

STUDENTS' HOST FAMILY EXPERIENCES

Spending a semester abroad can be a hard adjustment, but living with a host family made my transition to Madrid easier than I ever imagined. Not only did my Spanish improve greatly, but I enjoyed delicious Spanish food nightly and learned about the history and culture of Spain from my señora. Perhaps the greatest comfort was that my señora quickly became a mother to me, caring for me when my own mother was 3,000 miles away. Living with a host family made me truly feel as if I was 'home.' **Blair Balchunas**



Living with a host family was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I was provided with wireless Internet, excellent food, and a spacious room. My roommate and I were allowed to come and go as we pleased. More importantly, I became lifelong friends with my host family as they helped me through the adjustments of living in a new country. My host family helped to improve my speaking skills exponentially, and I forever remember them as the greatest part of my time abroad. **Seth Perkins**

My host parents were the most caring and loving people I have ever met, they were like replacement parents for me. They cooked for us, and were always busy telling jokes, but most importantly they were always there for me when I needed them whether it was taking me to the doctors or helping me with my homework. They made me and my roommate feel at home and welcome. I feel like I became part of their family. **Bianca Camasso**



My host family experience has made a great impact on my life. At the beginning, I wasn't too excited about living with a family because my first option was to live in the dorms or an apartment. When I came to Madrid, that all changed, I absolutely loved my host mother, who showed us so much support, cooked great traditional food for us, and helped to ease us into the Spanish culture. She has been a great friend, and each night's dinner was something we all looked forward to. It was the best experience I could ask for, and I encourage everyone to give it a chance.



Darya Shumovskaya

Upon deciding to spend a semester in Spain, I had a few goals in mind. Those being to travel and improve my Spanish. I definitely got more than I bargained for, in the best way possible. I stayed with a family that consistently ate dinner with my roommate and I every night and made it a point to help us improve, while having fun in a completely relaxed atmosphere. I know my roommate and I look back on our time spent with our host family and think, "Wow, could we have been any luckier?" They cooked incredible food, cleaned for us, took care of us when we came down with colds, and best of all, treated us like we were important to them. It was a great feeling knowing that there were people who truly cared about our travel experiences, grades, friends, even our night life while living under their roof. That being said, we were free to come and go as we pleased, and had the freedom to be truly independent. This semester abroad was a once in a lifetime experience, and I know it would not have been the same without staying with my host family. **Scott Bryer**

