00:00 We're gonna record this webinar for you
00:02 and thank you for your patience
00:04 as we allowed everyone to join.
00:06 We're gonna get started,
00:07 we're going to take a look at everything
00:10 about Suffolk Madrid
00:11 and we'd like to welcome you to the webinar
00:13 on Suffolk University.
00:15 Let me begin by introducing myself.
00:17 My name is Tom Biedermann,
00:18 I'm an Associate Director of Admission here in Madrid
00:21 and I'm joined by Raffi Muroy, our Madrid Campus Director
00:25 who is based at the main campus in Boston.
00:28 Raffi will be fielding questions that come up
00:30 in the chat in Q&A and talk about the academic program
00:34 at Suffolk Madrid.
00:35 And here in Madrid, we've got our Housing
00:38 and Conduct Coordinator, Larry Yepes
00:40 and two students, Nina Peñaflor and Angela Najarro Cano.
00:46 Nina started out in Madrid
00:48 but that got cut short due to COVID,
00:51 so she spent the next year studying in Boston.
00:54 She's now back in Madrid for her junior year
00:57 and plans to graduate from here next year.
01:00 And Angela has just started this year
01:03 so she's in her second semester and was probably
01:06 in your situation last year at this time
01:09 when she was looking at her university options for the fall.
01:12 You'll be meeting all of them later on
01:14 throughout the presentation.
01:17 We're gonna go over some topics
01:19 that will help you learn more about
01:20 what it's like studying in Suffolk Madrid
01:23 after a brief introduction on Madrid,
01:25 we'll go over our academic offering so you can learn
01:29 what courses you can take while studying in Madrid.
01:32 You'll hear about the activities and trips that are planned
01:35 through our student life office,
01:36 as well as the two housing options.
01:39 And you'll hear from Nina and Angela to find out
01:42 why they chose to study out in Madrid
01:44 and what their experience has been like so far.
01:47 Clearly these past couple years have been different
01:49 since COVID but hopefully we are returning
01:52 to some form of normal and we'll be able to get back
01:55 to offering those trips around Europe
01:57 and the other fun things that Larry is going
02:00 to be talking about.
02:01 If you have any questions along the way,
02:03 feel free to drop those in the chat or Q&A function,
02:07 and we'll get to those throughout the presentation
02:09 or at the end.
02:11 To help you put things in perspective,
Madrid is a quick six and a half hour flight from Boston where our main campus is. We're located in Southern Europe between France and Morocco, next to Portugal on the Iberian Peninsula. Madrid is the capital and is located in the center of the country as you can see here. Spain is actually the second largest country in Western Europe after France, but high speed trains can get you to Barcelona up here on the coast, Northeast or Málaga down on the south, over to Seville, those trips are two and a half hours to get to other parts of the country. It's about a two hour flight to Rome and Paris, and a little bit more up to London. There are little over 3 million people in the city and about 6.5 million in the metro area. It's actually one of the largest cities in the European union so it's definitely got a lot to offer, but it doesn't feel overwhelming like a New York City might. Here you can see some of our students in front of the Royal palace, the official residence of the king and queen of Spain. Fun fact, it's the world's largest palace by floor space and you see 1% of the 3,418 rooms on the tour. The public transportation system is excellent. Students can purchase an unlimited monthly card for the bus, subway and commuter rail, and that is just 20 euros so it's about $25 a month. Let's watch a short video so you can take a virtual tour and see where we're at with two of our students. (bright music)

Hi, my name is Antonio.
And I'm Bria, this is our second year here in Suffolk Madrid.
Let's show you around our campus.
The Madrid campus is located in the university district of the city, surrounded by other colleges such as our partner university CEU San Pablo. It is also so easy to access other parts of the city by metro.
This is our campus building, let's take a look inside.
Everything for Suffolk is together in one cozy building, administrative offices, classrooms, library and professor's offices as well.
This is the main office, a one stop ramp center for practically everything you need, registration, academic advising, student life and housing, the staff is very approachable and always willing to help. They're also great at connecting you with offices back in Boston for things like financial aid or academic support.
Classrooms are quite spacious, average size is normally 60, each equipped with the latest technology.
You can spend up to two years in Madrid or even complete your international relations major at the Madrid campus. The residence hall is walking distance from the campus, it's a comfortable living space with a great cafeteria and lots of options and I really like the paella. There's a gym accessible 24 hours a day, nice spaces to study and hang out, green spaces outside plus you can make connections with other university students.

Double rooms are bright and very spacious with lots of storage and they have their own bathroom. Also, some students prefer live in a homestay which is a great way to experience Spanish culture. They're located around the city, always less than a 20 minute metro ride away from campus. Coming to Madrid is also about the city life, there's always something going on.

You'll find lots of nice places around campus like bakeries, cafes, restaurants and Madrid's vibrant downtown is just a few metro stops away. You'll also be able to enjoy the excursions offered each semester to experience new places and submerge yourself into a new culture. Studying in Madrid has been a life changing experience and we hope it will be for you too. We look forward to welcoming you to Madrid.

Coming to Madrid is also about the city life, there's always something going on. You'll find lots of nice places around campus like bakeries, cafes, restaurants and Madrid's vibrant downtown is just a few metro stops away. You'll also be able to enjoy the excursions offered each semester to experience new places and submerge yourself into a new culture. Studying in Madrid has been a life changing experience and we hope it will be for you too. We look forward to welcoming you to Madrid.

You may already be familiar with the main campus in Boston which has several buildings in downtown Boston. And in Madrid everything is housed in one building the classrooms, offices, computer labs, everything is right there and we are located in the university district of the city. We offer two housing options, a homestay and a student residence hall and university sponsored housing is required for first year students.

Looking at some of the numbers, whereas in Boston they have about 4,400 students, in Madrid we normally have between 130 and 150 students so we really foster that community feel. You'll get to know your professors and classmates in small classes, go on organized trips together and get individualized attention when it comes time for registering for classes. About half of our students are either first year
07:54 or returning students,
07:56 and the other half are study abroad students
07:58 from our main campus in Boston
07:59 or another partner institution.
08:02 The tuition in Madrid is about $10,000 lower than
08:05 in Boston and our program fee
08:08 includes practically everything else you'll need
08:10 while you're in Madrid.
08:11 As you'll see here, the program fee covers all
08:15 of your expenses, accommodation,
08:17 all your meals, airport pickup on arrival day,
08:20 the trips Larry is gonna talk about a little bit later,
08:23 there's a welcome trip at the beginning of semester,
08:25 and then there are three weekend excursions that we offer
08:28 and one of them is automatically included
08:30 in the program fee.
08:31 There's even a cell phone calling plan with data
08:34 and minutes so on arrival day,
08:37 you can pop a SIM card into your phone,
08:40 get on a Spanish network and you can stay connected
08:42 wherever you're at.
08:45 The health insurance covers all your medical expenses
08:48 while you're abroad, there's no out of pocket expense
08:51 or co-pay for doctor's visits, mental health appointments,
08:54 x-rays, medical tests or hospitalization.
08:58 The program fee is pretty inclusive
09:00 but it doesn't cover your personal expenses, shopping
09:03 or if you want to satisfy your Starbucks coffee craving,
09:07 that would be on your own.
09:11 So let's talk about the academic offering at Suffolk Madrid,
09:14 I'm going to turn it over to Raffi,
09:16 our Madrid Campus Director to talk about that.
09:20 <v ->Thank you so much, Tom</v
09:21 and thank you everyone for joining us
09:22 in this lovely afternoon
09:24 or wherever part of the world you might be.
09:26 We actually see students from all over the world
09:28 so maybe some of you guys are also in different time zones,
09:30 but like Tom said, my name is Raffi Muroy
09:32 and I'm the Madrid Campus Director.
09:35 And actually I was just in Madrid up until yesterday
09:37 so I just returned to Boston, even though I'm Boston based,
09:40 I do travel to Madrid quite frequently
09:42 and already miss it terribly.
09:44 And I think, you know, if you decide to go to Madrid,
09:46 you'll develop that sense of, you know,
09:48 of belonging in that city that is gonna always
09:50 gonna produce these type of feelings of nostalgia
09:55 and being able to have another point of view
09:58 in a very cosmopolitan city.
10:00 But the truth of the matter is that as much as you know,
10:03 we are there to have this wonderful cultural,
10:06 enriching experience, students are there
10:08 to complete an academic program
and to sort of take the most out of the settings, out of what surrounds them in an academic format. So please note that Suffolk Madrid is, you know, a branch campus of Suffolk University which means that it's a fully accredited American program. And then it's a fully accredited American program, not just because Boston is regionally accredited here in the United States but also because NCHE, the New England Commission of Higher Education visits Madrid, and actually does a site visit and has, you know, endorsed, you know, the overall academic experience and academic offerings we do over there. So the same quality education that you get here in Boston is transported over to Madrid, we pull from a very talented pool of faculty members, many of them are expats, not many of them are Americans. Many of them are, you know, Spaniards but also maybe are attended universities outside of the United States or have that, you know, global experience that we bring into that area. For most of the majors we follow the two plus two program, meaning that you can start as a freshman student there, complete up to your maybe sophomore year and then make the transition over to Boston to complete the rest of your academic programs but we do have one full four year program in international relations, that's a government nature, a bachelor's of science or a bachelor's of arts in international relations in which you can do all four years at Madrid. So we actually are very honored that this is I think the third year we're having students graduating, completing their four year program in Madrid like Nina will maybe talk a little bit about a little bit, because I believe that is potentially right now her plan that you can actually do all four years in Madrid. You don't have to but you certainly have that possibility and maybe add that to your resume. These are opportunities that actually have been resume builders. Suffolk Madrid is not new, we've been there since 1995 so we have 25 plus years of experience in Madrid, and we have plenty of alumni who've actually taken advantage of this academic offering of, you know, the ability of being able to say that you spend a significant amount of time outside of the United States and in a very cosmopolitan and a broad experience that, you know, kind of compliments your academic experience. Again, the course quality is this same as in Boston so nothing is taught in Madrid that isn't pre-approved in Boston, the coursework, the professor qualifications are all equivalent to our main campus here in Boston.
And we have the advantage of being a part of an agreement with Universidad CEU San Pablo, which happens to be right across the street from us so for anyone who maybe wants to take a class over there with San Pablo, that is a possibility, something that they can definitely take advantage of. Like our main campus in Boston, Suffolk Madrid also cares deeply about the experiential learning component, you know, so maybe making sure that we use the resources available right in our doorsteps in Madrid. So you're seeing for example here, Professor Almudena Cros, who teaches art history, who is not only gonna teach it, she's gonna show it to you, she's gonna, you know, have you experienced the art, the architecture by making all of these experiences more than just sitting in the classroom and taking lecture. The business courses, you know, some of the freshman seminars, all of that is part of the experience that students will be able to do that. And we also have a Program Developed Coordinator, Silvia who would've been here with us talking a little about that, but, you know, you'll get to meet her when you're over in Madrid and she also will be able to maybe find you an internship, maybe find you a service learning opportunity so all of those key components of experiential learning which are so important in today's academic environment are things that you are gonna be able to find at Suffolk Madrid and we're confident that you'll be able to again, receive all of those opportunities in a very concrete manner. Well, after you're done with your time in Madrid, obviously you would make the transition for most of the majors to Boston to complete the rest of your academic career and like the slide, it indicates over here and here in Boston, we have 70+ undergraduate programs that you can combine within the college of arts and sciences, the Sawyer Business School and Suffolk University Law School. And there's a lot of interactivity among all the different academic units, for example, we do have interdisciplinary programs like or bachelors in law, which is taught by faculty of all three different academic units and there's also opportunities for you to do maybe an undergraduate master's combination, accelerating the amount of time you spend in your education by maybe shortening by one year within your master's level program.
or even your law school education.

So Boston awaits you, eventually you'll get that kind of, you know, both sides of the Atlantic experience that would certainly enrich in your overall academic experience here at Suffolk.

Fantastic. Thank you, Raffi.

Although the academics are the main focus, there is time for fun too.

So let's hear from Larry about the housing options and all the fun stuff that our students can do while they're living in this exciting European capital city.

Larry, what can you tell us?

<v ->Thank you, Tom.</v

Well, as Tom said, my name is Larry.

I am the Housing and Conduct Coordinator of the University here in Madrid and it's my job to welcome you all to Madrid and help you get adjusted in living in one of the coolest European cities.

So let's talk a little bit about Madrid campus student life.

Well, at the beginning once you arrive, we have a welcome trip at the beginning of each semester.

This welcome trip, well it could be pretty much anywhere around Spain, you know, for some of you that have never been in Europe before or maybe you have been in Spain, it's still a great opportunity to get to know other cities around Spain.

We also have three weekend excursions, pre-COVID it was some cities outside of Spain that we would visit but now that it's, you know, we're still within the pandemic, well, we're traveling within Spain.

For example this week, this past weekend we were to Barcelona and to Granada a couple of the trips and this upcoming weekend, a different group is going to Barcelona and some are going to Málaga, which we're all very excited about.

Once if we stay here in Madrid, we also can soak up all that is to happen here in Madrid, all that Madrid has to offer.

We might go say for tapas one evening or a weekend horseback riding, or we can take bike tours for example or go hiking, we have different activities in school like trivia night, or we have language exchange moments also with locals, there's also cooking classes, paella cooking classes and Spanish tortilla cooking classes which are very, very popular and very yummy, you'll see for yourselves.

We also have our clubs at our campus like the student council, like the business club or the art club.

There's also for, let's say the LGBTQ club, you know,
17:25 there's something for everybody at Suffolk Madrid.
17:29 If you're into sports or varsity sports,
17:33 you can volunteer, there's volunteering
17:36 at the Universidad CEU San Pablo
17:39 which is one of our partners here,
17:43 and we can, you know, help you get on teams
17:45 or reserve courts or whatever you might need
17:48 for whatever sport you might be into.
17:52 And one big thing that the students really, really like is
17:55 that we have no classes on Fridays.
17:58 Now, this is really cool
17:59 because if you wanna take a three day trip somewhere
18:03 about around Europe, you can do that, a long day,
18:05 a long weekend in Paris or in London, you know,
18:09 so there's plenty for you to do on long weekends
18:13 that we have.
18:17 Now, let's talk a little bit about our housing options.
18:23 So homestay it's very popular actually
18:28 and it's one of the best ways to get really immersed
18:32 in the culture of Spain.
18:34 Why? Because you're with a family,
18:36 you're directly interacting with your host siblings
18:40 or your host parents and, you know,
18:43 it's very practical to learn and improve your Spanish.
18:47 They're also a very helpful resource to learn to
18:50 how to get around the city you know,
18:51 you just say to your host mom, where's this restaurant
18:54 or how do I get this place and they'll, you know,
18:57 they'll direct you right to it.
19:00 And it's so easy and so, so nice to get around Madrid
19:03 and you'll see the subway system is just marvelous
19:07 so, you know, all our students and actually we all enjoy
19:11 this aspect of living in Madrid.
19:13 One thing is that you also have the same freedoms as you do
19:19 as in the residence so there's really no curfew, you know,
19:24 I mean each homestay is a little bit different
19:26 but overall there's no curfew.
19:29 And what's great is you have the possibility
19:32 for a single room which is, you know, a lot of times
19:36 in the residence hall you can't have single rooms,
19:41 but at homestays, you definitely can.
19:44 And we can work around that to get, you know,
19:46 what's best for you, whether it be close to campus
19:50 or close to the city center,
19:52 whatever your experience is centered towards,
19:54 we'll try to work with you to get that
19:57 as best as possible for you.
20:00 You also have home cooked meals which is, you know,
20:03 delightful, some great, great chefs in these houses
20:07 let me tell you and modern chefs as well,
20:10 so you enjoy that as well.
20:11 Of course, it's full board breakfast, lunch and dinner,
20:17 and your host parents do your laundry and ironing for you
20:21 so that's a big plus.
So let's talk a little bit about the student residence hall advantages. One big thing definitely is living with other university students, you know. You have mostly Suffolk students but there's also university students from other universities and local universities and other students from other countries, so you might get to have lunch with a French student or study alongside an Italian student so, you know, the world is at your hands literally.

So you have an en-suite bathroom with a shower in your residence hall room, you have a mini fridge, a microwave and a sink in your room, and you can't cook a full dinner or you can't make big, you know, Thanksgiving buffets but you will be able to prepare yourself a sandwich or heat up a dinner that you might have gotten earlier, or either way it's very helpful to have this in your room. Also, we're a quick walk or a quick subway ride away from campus so that's also be very convenient in both options.

And of course, here you have three meals per day in the cafeteria, seven days a week or you have a cooking kitchen, whatever may be your preference even though it's most likely the cafeteria option but we'll get to that later on. Then you also have the 24 hour gym on site which is great, you know, even to get a weekend in if you wanna stay in Madrid and don't wanna go, well, go have some exercise and go downstairs and so you enjoy that as well.

The other cool thing that the residents hall has is the washer and dryers that are very Jetson's, very futuristic because you can work everything from your app. It can tell you, you know, if the washer and dryers are available from your room so, you know, you don't have to go down, you can pay from your app, it's very, very, very convenient.

Let me see, well. Think you've covered everything, Larry.

That's really good, yeah, you've gone over the two offering options and student life, so thank you for that information. My students, I know our listeners are very anxious to hear from our current students. We've got some really good questions that have come into the Q&A, we will be getting to those in just a bit, but I do want to stop sharing my screen here so you can meet our two students that are with us, Nina PeVlaflor and Angela Najarro Cano.

Thank you, you can turn on your unmute your mics and say, hello.
If you wanna just tell us where you're from and why you chose to study in Madrid.
Angela, why don't start?
Yeah. So hi, just like Tom said, I'm Angela Najarro Cano.
I'm from Rhode Island and I'm a freshman studying international relations here on campus in Madrid.
And I decided to come to Madrid because in high school I actually did a semester abroad in Colombia and I fell in love with just studying outside of the States in particular so when I found out that Suffolk had a campus in Madrid, I thought, you know, let's just do it and I loved it. I love it so much here so I'm excited.
What about you, Nina?
Hi guys. Can I get my little intro first?
Yes, please.
So I'm also an IR major, I am from Everett, Massachusetts which is like 15 minutes away from Boston so technically I'm the closest one from Boston. I decided to come to Suffolk Madrid, I always like to say that Suffolk Madrid kind of chose me in a weird sense.
I applied originally to the Boston campus and then on the common app, it asked like, would you like to study abroad, yes or no? And I picked, yes and as soon as I got my application, it says you're going to Madrid with some confetti. And I said, okay, I would love to be the Madrid so.
Very good.
Now Nina, you lived in a residence hall, now you're in a homestay so can you talk to us about the homestay experience? I think, you know, students naturally shy away from that, it seems a little scary, they say I don't wanna have another mother. They wanna have their freedom and do their own things so talk to us about your homestay experience.
If like what was mentioned before, if you really wanna immerse yourself into the Spanish culture, learn the language and kinda know what a local is like living within Madrid, I highly recommend living in a homestay.
My experience so far has been, I wish I kind of started sooner because when I first got to Spain, I did my two first years in Galvàn's in the residency which I, you know, it's still a great place to live, but I wish I'd done it sooner because there's so many benefits that aren't being talked about. For example, like I was just talking to Tom today that I just got a new puppy.
which they got a new puppy two months ago
so if you're an animal lover, little things like that,
that you wanna feel home somewhere,
I think homestays are great place to stay at.
The cooked meals, I'm sorry.
I'm just gonna say the cooked meals.
<no, that's fine. Yeah, home cooked meals/>
are definitely a high point.
<yeah and if you really wanna/>
try the authentic Spanish meals and have it like day to day,
I'd say host families a way to go.
Right and it's not that you have someone asking you/>
where you're at, where you going,
what time are you gonna be home, right?
You still have the same freedom as you do
with a student residence hall?
<yeah. When living in the host families/>
you expect you to be an adult and to act like an adult
so they, you come to the house,
you come obviously to respect their house,
you'll respect your boundaries as well.
Some will have some slight rules, like, oh,
just be quiet a certain time period
because I will be sleeping, but it's never like, oh,
where are you, like it's another parent.
It's just, they're here to guide you
and kind of be another perspective that is more to help you.
<right and if you're not gonna be, you know/>
back for a meal or you have plans, you know, that's fine.
You just need to let them know I'm not gonna be home
for dinner or, you know,
I've made plans for the weekend, whatever
so as long as there's that communication
with your host family.
So Angela, you are in the residence hall now,
you're finishing your first year here
so what's your experience been like
at the residence of Galdós?
<yes, so I've lived in Galdós, I moved in, in September/>
and I honestly love it so much.
I love that there's so many people from just everywhere.
I feel like I'm meeting someone new every day,
say hi to people I walk down the halls
even if they're not Suffolk,
I've made different connections
which honestly I love so much.
And also the food, the food options I really do enjoy.
They actually just put in a salad bar
so that's really exciting.
They like change up the ingredients every day so that's fun,
but I also really do enjoy the gym.
I don't go there as often as maybe I should
but it's really beautiful, there are mirrors all around
and there's a lot of equipment,
but yeah, overall in the room, I love the room. I love how there's a bathroom with the shower and I do, and they're also cleaning ladies that come and clean. They change the sheets and they change the towels twice a week, and that's extremely, that's really helpful. And it feels really, really good, I love that. I love it here. Very good. Well, we have some questions that have come into the Q&A so I do wanna to get to those and be respectful of everyone's time. So the first question we have is about travel options for a college student would be able to afford around Europe. If it's too expensive to travel around. I know both of you did some traveling during spring break. Nina, you were just telling me today about your wonderful spring break so I think that pretty much answers the question. Why don't you tell us what you did a couple weeks ago for spring break?

I'm just gonna start with, for like the answer to question is Ryanair is one of your best friends coming to Spain. Ryanair is these cheap, fair flights that are just can range from seven euros to like maybe 50 max, like it's usually that's what is expensive. So recently I had the opportunity during my spring break to travel to Naples, Italy, then I took a flight to Croatia, Split and then I took a bus ride to Budapest, Hungary. It was pretty ambitious but it was great. I honestly the budget of those three trips was fairly low like it's probably lower than like traveling within America and I had a great time. We did a lot of things and traveling within Europe is just one of the easiest things and I'm really grateful for it because you could see so much with such a budget.

You're nodding your head, Angela. I think you've been, you've done some travel on yourself. Where have you been?

Yes, just like Nina, Ryanair is the way to go. I have the app, I get like notifications whenever they're having like sales so I always just, I text my friends and I'm like guys, we need to get tickets now before the sale runs out. But in spring break, I actually went to the south of Spain. I went to Málaga and it was beautiful, but just like what Nina said, traveling within countries is so easy. A couple weeks ago, I was in Como, Italy and I took a bus to Switzerland and the bus was five euros
30:31 to go from Italy to Switzerland
30:34 so just, it's extremely affordable and it was beautiful.
30:38 I definitely recommend taking advantage of your time here
30:41 to just explore, even if you don't know the language,
30:44 our phone plan still works within Europe
30:47 so that's extremely helpful, but yeah.
30:49 <v ->Yeah, that's a nice point.</v
30:51 The phone plan that you have it works
30:53 throughout the European union
30:55 and the United Kingdom as well,
30:58 and it has minutes to call the United States.
31:01 So you have some minutes that if you need to call home
31:03 or you've got coverage to be able to call the U.S.
31:06 There's a question about the advantages of studying
31:10 in Madrid over the U.S or give a U.S degree
31:13 and Raffi, this might be a really good question
31:15 for you to answer.
31:17 If you're studying international relations,
31:18 do you technically earn an American degree or a Spanish one?
31:22 <v ->Well, it is like I mentioned earlier in the presentation,</v
31:25 in my comments is that Suffolk,
31:29 our Madrid campus is a full branch operation
31:32 of our Suffolk Boston campus so it is an American degree.
31:36 It's fully accredited by the New England Commission
31:42 in Higher Education, and so it has all
31:44 that it carries in that area
31:46 so it would be an American degree, you know.
31:48 A Spanish degree you would have to go
31:50 to a Spanish university.
31:52 If usually there's not an issue
31:54 with your degree being American for example,
31:57 the only people who might be interested in
31:59 it being a Spanish degree would
32:01 be obviously Spanish citizens who maybe
32:03 at some point work with the government,
32:05 but then they have to go
32:06 through a process called homologacion
32:08 which is, you know, something that
32:10 they would have to undertake
32:11 with the proper authorities over here.
32:13 But the degree is America and the advantage I would say,
32:16 I mean, maybe Nina since you're approaching
32:19 so much the end of your IR career is not being able
32:22 to have again, international relations
32:24 and have this experience that goes beyond just, you know,
32:27 just being in the States and being around the area.
32:30 I mean, it's a great resume builder,
32:32 I don't know if you wanted to add anything else
32:33 to that Nina.
32:35 <v ->No, absolutely.</v
32:36 Like having an international relations like major is just,
32:40 this is perfect for it.
32:41 It aligns just right with Spain
32:43 because I think beyond like being in the classrooms,
like you're actually experiencing it around you,
like with things that's going on with the current events,
like we're talking about the classroom,
but we can also see what's going on, like outside.
Like for example, like there's things with the Ukraine
and Russia, we can see the direct effects within Spain
but we're also learning this in the classrooms
so which is, it's a great learning experience.
I will forever have these experience when someone talks
to me and I'd be like, oh well,
I was there when I was in college
so not your normal average college student could say that.
Exactly. There's a question about logistics,
transporting everything you need to Madrid.
I think someone is wondering about what happens
if you forgot something
and I think a lot of American parents maybe think about,
you know, moving their child into college and, you know,
loading up the SUV and taking everything they need
for the year, and how do you pack that two suitcases, right.
So can you talk to us about how,
what your experience has been like,
how did you pack to come Angela? Go ahead.
Yeah, so actually I believe that I was sent a packing list
by Suffolk University Madrid campus
and that was extremely, extremely helpful.
And also just connecting with students that were
here previously really did help me.
I basically just packed, like my essentials, like clothes,
let's say like hair products,
I didn't bring things like pillows or blankets or towels
because that is provided.
And when you come in the beginning of each semester,
I believe there's an Ikea trip where you can go
and buy like rugs if you wanna decorate the room
or an extra pillow, if one is not enough.
So yeah, I think just bring your bare minimals
and also just you guys are definitely gonna shop here
quite a lot for clothes.
I definitely, I think I probably have
to get another suitcase to go back home
over the summer just to fit all my extra clothes
but yeah, just keep that in mind.
Right, students that are coming back
for the following year can actually store some things here
so you can, you know,
you don't have to take your winter coat
and the things that you're going to need next year
if you're coming back, we can store that for you
from one year to the next and you can buy things here
so, you know, it's not that you're going to a country
where you can't buy toothpaste and shampoo or a hair dryer,
all of that you can get while you're here,
so you don't need to bring a year supply of everything.
There's a question about academics and being offered enough classes and getting the classes, so you need to take, they're wondering about, you know, if there's no classes on Fridays, are your Monday through Thursday really packed right, so how do you balance that out? Nina, you've gone through three years of you've had experience here in Madrid and in Boston, so can you talk about the class offering and how that works? So technically, mostly everyone takes four classes usually and that fits in through the Monday through Thursday and the professors already know that most of us come like we're here to also study, but we also have the opportunity to travel and such so they're fair in the sense of that like they understand us and they're willing to balance the work out in a way that we can manage it throughout the semester. So don't worry about like, if it's too much because we don't have the Friday's class. No, they already understand and so they're like, you know what like we'll give, 'em a reasonable amount of work, so don't stress. Very good. Thank you.

There's a question about studying all four years in Madrid. Did you find that your friends left? Did you feel lonely after the first two years? Angela, you're still in your first year so you probably haven't gone through that but Nina, you might be able to address that since you're in your third year. How does that work as far as the social component of making your, you know, getting your friend network and your people? Yeah, I have to say, like I've realized like throughout the years, like being in here so long people come and go all the time but at the same time, I take it in a way that it builds you as a person because I've learned that you can make friends, like it's okay, you don't have to stick because life is constantly changing. I'm sorry, I'm gonna get all but like life is always changing and we have to meet people as we go and you can't stay in one place forever. That's just the limitations are just always being pushed when you're in Suffolk Madrid and I've honestly throughout each semester, I always, you always find people anyways, regardless and if you don't, you have me because I will be here to one more year. So if anything like I've learned a lot, I've learned about myself more and being alone and then finding the right people and it's all teaching us,
So don't worry, you're gonna be okay. Very good, yes.

So there's a question about academics, Raffi if you're an English major, would the Madrid campus still be a good option? Absolutely and like we mentioned,
it's not one of the majors that you can complete all four years here in Madrid, but you certainly can take all of your basic core requirements, you know, throughout your first years, that's what the first two years will do which will include writing 101, writing 102 and maybe a few other English offerings, so an English major could absolutely do that. We're hoping that as an English major may be also curious about other languages, and maybe you want to take this opportunity to, you know, learn Spanish or maybe perfect it if you've already had that opportunity so yep. As an English major, there's no reason why you can't come over here, you know, take advantage of all that, you know, make I don't know, if you're into writing and creative writing, you'll probably have wonderful stories and wonderful things to write about. So let's maybe even put it at that basic level and then move over to the Boston campus and yes, you'll transition back to Boston but then you have the entire offerings of the English department, the poetry center, the creative writing track that is offered here in Boston waiting for you. And I think if anything, you'll just feel enriched by all of that.

Very good. Larry, there's a question about some housing concerns about roommates. They're wondering about how students can choose their roommate. Can you address that with the how the roommate situation works? Sure, well, there's actually a form that you fill out where you can request a specific roommate if you desire, maybe your friend, your best friend, now even maybe your girlfriend, boyfriend, that's also a possibility. Also we have within this form, we can tell you, you know, we can hook you up with a roommate that is basically has the same interest as you. So if you're into art and poetry or, you know, or if you're into going out and getting to know the city, you know, we pretty much try to pair your roommate with someone that has the same interest as you.

Right and daily schedules,
some people are more of a morning person
and some people like staying up at night,
and so trying to match people up
that we think we'll get along.
Yeah, exactly.
Right, there's always a time in the beginning
of each semester where you have,
I think it's a week that you go through that adjustment.
Exactly, yeah, we usually give around the week
two weeks, more or less for you
to get a sense of your roommate,
and, you know, there's always a possibility to change
within those two weeks so nothing is set in stone.
We just want you to be at ease
and feel comfortable with your roommate
your living situation.
But Larry as we're talking about housing,
there's a question about vegetarian options.
People that have dietary restrictions, how's that handled?
Yeah, like definitely we take this
into consideration once you move into well,
the residence halls, we actually make dietary cards for you.
So if you're allergic to something or if you're a vegetarian
or gluten free, this all, we put it on your vegetarian,
on your dietary card and this is a way to communicate
with the cafeteria staff to let them know, you know,
everything you eat and what your preferences are.
Very good, okay. Nina and Angela,
there's a question about what the people in Madrid are like,
and they're wondering if you have faced any instances
of discrimination or racism from locals
or other university students.
What's your experience been like with regard to that?
Quickly, before we go onto the next question,
I just wanna add onto Larry about like dietary restrictions,
kind of like with the whole thing with host families,
like I recommend if you have quite a lot
or you're just worried about that or you're concerned,
and I recommend host families
because it's more of a personalized chef
so they'll work around what you have and what your needs,
for example, I'm lactose intolerant
so they try to buy milk that are soy milk or oat milk
or in that, in those lines so.
And right, the cheese products that are lactose free
and all of that. Yeah, absolutely.
There are families who are vegetarian families
so if they're vegan right,
so if that's the case then we can match a student up
with the family that also follows that same diet.
So there's a lot, very good point with the homestay
and that consideration.
Did you wanna add something, Larry?
No, no, pretty much that what Nina just said,
just to pick up on that, that we do have a wide range of and a big database of awesome families that can offer, you know, whatever you may need, you know, so that's definitely a plus of the homestay. So remember the homestay is very, very good option to go for.

Right and the homestays are located around the city. Nina, you're a five minute walk away at your homestay, you want to be closer so, you know, there is that option. Some homestays might be a little bit farther, they're never gonna be more than a 20 minute metro ride so that's kind of our limit that we have that it's not gonna be, you know, on the other side of the city for you to get to class.

<v ->Right.&lt;/v

So back to this question about discrimination, racism, what the people are like in Madrid, how can you help someone who's wondering about that?

Nina? Yeah. Angela? Angela, why don't you go?

Yeah, so as a girl of color being in Madrid and being anywhere in the world there's unfortunately racism and it's just something that unfortunately me and millions and millions of other people just have to deal with, and just learn how to deal with it in a way that is healthy for us.

But yeah, there are a lot of really, really kind people in Madrid like in my residence hall, I'm friends with a lot of Spaniards, a lot of them are really nice. However, there are some that are pretty racist but I just distance myself from them and if something happens, I'll reach out, there are outlets at school that I can reach out to and people in my residence hall that I can talk to, to sort of crack this down.

I'm definitely open to discuss ways in which we can combat at this so yeah. I don't know if Nina, if you have anything else to add on.

<v ->Yeah, kind of add on to Angie,&lt;/v

like it's the small minority, anywhere you go in the world you're gonna see these problems, but I don't want you guys to think this is what Madrid is about, like the people are great here. Madrid is like a very touristy, it's known for its tourists and you're gonna see many people of color walking around the streets.

There's many universities here as well so don't think that it's gonna be a different world. No, it's just as if we're in the United States, it's just and plus there's also too with the LGBTQ community,
it's a very strong community here. So it's not as bad, it's just there's always gonna be that minority people, always with their hateful that they need to heal so.

Right, I mean Suffolk is a very diverse university, right? With our international students from around the world and all of the different groups that, you know, we have the affinity groups for students to find other like-minded classmates. And I think one of the things that defines Suffolk is our diversity and so, you know, whether that be your political perspective, your sexual orientation or gender identity, I think Suffolk is all about including those diverse populations so, yeah.

Did you wanna say something else? And Suffolk University Madrid is the only non-secular university in the whole Spain so. Thank you, Nina.

So there's a question about the visa process. Again, logistics going through that visa process is bureaucratic, you're dealing with the Spanish government and we assist you as much as we can with the visa process. But there are requirements that the Spanish government has put in place as the application for the visa so students who are coming here apply for a long term visa, we help you as much as we can with that. Students who are in the United States can send their documents and passport to representative at Suffolk in Boston and we can take those documents to the Spanish consulate in Boston on your behalf. So that facilitates a lot of it but there is still some documentation that you need to get, right. There's a doctor's letter and a police background check and you know, some photocopies and there's some documents that you need to gather together for them to be able to process your application, but we give you all the information you need. We have someone who handles that 'cause most consulate require a personal appearance for you to just submit your documentation. So that's not necessary if you're living in the United States and want us to help, we can do that for you. And then once you get to Spain, there's some more processes to do as well and we have outsourced with an immigration attorney.
47:51 to help you with that process to go through,
47:53 to make sure that you're keeping your status in status
47:56 and legal while you're in Spain.
48:00 There's a question about the small campus
48:02 if you had enough classes,
48:05 if the academic offering meets your needs for your majors,
48:09 for your classes and courses that you would like to take.
48:13 Angela, you were just going through academic advising today
48:17 so you're getting ready for next semester.
48:19 I saw you in the office going through that.
48:21 So what can you talk about your class selection
48:24 and what you've got going on academically?
48:28 <v ->Yeah, so since I'm an international relations major,</v
48:31 there are a lot of courses available for me
48:34 but right now as a freshman,
48:36 I'm taking a lot of the like core requirements
48:40 like writing 101, writing 102 and I do,
48:45 I really, really enjoy the classes here.
48:48 I really like the political science courses that are offered
48:51 and I love, love the professors so much.
48:54 So, and there's a lot,
48:56 there's a really diverse selection for me
48:58 at least like Politics in America, Politics of Spain,
49:03 I know there's politics in the Middle East
49:05 and there're just classes like that
49:06 which honestly I find really interesting.
49:09 And I know a lot of the classes have field trips,
49:12 I'm in a Spanish class right now
49:14 where we went to the museum and we went to a theater,
49:18 a play actually I went with Nina's class,
49:21 which was really fun.
49:21 So I got to meet people from another class
49:24 that I maybe didn't know but yeah,
49:27 I really do like the courses that they offer here.
49:30 <v ->Good. Nina, can you talk about a couple of the classes</v
49:32 that you've really liked?
49:35 <v ->Kind of the same thing with Angie,</v
49:36 the IR classes of political courses,
49:40 professors are really awesome.
49:41 They've gone through so many experiences to be where they're
49:44 at now and while they teach they're talking
49:46 about their experiences,
49:47 and they're just one of the most like you guys said,
49:51 like it was like the selective,
49:53 like amazing group of professors
49:54 and they really do have a lot to offer when they speak.
49:57 I just also wanted to add to throughout my years,
50:00 I've also met many people from different majors
50:03 and there's a bunch of courses, various like courses
50:06 to select from like, just for like,
50:07 if you're here for a year or semester two,
50:11 that will be offered that you can be able to be Madrid for.
50:14 <v ->Right and I do need to make a plug</v
50:17 for one of our star classes, the astronomy class,
it fulfills a science requirement
so it's not your typical biology or chemistry.
It is an astronomy class that, you know,
you're learning about planets, stars and solar systems
and the lab for the class goes to the highest observatory
in this part of the world
which just happens to be in the Canary islands.
So the students that go to the island of Canary fame
and they're at the highest point in Spain
and I think they just went last weekend,
so it was a lot colder than what they thought
it was gonna be because they're so high up,
they think they're going to the beach
because there is the beaches, the beach is right there,
but they're doing their astronomy lab
and seeing solar systems and planets
and things that you can't see anywhere else.
There's an environmental science class that goes
and researches ecosystems up in the Northern part of Spain.
The art history class goes to the museums
to see the paintings and see the actual works of art
so those are some highlights of the classes
that you can only get here.
Nina, did you wanna say something else?
Yeah. I just during this semester
actually I'm taking two great classes.
One is Spanish in the workplace
so I'm like getting the experience of
like the professional words in Spanish.
And I'm also taking Madrid cosmology city class
which is basically I go around the city of Madrid
and I learn the history of buildings, the metro,
like everything that's in Madrid
and it's all like all in person, all right.
I would say classes in Madrid is very interactive so.
So are you taking an internship Nina with that class?
So yes, I had the opportunity to take an internship.
So Oxfam International, so it's a organization,
an NGO actually that deals with injustice
and poverty around the world,
and I was able to go into the office
because COVID regulations are
that they're actually being lessened now as we speak.
I was able to interact with different Spanish students,
international students and we talked about certain issues
that are going in the world, like current events,
we worked on projects, making apps,
working on their website, translations.
And what I loved about the internship
because I had an experience in America
in comparative to European internships
is one of the biggest thing is like European
when they do internships,
it's more about a community collective work
and they take everyone's best skills
and what everyone has to offer,
and we put it together to make the best out of it.
And then comparison America, it's very competitive
so if you're willing to try or you have the opportunity,
I highly recommend.

Well, I do wanna be respectful of everyone's time
so let me just share my screen here again,
to conclude things and wrap up here.
I wanna remind you that if you've been offered admission
to Madrid, you can hold your spot
by submitting your enrollment deposit now,
you can log onto your admission portal
and go to Suffolk.edu/admitted
The deposit is $800, that is for tuition and housing,
and it is refundable until 1st of May.
And that brings us to the end of our webinar on Madrid.
I'd like to thank my colleagues, Raffi and Larry.
They've been very helpful in fielding the questions
and giving you some information to help you
in your decision process and Nina and Angela,
thank you for giving us your personal perspectives.
It's going on 11 o'clock at 11:00 PM here in Madrid
and I'm sure you've got class tomorrow,
so you do wanna get up for that.
We appreciate your efforts
and thank you for joining us today
and finding out a little bit more about studying in Madrid.
If you have any other questions you can email us,
we'd be happy to clarify any other doubts that might come up
that haven't gotten answered here today.
So we will end this webinar, thank you for joining us.
We'll say (Tom speaking Spanish)