Instructors
- **What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?**
  Classroom interaction between students was less important. Most classes the professor would lecture the whole period and occasionally field questions from students. There are no sections, only lectures.

- **Could you call them by their first names?**
  No – there is more of a formal relationship between students and their professors in Spain

- **Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?**
  Yes

- **Were they available for help during office hours?**
  Yes, professors held regular office hours every week similar to UCSB and for the most part were very willing to help and talk.

Courses
- **Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?**
  They were less difficult. Most of my classes had no weekly assignments. There was a one or two big papers or projects to do during the semester and that was it.

- **Was the grading system similar to UCSB?**
  Grades are based on a 1-10 scale with most Spanish students around the 6 or 7 range. Very few aimed for or received 9 or above. There was not a feeling of academic competition as there is at UCSB. Students shared and copied notes freely and easily.

- **How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?**
  In my second semester all my classes gave me the option to come to class and do one semester project and not have to take a final or not come to class and have to take a final at the end. I went to class and had no finals. None of my classes had textbooks. For required readings you went to the copy center in the facultad and gave them the class and ID number of the reading. So much better and cheaper!

- **Did you have oral and/or written exams?**
  I did not have any oral exams only written. Some exams were similar to those at UCSB and some quite different. Some were multiple choice, ID questions and short answer based while others simply had you write everything you knew about one of the themes/chapters of the class

- **Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?**
  The semester ends and three or four weeks are dedicated to finals. You might not have a final for two weeks after the semester ends. I never had to change a final date but friends who needed to were accommodated without problem.
- **What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?**
  Spanish students are friendly and willing to help you. Professors usually are as well. Most have had foreign students in their classes before and understand your need for extra help. Some professors did not feel foreign students needed or deserved more support but those instances were few and far between. If you do find yourself in that situation, that is a good reason to be making Spanish friends in all of your classes!

- **Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?**
  Yes. Being in a different culture in a different language definitely necessitates it. Those important skills carry over upon your return to UCSB as well.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
  In most classes, no.

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
  See previous responses.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  Usually twice a week for an hour and fifteen minutes.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  We were told prior to our abroad experience that professors would not let you in if you arrived late and kicked you out if you ate or drank anything other than water in class. This was not my experience. I did have one professor who would not let late arrivals into class, but with all others you simply ask permission to enter and then sit down. It is not common to see Spanish students eating in class but they know their professors so if you don’t see any of them doing it, you probably shouldn’t. However, in most of my classes Spanish students ate snacks when they wanted. Just keep in mind you won’t be sitting in huge lecture halls so a bag of chips rustling and you munching will be much more magnified.

**Language**

- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  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.**
  The first month was somewhat of a challenge. Being in the south of Spain one is exposed to a variety of accents that take some getting used to. However, as long as you are using your Spanish and interacting on a daily basis in Spanish, language acquisition improves at a rapid pace. Overall, I did not find the difficulty of courses to increase because they were in Spanish however, I would warn against taking any Philosophy courses in Spanish unless you have a firm grip on the language. Philosophical semantics are difficult in any language let alone your second 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 was an urban campus with different facultades located throughout the city. It is not a big city so you could get to your facultad within ten or fifteen minutes by bus from anywhere in the city. Most students had all their classes in one facultad. Granada reminded me of Santa Barbara and Goleta because of the enormous student population ratio (about 1/3 of the people in Granada during school are students).

Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?

Very few Spanish students live on campus. There is not a lot of university housing. Most lived in apartments throughout the city.

If not located in the city center,

- How far or close is it to the city?
  Located throughout the city. 10-15 minutes by bus
- What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
  Granada has a very good bus system, cost of .60 per ride for students
- Could students take cabs -cost?
  Never heard of anyone doing this although I suppose you could.
- How long would it take to get to the city center?
  10-15 minutes from the outskirts of the city to the center

Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?

They do have extra curricular groups you can join including intramural-like sports but no where near the level of UC’s.

Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?

There are numerous bookstores around the city that carry books you will need for classes. However, as I stated before textbooks are a rarity as using the copy center on campus to get your readings is the most common used way by teachers to give out readings.

Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?

There was a computer lab in my facultad however it was very small and students were encouraged not to use the computers for an extended period of time so other students waiting could get a chance. Bring your laptop. There as wifi in the facultad and in various cafes around the city.

What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)

As the university was located throughout the city it really depends which facultad you are in. Each facultad did have a cafeteria with very affordable student prices.

Housing

- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  Finding an apartment in Granada was the main mode of accommodation.

- How close are they to campus?
  15 minutes by bus to your facultad at most

- How did you find your housing?
Before the school year starts, the whole city is inundated with handouts and flyers for housing availability. You can walk down the main street and pick off the tabs of housing you may want and call the numbers to set up appointments to see the apartment. There are also online ad sites that people post their apartments to. Search “pisos Granada” on Google for a list of those.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  I lived on one of the main streets, Camino de Ronda, with three other students. Two guys, a Dutchman, and a German, and one girl, a Spaniard.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
  Since Granada is a very student oriented city, you will have countless options of apartments to choose from. Finding a roommate/s is usually up to the landlord who is leasing the place. Don’t room with other EAPers because you will only speak in English!

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  They were definitely older buildings but comfortable and like any other room or apartment, they are only as nice and clean as you keep them to be.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  Granada was way cheaper than IV. I paid less than 200 euro a month for my own room double the size of a dorm room. That’s around $300/month.

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  I paid in cash although you can pay through the bank of your landlord as well.

**Food**

- **What was the food like?**
  Spaniards eat lots of ham, not deli sandwich ham that we are used to here, but dried ham like prosciutto. Most Spanish dishes are made with very generous portions of olive oil during cooking. Fried foods are also very popular.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  I ate most of my meals at home. There are all sorts of restaurants in the city and of course tapas are a very common choice for dinner. If I did not eat at home i twas because I was out to tapas with friends. Tapas in Granada are free with any drink!

- **How much was an average meal?**
  In a restaurant you will pay on average about 9 euro on a meal. However there are very cheap places and more expensive places as with any city.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  Lunch was around 1 or 2pm just before siesta time. Dinner was late compared to U.S. standards, usually around 9 or 10pm

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  No, especially if you cook at home. You can find most things in grocery stores in Granada that you can find in the states. There are even some vegetarian restaurants and cafes in Granada. El Piano on Gran Capitán is very tasty.
Travel/Safety
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city? See above.

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
  Granada is very safe. I never felt unsafe and even walking home late at night from clubs or bars I never had any problem nor heard of any other EAPers, including female students, who felt unsafe.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  Traveling in Granada by foot or by bus is the best option. If you want to go from city to city, Spain has a good travel bus system as well.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  It was super easy. Granada has a small airport just outside the city but for most destinations you take a bus to Madrid (5 hours) or Malaga (1 hour) and fly from there. Just take a backpack with some clothes and you can be in Italy for the weekend (about a 2.5 hour flight). The Spanish school system provides a lot of “puentes” or long weekends which make these types of travel options available. Just be sure what airport you are flying to with Ryanair. Many times they fly you to a sister airport on a very cheap fare but then you have to pay for a shuttle into the actual city which will cost you 20 euro or more.

Host City/Country
- What was the weather like?
  Very very hot in the summer and pretty cold in the winter. Only snowed a couple days in the actual city of Granada however.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  It is smaller than most cities which is one of the reasons I chose to go there. I did not want to be in a huge city and Granada does not feel like a city at all. The city center is the old part of the city so it has a very different feel than Madrid or Barcelona.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  Tapa hopping was one of the best parts about Granada. A tapa is a small dish of food that, in Granada, comes free with a drink. It is an excellent way to eat on a budget and spend time with friends.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  With so many students in the city during the school year you don’t notice the tourist presence as much. The Alhambra, the cathedral and the city itself do draw tourists year round however there is not an overwhelming amount. The student population of Granada is very culturally diverse because there are many Erasmus students (international students) studying there. Aside from students, most of the people living there are Spaniards.

Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  o Time & punctuality
Spaniards are never on time. You will get used to this.

- **Eye contact & staring**
  Spanish people tend to stand close to you if you are in a conversation, at least closer than Americans are used to.

- **Relationships**
  It is not uncommon to see a couple making out rather forcefully and grabbing each other right in front of you on the bus or just around the city.

- **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
  No. We were told before we went not to wear flip flops/sandals to class, etc. but we even saw Spaniards doing that during the hot months.

- **Alcohol consumption**
  Spaniards drink to socialize. A night out in Spain differs greatly from UCSB. Instead of drinking from 10pm-1am and getting wasted and passing out they start at 11 or so and go slowly and steadily until dawn!

- **What culture shock did you go through?**
  Getting used to living in a different language took some time but you learn to have fun with it and becomes second nature. One aspect of life that was slightly different was the slow, leisurely pace by which professional tasks get done. Our internet didn’t get installed for a month after we signed up for it. Our plumbing didn’t get fixed for a week after we had reported it. Little things like that took some getting used to.

### Banking

- **Were credit cards widely accepted?**
  Yes

- **Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?**
  Yes, very easy. At BBVA it was free for anyone under 25. I simply went in one day, filled out the forms and that was that.

- **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?**
  Most fees were the same or similar from bank to bank. Withdraw large amounts at a time to reduce the number of fees you have to pay.

- **Were there ATMs on campus?**
  Yes