native Spanish speakers—they can read over your papers/projects to give feedback and edit any grammar mistakes. It was also extremely helpful going into office hours and talking to professors; they are more willing to spend time going over concepts with you, and if they see your language acquisition improving they seem to be more forgiving of minor mistakes like grammar and spelling on exams/projects. Some of my classes that seemed the most “scary,” because they required a lot of class participation or a long presentation in front of the entire class, actually turned out to be the most beneficial by really pushing me beyond my comfort zone with the language.

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?
  - Granada has a completely unique campus set-up: facultades are spread throughout the entire city. A facultad is a single building that is dedicated to one specific specialization or major. There is a collection of them near each other in an area called Cartuja, but the rest are in different locations throughout the city center.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
  - There are some “on-campus” housing options, but since there isn’t a campus they’re just dormitories associated with UGR that are also in random places throughout the city. Most students who are from Granada commute in from their pueblo, while all other students tend to find housing themselves with other students in the city center.

- If not located in the city center,
  - How far or close is it to the city?
    - It depends on the facultad, but most are within a decent walking distance. All of them coordinate with a bus stop.

    - What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
- You can get special student bus-cards to make the bus less than 1 euro per trip. There is no metro.

- **Could students take cabs -cost?**
  - There is no reason to ever take a cab.

- **How long would it take to get to the city center?**
  - Again, it depends on the facultad. Most are in the city center or about a 15 minute bus ride away.

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  - There are, but I never personally joined any.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  - Every facultad has a library, but only a couple actually have a bookstore (and they are by no means complete bookstores). There are plenty of *librerías* in surrounding areas though, and I always bought my books there.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  - The libraries have computers available, but I always found it easier to use my own laptop.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  - The entire city is the university’s neighborhood; you can find anything you need relatively close to any *facultad*!

### Housing

- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  - During your first month, while participating in ILP, you live in campus dorms that are nicer than any living situation I saw any of my peers in afterward. Homestays are possible, but I didn’t personally know anyone who did one; Granada has a much higher concentration of neighborhoods with a majority population of university students than other cities in Spain. If you did a homestay, I would assume you would either be outside the city center or sharing a smaller apartment with a family. Everyone I knew in my program found their own apartments, usually with other students but not always. I know there are options for UGR housing, but these usually have religious affiliations that separate genders, enforce curfews, etc. All housing options are covered during your ILP program before you have to make a decision.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  - Again, this depends on where you choose to live and which *facultad*es you study at.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  - We had to simply go around the city pulling numbers off of “roommate wanted” advertisements and call. I personally chose to rent one room directly from my landlord, who only rents individual rooms to students at UGR (as opposed to a roommate who must rent an entire apartment and then fills it with whomever they choose). **MAKE SURE TO GET RECEIPTS AND A CONTRACT.** Some Spaniards will tell you this is not necessary, but someone in our program actually had a roommate run off with a couple of months worth of his rent and had no papertrail to prove to his landlord he had paid. I know contracts are not nearly as
popular as they are in the US, but having one gave me one less thing to worry about (because once you get abroad you get hit with all kinds of unexpected roadbumps!).

**Where did you live and with whom?**
- I lived in an apartment with two girls, a Spaniard from Valencia and an Italian. We were in the city center, just off a street popular for its nightlife (c/Pedro Antonio) and within walking distance to both of my facultades. It was perfect because I was in a safe area that was well lit and frequented at night. A variety of stores, Garcia Lorca Park, and bus stops were also closeby.

**If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
- It was difficult to find an apartment that included heating, laundry, and reasonable rent that was of decent overall quality, but it is possible! Do not settle—multiple people in my program who gave up and just chose the “best of the worst” ended up hating their living situation and had to go through the process all over again to find something more suitable.

**Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
- All rooms are singles, but I know some students from other countries who shared just to save rent. They come furnished, so you can decide whether or not the apartment is up to your standards. Some are nicer than rooms in IV and others are not; this is why it is important to really look at an apartment before you decide on living there.
- The dorms we stayed in during ILP were singles with their own bathrooms, and were nicer than any UCSB dorm.

**Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
- My rent was cheaper than anything I’ve paid in IV, and I had my own room and bathroom. I paid 250euro (about $350), but I saw signs advertising rooms for anywhere from 180 – 300euro (about $250 - $420).
- (These conversions are based on exchange rate as of November 2010)

**How/who did you pay for housing?**
- I paid my rent directly to my landlord, in cash, before the 5th of every month. Water and electricity was not collected every month, but it was always paid in cash at the same time as my rent whenever it was collected. Because I paid my landlord directly, I always received a receipt.

**Food**

**What was the food like?**
- The food is great! It, and the stores that sell it, can be very different from the US, but with the right mindset you’ll be problem-free. The most important food is tapas—Granada is the last city in Spain that consistently includes free tapas with the purchase of a drink at restaurants/bars.

**Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
- During ILP, your meals are provided through dining commons.
- While living in my apartment, I cooked most of my meals with food from grocery stores. Some of the bigger supermarkets are similar to those in the US in that they sell a variety of foods, while other stores will only sell one type of food: bread products/pastries, fruit/veggies, meat products, etc. Pretty much every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night my dinner was
a trip to a tapas bar with friends. After trying a few different places we were able to find places with drinks around 2 euro that gave enough food to constitute a meal after only a couple of drinks.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  - The average meal is around 6 – 8 euro if it is part of the *Menu del dia*. These specials offer full meals (usually a starter, entrée, dessert, and drink) daily for a cheaper price during certain hours. To save money, ask for *agua del grifo* (tap water) or they will automatically charge you for a bottle.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  - People eat dinner pretty late because of siesta, usually anywhere between 9:00pm – 11:00pm

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  - Yes, especially if you’re actually vegetarian and not pescatarian. Most Spaniards are not familiar with vegetarian diets, and frequently assume you will at least eat fish. Though it is definitely possible to remain a vegetarian, I personally chose not to while abroad. A lot of Granada’s culture is reflected in its food, especially the tapas, and most of the foods do not have many comparable alternatives available.

**Travel/Safety**

- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
  - There is no metro, only buses. We usually walked everywhere though.

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
  - I felt safe in Granada, but as a female, I would not recommend walking alone at night. Theft was not especially prevalent, but it is always important to be cautious at all times because locals will know you are from America, especially when you first arrive.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  - Spain has buses, trains, and metros in cities. I never used the train system because it was more expensive and usually slower than buses. I always used ALSA bus company, and I only ever used the metro in Madrid or Barcelona.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  - Traveling is more difficult out of Granada than other options in Spain because the airport is small and therefore more expensive. I usually took a bus to Madrid in order to get cheaper flights. Flying is the easiest form of travel into other countries because Spain’s train system is pretty expensive and relatively slow.

**Host City/Country**

- What was the weather like?
  - Granada gets very hot in the summer (above 100), and has moderately cold winters. It snowed a couple of times in late winter, which we were told was pretty rare. The weather usually reminded me of Sacramento, though there wasn’t quite as much rain in Granada.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
- Visiting tapas bars are a must, and we usually went for tapas on nights when we knew we were going out afterwards. A night out would normally include tapas, then a trip to a bar or two until it was time to head to a discoteca, normally around 3:00am.
- La Alhambra and el mirador (look-out point facing la Alhambra) were the two most stunning sights Granada has to offer. There is also a really cool collection of artistic grafitti all over the city.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
- The city itself isn’t as international as Madrid or Barcelona, so it is more difficult to find English. There isn’t very much tourism either except for la Alhambra, which is extremely popular but is away from the city center so you won’t too many of the tourists from there. Granada does have a huge Erasmus population, though. (“Erasmus” is a study abroad program for students from other European countries, so the term is used to refer to these students.) You’ll meet a lot of students from other countries, which allows you to experience more cultures and languages if you so choose.

Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - Time & punctuality
    - People are generally always late, except to class. Stores open and close according to the owners’ desires, so sometimes they have consistent hours and other times they do not. Pretty much everyone takes a siesta daily, so during the afternoon most all businesses are closed and the city moves much slower.
  - Eye contact & staring
    - Women should avoid making eye contact with men they do not know; it usually provokes catcalls or uncomfortable situations. A lot of Spaniards stare without discretion, and you can be sure they will stare at you, especially when you first arrive to the country.
  - Relationships
    - Spaniards seem to start relationships without spending as much time getting to know each other beforehand. Relationships, however, aren’t necessarily as serious as they usually are in the US. They are MUCH more comfortable with public displays of affection, so you will see people making-out or laying on top of each other on public benches and in parks.
  - More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    - Spaniards definitely dress more formally than people at UCSB. No one ever goes in public wearing pajamas or sweats. People wear the same type of daytime clothing to class as they do on the street or while running errands.
  - Alcohol consumption
    - Everyone drinks alcohol, and it is completely normal to get a drink any time of day after breakfast. Alcohol also costs the same amount as bottled water most places. On the weekends, a massive amount of students gather at botellón with cups, ice, and drinks to “pre-game” together before going to discos.
What culture shock did you go through?

I was surprised how curt Spaniards were when I first arrived, especially those in the service industry. There are no tips like in the US, so workers are simply there to do their job; they will not check on you multiple times during a meal or be especially friendly because there is no reason to. Spaniards in general are very direct in their interactions, both personal and professional. This is not meant to be rude; it is just understood as the norm in their culture, but it was difficult in the beginning at times when I was already frustrated or having problems communicating.

Other?

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  - Credit cards are not widely accepted. I didn’t use my credit card much at all besides purchasing bus or plane tickets.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  - No

- 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?
  - I had Wells Fargo, so my fee was consistent no matter which ATM I used. I always withdrew money from TeleBanco ATMs if possible because I never had an issue with them. It is really important to talk to your bank before you go abroad; I know multiple people who had their cards “eaten” by ATMs because of complications.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  - I don’t know whether or not facultades actually have ATMs in them, but there will definitely be one within walking distance to any of them.