Great. Thanks so much for joining us today. My name is Tom Biederman and I'm an associate director of admission here in Madrid. We're going to give you a brief overview of Suffolk University and our Madrid campus. And I want to thank you for joining us at this webinar. Are two people in Boston that are joining us are Rafi Monroy, our Madrid campus director, and Stephanie Sweeney. They're based at the main campus there. They will be fielding questions that come up in the Q&A and chat function. And here in Madrid, we've got our program development coordinator, Sylvia Salazar, and two students, Alex Lopez and Angela Nakano. Alex started out in Boston, came to Madrid as a study abroad student and decided to stay. He is in his senior year and looking at graduate school options and his international relations. Major and Angela started at Suffolk Madrid last year, and she's completing her second year here. Both Alex and Angela, our double team, have lived in different university sponsored housing options, and I can give you the student perspective on their experience with academics and life in Madrid. You'll be meeting them later on throughout the presentation. Today. We're going to cover some topics that will help you learn more about what it's like to study in Madrid. After a brief introduction on Madrid. We'll go over our academic offering so you can learn what courses you can take while studying in Madrid. Hear about the activities and trips that are planned through our Student Life Office, as well as the two housing options. And you'll meet Alex and Angela and find out why they chose to start out in Madrid and what their experience has been like. And if you have any questions, feel free to drop those into the chat and great Q&A function and we'll get to those throughout the presentation or at the end. So just to help put things in perspective, Madrid is a quick six and a half hour flight from Boston, where our main campus is. Spain is located in southern Europe between France and Morocco, next to Portugal on the Iberian Peninsula. Madrid is the capital and it is located in the center of the country. Spain is actually the second largest country in Western Europe after France. But high speed trains can get you to Barcelona up on the northeast coast, Malaga down south on the Mediterranean or Seville and Valencia in under 3 hours. It's about a two hour flight to Rome and Paris and a little bit more up to London. There are over 3 million people in the city and about 6.7 million in the metro area. That sounds like a lot of people. It is actually large. One of the largest cities in the EU.
So it's definitely got a lot to offer, but it doesn't feel overwhelming like a large metropolis.

In fact, it's actually very easy to get around the city.

The public transportation system is excellent and students can purchase an unlimited monthly card for bus, subway, commuter rail.

It's €20 for a month. It's actually less now.

It's gone down to €8 a month. So is definitely the way to get around the city.

And right now, the European euro dollar exchange rate is about the same.

So that's about $8 now or the usual rate of $20 to get around the city.

And here you can see a couple 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 floorspace.

And you see 1% of the 3418 rooms on the tour.

So let's watch a short video so you can take a virtual tour with two of our students.

This video was filmed when mask requirements were in place, but things are pretty much back to normal here in Spain.

Hi. My name is Antonio, and I'm Bria. This is our second year here in southern 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, say San Pablo.

It is also so easy to access other parts of the city by Metro.

Pacific is together in one cozy building and administrative offices, classrooms, library and professors offices as well.

This is the main office, a one stop run 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.

Bathrooms are quite spacious. Average size is normally 16, each equipped with the latest technology for remote learning to.

You can spend up to two years in Madrid or even complete your international relations major at the Madrid campus.

The residence halls walking distance from the campus. It's a really comfortable living space with a great cafeteria and lots of options.

And I really like the idea. There's a gym accessible 24 hours a day.

Nice places 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 to live in 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.
In Madrid's vibrant downtown. It 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. To have to come in.
Make your way to Suffolk. Madrid. Okay.
So that gives you an idea of where we're at.
You may already be familiar with the main campus in Boston, which has several buildings in the heart of the city in Madrid.
As you've seen, everything is housed in one building the classrooms, offices,
computer labs and were located in the university district of the city, the largest public university in Spain.
The Complutense is just one metro stop away, so there are always lots of students around the area.
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 where as in Boston, they have almost 4300 students.
In Madrid, we normally have between 130 to 150 students.
So we really foster that community, feel you'll get to know your professors and classmates in small classes and go on organized trips together and get individualized attention when it comes to registering for classes.
About half of our students are either first year or returning students,
and the other half are study abroad students from our main campus in Boston or another partner institution.
The tuition in Madrid is about 10,000 lower than in Boston, and our program fee includes practically everything else you'll need while in Madrid.
As you'll see here, the program fee covers the airport pick up on arrival day trips.
You'll hear more about the welcome trip and weekend excursions just a bit.
There's even a cell phone calling plan with data and minutes.
So on arrival day, you can pop a SIM card or a virtual one into your phone.
You get on a Spanish network and you can stay connected wherever you're at.
The health insurance covers all your medical expenses while you're abroad.
There's no out-of-pocket expense or co-pay for doctors visits, mental health appointments, X-rays, medical tests or hospitalization.
And although that program fee is pretty inclusive.
It doesn't cover your personal expenses like shopping or if you want to satisfy your Starbucks coffee craving.
So let's talk about the academic offering at Suffolk Madrid.
I'm going to turn it over to Sylvia, our program development coordinator.

Thank you, Tom. Hello, everyone. I'm Sylvia. The third and I are the program coordinator.

And I can help you with academics as well as other things that I coordinate, such as the care team.

So in Madrid, you can do what we call the two plus two program, which means you do two years here in Madrid and then you complete the other two years in Boston.

This is for most academic programs that we have for most majors.

So you will find that's author of courses that will cover your core requirements as well as some of your major requirements and electives.

So we offer business courses, we offer history courses, we offer science.

We offer many different courses that will help you work towards your degree.

You can also complete the four years here in Madrid. So if you choose to major in international relations, just as our two panelists are doing,

and you can also complete a Spanish minor while you're here in Madrid, which is something that you can add to your other degree.

The coursework, the syllabi, the professors qualifications are equivalent to those in Boston.

We share the same curriculum, the same standards.

Most of our professors are from the U.S. So we also have some European professors and Spanish professors.

The classes are taught in English, but everything has that European twist that, you know, immersion in European cultures,

Spanish culture and of course, Spanish language, which is one of the courses that we owe it to our friend,

no matter what your level is, the academic agreement that we have with University of San Paolo there,

which is just next door from us, will allow you to expand that offer if you if you wish to, to do that.

In Madrid as well as in Boston. We're all about experiential learning.

So we want our students to actually learn through doing, doing, reflecting, doing again and and taking basically the classes out of the classroom.

So what you can see in the photos, a visit to a museum and actually art history classes are one of those classes that happen in the city,

just the same as Madrid, a cosmopolitan city, for example.

There are certain classes that have day trips included in the program, for example, a day trip to Toledo, which is a very historical city.

Or you might go on,

on the science trip to to Tenerife did the Canary Islands to if you choose to study astronomy with this and that it's a four day trip for example,

and it's basically getting to learn how to use the telescope, how to interpret the sky, etc.

It's very amazing. And we try to give students the the spirit that is as close as possible the future professionals would have.
So that's why I would stay at the observatory for that. For example, we also have the environmental science trip, which is very interesting.

It's all about hands on fieldwork and getting to hear from different experts around Spain.

That's very interesting as well, and we also have community service learning courses that will help you, you know, get to know Madrid in a different way and actually engage with the local community in a meaningful way.

Once you've finished your time with us in Madrid, you can go back to Boston or go to Boston.

But just go to Boston and finish your degree.

There are 70 or more undergraduate programs, both in the College of Arts and Sciences and the business school.

And then the graduate school is the law school that we have as well.

We have business courses as well as humanities courses in Madrid, and we have exams there's four for all of them.

Whether it is through business presentations with prefer, whether it's a professional panelist or um or visits around the city, etc.

You have it. You have it all here. If there's if there are any questions on academics or on our support system here at Stanford.

Majid, feel free to drop those questions in the in the Q&A and I will answer them later.

Thank you, Tom, back to you. Very good. Thank you, Sylvia.

So although academics are the main focus, there is time for fun as well.

So let's hear from Rafi McCoy, our Madrid campus director, about the housing options and all the planned activities and excursions that our students can take part in while they're living in this exciting European capital city.

Rafi. Thank you so much, Tom. And thank you, everyone, for for joining us in this webinar.

We know this is an important time in your and your life as you transition out of high school into your your college choices.

So we hope that we can provide you a glimpse or a preview of what that will look like here in Madrid.

And I actually bring you greetings from Waheed, who is our student life coordinator, who is our avocation right now.

Otherwise, he would be presenting to you. We will have a series of other webinars coming up.

So you're welcome to join that if you want to hear directly from.

Okay. So I'm just here doing the best I can do to represent him.

But, you know, part of the experience of you being in in Madrid, in Spain, in Europe is going to be what's around you, what surrounds you.

And we do create a very lively and very active environment for students to engage in.

Travel is going to be a big part of this experience. I'm sure the students are.

Alex and Angie can talk about, you know, the amount of travel that they've done and all the different things that are available.

So I let them talk a little bit more about that. But there are different types of travel that you can do.
You know what we will maybe call sponsor travel that you do with us as the campus, which has an element of, you know, bonding the campus together, you know, getting to know the staff and maybe even faculty when they come on trips with us.

So be able to do that. So it all begins with a welcome trip. You know, every semester we choose a different destination in Spain, where the entire campus will be heading over to that destination to sort of,

you know, get acclimated with another area of Spain and get to know a little bit more of the other cultures.

Spain is a very diverse country, and it's in this composition of different cultures, different foods, different gastronomy, different music, different, you know, typical product.

So it's a wonderful idea.

So for example, this this past spring, sorry, this spring and in January, we all went to Valencia, which was a wonderful trip.

And and I think the students got a lot out of getting to know that other region of Spain where actually are different languages spoken.

And you can see kind of that influence of different regional cultures around the area.

There's three weekend excursions that come out throughout the semester.

So for example, this this spring semester, students can choose from three different destinations.

One was Sevilla, one was Malaga, and the other one will be Bilbao.

So one comes with your comprehensive fee, and the other ones are things that you can add on if you wish to of their space actually.

But you will be also doing things that that Silvia mentioned some of the travel that is built within the classes.

So again, you know, those are things that you're going to be able to do to take advantage.

And of course, you're going to do travel on your own. You're going to be able to kind of do that backpacking or that traveling through Europe with while also earning credit and going through a college experience.

So there are no classes on Fridays and students can sometimes organize maybe once a month, some some other trip that they might be able to do.

So in addition to that, we know we try to keep, you know, activities ongoing so that you can engage again with the local Madrid community, but also with with us other communities.

So, so not unheard of to organize tapas, ze not night or horseback riding trip or hiking in the mountains in Madrid last week there was a very popular cooking class where students were able to kind of learn how to do.

I can't remember what dish it was, but a number of different areas.

We also try to replicate some of the leadership type of activities that maybe would benefit your time in Madrid.

You know, like student council, the business club, art clubs.

I believe there's a boxing club and because we are right in front of San Pablo, so you're welcome to join any of their activities.

And my head, our student development coordinator, student affairs coordinator will be able to maybe make those arrangements for you.
18:20 We actually had some students participate in some of their sporting activities and some of the other things that San Pablo organizes.
18:26 And it's right, very convenient because right in front of us.
18:30 Now, let's talk a little bit about where are you going to live? Because that's also going to be a big part of your experience.
18:35 Like we mentioned in the video, we have two options. One of them would be a homestay.
18:39 And this is something that sometimes we and I would like to encourage students to really, 
18:44 really consider because a home state is is an opportunity for you actually really have that cultural immersion in Spain, 
18:51 you know, be able to be part of a nuclear family or maybe it's you know, 
18:55 I retired a couple that has the extra space and kind of loves to sort of take care of students and have this experience. 
19:01 So that's well, you know, they're going to cook for you. They're going to clean your room. 
19:05 They're going to do all these things that kind of meet your basic needs, 
19:09 but also may maybe involve you much more in their family dynamics and their family life. 
19:13 And through that, you get another experience of of culture. 
19:17 You're going to be have to use your Spanish a lot more with home state of your goal is to sort of, 
19:21 you know, become bilingual or maybe have conversational Spanish or even, 
19:26 you know, bring it to a to to another level know many times a host homestay that homestays are a wonderful option to be a. 
19:35 To do that, you have the option to sort of indicate which app in which you prefer and your housing application. 
19:40 We guarantee you a housing spot, so it'll be in the residence. 
19:44 I'll own a home state, 
19:45 but you certainly have the opportunity to sort of give tell us what is your preference when you're submitting your application. 
19:52 Now, the majority of our students will actually be in our second housing option, which is the student residence hall. 
19:58 And for that, our main residence hall is called Guidepost, which is only about a ten minute walk from campus. 
20:04 I mean, I'm a fast worker, but I think I can do in a little bit less than that. 
20:07 But let's just go ahead and say a ten minute what it is in the University City and is the typical set up of what you're maybe used to here in the US. 
20:15 You know, a double room you share, you have a roommate, 
20:18 but there's actually additional amenities that you won't see in the United States, like cleaning your room once a week. 
20:24 You know, you will have your own bathroom that you share with you, with your with your roommate. 
20:30 And but then the other things are standard and you'll have a mini fridge. 
20:33 You have a little bit of a microwave in the sink, 24 hour gym. 
20:36 There is a cafeteria which will provide a wonderful meals for you guys. 
20:40 Washers and dryers in all the different areas.
This is also an opportunity for you to interact with maybe other college age students in Spain because those is just not for staff student, it's also for other students who go there. So you'll be able to interact with maybe more local Spanish students who are from other regions of Spain but happen to want to go to university in Madrid. So a wonderful housing option. And those are the two things that we can, you know, refer you to.

Tom, I think I send it back to you now. Right.

Thank you, Raffy. Yes. So we're going to hear from our two current students, the stars of the show, Alex and Angela.

As I mentioned, Angela is in her second year here and Alex is completing his degree.

So I will stop sharing my screen so I can get everyone on the screen here.

Angela and Alex, if you want to turn on your cameras so we can see you as well and say hello.

Thank you. Great to see you. So why don't you just I mean, I'm sure students are anxious to hear from you, you know, if they've never been to Madrid and the whole idea of studying so far away from home, you know, there's a lot of questions.

So why don't you just start out by telling us why you decided to study in Madrid?

I'm Angela. You came as a first year student, so right out of high school.

How was that decision? Yeah.

So I applied to Suffolk, Boston, and I got in and then I got an email saying you would be a great candidate for the campus.

And I studied abroad in high school one semester in Columbia.

So I was already used to the idea of studying abroad. And when I got that email, I said to my family, Hey guys, I think I'm going to do this.

And I applied. I got in, I came, and I've loved to ever since.

Okay. And Alex, you have a little bit different situation because you started out in Boston.

Right. And I think you studied there a year and then you came to Madrid your sophomore year.

So tell us about that. So yeah, I actually did my first two years in Boston and I've been finishing my last two here.

It's not by a book two and two a program, actually, it just kind of by coincidence,

I decided to just come here sort of just on the idea that I wanted to study abroad my junior year.

Definitely. If I'd done, I'd gone somewhere in high school studying abroad and loved it and.

I figured the easiest thing to do would be to go to the Madrid campus here.

I've been trying to transfer to a different university for a study abroad program. You know, got to worry about transferring credits and all that.

It'll be easy. And I originally only intended to stay for one semester.

At the time, my minor was international relations,
and I actually ended up liking not only the campus so much in
Madrid and everything else about being in Spain so much.
But I also took my classes in the international relations field and
started liking that so much more
that I decided to change my minor into my major and decided to
stay here until I graduate.
Which will be this my first. Very good. We're in countdown mode.
You've got just a couple months left. Yeah.
So why don't you tell us about some of the classes you've taken
here in Madrid, the academic component and the.
Angela, you've done some of the general education classes, the
foundation coursework,
and now you're doing some of the international relations just to
give some idea of what your classes are like.
Yes. So since I started here as a freshman, I took classes like
writing 1 to 1, like Career Star Start, different classes like that.
And honestly, I really enjoyed taking them.
You get really close with the professors because it's such a small
campus that there's only like ten or 15 people in the class.
So you really get to make that connection. And, you know, one thing
that a lot of people tend to forget is you can also use help from Boston,
too.
So if you're struggling, you can reach out to them and you have the
same resources that you were to have if you were staying in Boston.
So that's something that I always remind myself. I took classes
like astronomy, which I totally recommend.
I know Alex took that too.
We went to the Canary Islands for a weekend, and even though
astronomy has nothing to do with international relations, it still counts
as a credit.
And I learned so much and it was just such a fun experience and you
know, taking classes like art history as well.
I know Alex also took that. I'm taking that right now and it's so
cool because once a week, you know,
you go into the museum and you place yourself into the shoes of
these artists and it's just such a fun experience.
So I totally recommend taking full advantage of the classes that
they have to offer here.
Great.
And Alex, now for your international relations, Major, if someone's
interested in that, what type of classes are you taking in that
particular area?
In that area, for example, right now I'm taking a class called
global political economy,
where we're talking about globalization and the effects of it and
how it into relates to politics and the ways that the international
system,
the world work regarding how economics and politics work together,
for example, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, and what kind
of stuff.
So it's not like economics.
And I took a lot of political science classes last semester, like a
Theory and Practice of International Relations, which was a great class.
I took crisis and integration in the European Union as an elective.
There's a lot of interesting objectives that are offered as well, especially at the moderated campus for international relations, major.

But in general, I have absolutely loved all the international relations faculty we have in Madrid and every single one of professors I've had nothing but great experiences with and gotten to develop really good personal relationships with as well.

That's great. Okay. And have either one of you done an internship? I think, Angela, you did an internship and. Yeah, so why don't you tell us about that?

Because they're internship opportunities as well. Alex, tell us about your internship.

So there's actually an elective course you can choose and the international relations course at the offer here, that's an internship in political science.

And I took that where Silvia helps us to find any kind of internship placement throughout Madrid regarding to our field study.

So I ended up being very fortunate to work with the NGO, Oxfam on the global security team.

And I interned for the Global Security Advisor and did work for him, but very begrudging my constituency casework.

I made some training programs for the company and then we did a lot of studying in the actual internship itself with the whole other interns that were there with us to learn about how security works,

So that was really great at about last spring, so about a year ago now and I really, really enjoyed it.

Eric Was that similar to your internship as well? Angela Was that with Oxfam?

Yes, I did the same internship.

I really enjoyed it too, just because I really got to practice my Spanish as well.

And now I feel like I have developed my Spanish kind of in a workplace setting,

which is something that, you know, I hadn't really thought about going to school.

So it was just really cool getting that exposure, especially all the way here in Madrid.

Mm. Very good. So let's talk about where you live, Angela.

You were in the residence hall last year. Tell us what that was like.

And Alex, you've lived in a residence hall in our home state, so we've got both options to talk about here.

So I'm Angela. Tell us what the residence hall is like, your roommate and the facilities there.

Yes. So I lived three semesters in Garridos, which is the main residence where you'll probably be placed.

I loved it. I loved it so much, just like the community.

Everyone was together and different lounge areas and the cafeteria.

The Spaniards seemed scary at first, but a lot of them are super, super nice and want to practice English.

They want us to speak more Spanish. The food is good.

My Favorite is the kabob. Watch out for that. I. I would go up and get seconds of that.
It's so good. And just, you know, the outside space. It's a very light area. The room, there's so much light that goes into there. I feel like I barely even had my light on. The cleaning ladies are definitely a plus. So much fun. It was. It feels like a hotel and then just, you know, being exposed to, you know, a whole bunch of different people or not, but from other countries as well. I really did enjoy living there. That's great. And Alex, you were in the residence hall and now you're in a homestay. I think a lot of students automatically eliminate the homestay option. They say, you know, I want to do my own thing. I want to go away to college and, you know, don't have someone controlling me and telling me what to do. What is your homestay experience been like? Personally, I love that. I have to say, ironically, I feel like I have a bit more independence being in a home state, more so than I do I had in residence halls, especially for the fact that not only just my experience having the fact that I feel like my host father, who's just I just love the house dad and his girlfriend lives in the same building and he just, you know, they what you do pretty much whatever you want. They hope they go through with you or they can cook you whatever throughout the day. They help with laundry and really get me off my host state experience. I host lets me just kind of do I want we interact when we eat together and stuff like that. But now he goes to work. I go to class like one weekend to my friends and he goes out with his friends to do the different things. And I kind of like that aspect as to where in Residence Hall I felt much more like very much much more of a social environment. It was very, very much more social where like I was always around, all the students all the time were here. It's like I feel like I'm a bit more kind of independent on my own, which is something that I personally really enjoy. But I still definitely am able to connect with students a lot because I am on campus multiple days throughout the week. But it definitely is something I've loved and given me a good sense of, like having a bit more kind of my own space moment, which is something I didn't really expect to have and having a homestay. Does your home state dad speak English? No. So how's your Spanish? I speak it very well. So. The internship with Oxfam. I did it last spring. My job was in Spanish there. So definitely it pushed me really hard to write a lot more of it. And I've taken a Spanish class each of the four semesters that I've been here, including the one op one right now.
And we really don't have any trouble communicating. I've to say that my first semester here is maybe the first couple of months were the hardest part to really learn the most Spanish after that, after a couple of months, especially living, being surrounded by all the time, we start to pick it up right quickly as opposed to if you were just taking a class somewhere else, you know? Okay. And Alex. Excuse me. Angela, did you speak Spanish before you came to Spain? How fluent now? Yes. My family is Colombian, so I grew up speaking Spanish. My Spanish is just a little bit different than the Spanish here, but they still understand me. And, you know, we're learning different words, which is I'm just, like, learning new things every day. Mm. Okay. So what would you ask of students that that wants to know how safe is Madrid? What would you say? I would say Madrid is pretty safe. I personally have never gone through anything where I've felt unsafe. Taking the metro alone, I've never had a problem with. Even the Metro closes at 130. I've taken it around one. I've never felt unsafe. And Ubers as well, just, you know, I still am vigilant just to, you know, make sure that my all of my stuff is still here. And and I just, like, look around and make sure I'm okay. But personally, nothing has ever happened to me here. And I. I love it. I feel comfortable, just like walking down the street right now. I would be fine. Okay, good. Yeah. I mean, statistically, Madrid is actually a very safe city. So it it is a large city, you know, and the number of people that live here. But it is it's actually a safe city. And, you know, we tell you to be aware and to be careful. It is a cosmopolitan city, but, um, that's good that you feel safe walking around the city. So there's another question about traveling. Can you tell us about any travel you've done? Alex, where have you been while you've studied here? Or that this would actually become law because I have been to a lot of places since I first came here. My goal was to definitely travel a lot, but I have to say some of the favorite places I've been to like hands down, one of them is Italy going to Rome and Florence and all that. That's my favorite places. Morocco as well. It's an incredible experience because it's so close, so easy to get there, but it's also a vastly different culture at the same time compared to anywhere else you go in Europe. And I mean, the list goes on. Just like just last semester alone, I went to Belgium, Romania, the Netherlands, and then I did a couple of trips throughout Spain as well.
So being in Madrid and Europe in general get weight makes it super easy to travel around and see so many different countries because it's so cheap to fly between them or market the train between them. And that's such a big benefit to them to stay here. And until I think you've become an expert with one of those low cost airlines that you can find a really good deal. Yeah, you bet. I used Ryanair and also the app Skyscanner. It's my best friend now, but just like Alex. Italy is beautiful. Northern Italy like Lake Como is just amazing. Morocco as well. It's so close. Even like Eastern Europe. Like I loved Prague, it was beautiful and also around Spain, but I just I could keep the list going. I can't wait to travel to more places. It's so cheap. Definitely download Skyscanner. It'll find the cheapest flights. Okay. Good advice. What about things you do in Madrid? Things you do for your free time in Madrid? Besides when you're not studying. What do you like doing? So I like to just because as the metro card, as you know, you could use it for busses for the metro and then for anywhere in the community that might read. I like to just take it to somewhere random and just walk around and explore. You know, I have service. I speak Spanish. You know, nothing has ever happened to me and my friends. We just go, you know, to the completely other side of the city and just walk around. Also going to the museums, it's free entry with your student I.D. all around Europe, I believe, too. So I definitely love doing that and just, you know, going to parks, having picnics, just walking around and definitely shopping, of course. Anything to add about free time? Yeah. One other thing. What? Like, as you said, it's an enormous city. I mean, I feel like even the two years that I've been here, there's still areas I'd go to. I go to for whatever reason, and I'm like, I just someone here has never been to the city. It's enormous. But one thing I really enjoy, especially when it's on the warmer side towards, you know, the beginning of the fall semester and the end of the spring semester is having picnics in this park over to a park. It's such a beautiful park in Madrid. It's right near the center. It's kind of like almost like Central Park in a way, almost. But it's absolutely beautiful. And while my friends and I will get some blankets out and some food and drinks and sit by the there's a big pond with rowboats and we go gossip by the grass there and picnics. And I love doing that. Great. Okay. Well, I'd like to open it up for Q&A if there are other questions for the students. Feel free to type those into the Q&A function on your screen at the bottom of your screen. I'd be happy to field those questions to our student panel or the other people here from Suffolk, Rafi or Sylvia.
37:38 We'd be happy to clear up any doubts you might have while you're with us.
37:42 So let's see if anything is coming in here.
37:46 Um, there's a question about the EIB credits coming students who are doing the International Baccalaureate.
37:53 So if they get the credits, if that was carried over to the Madrid campus.
38:00 Um, yes, the with the IB diploma, if you earn 28 points or more on the IB diploma, you're you can actually earn a year's worth of academic credit.
38:10 So those credits transfer into your academic program.
38:15 It may take away time from the coursework we offer here in Madrid.
38:19 Right. So those many times transferring as the the classes that we offer for that, those first two years for the most majors, 38:27 it depends on what your exams are, what your major is, how they transfer in.
38:31 But there is a significant time and tuition savings with the IB diploma.
38:42 And let's see what else he has. Do either of you have any experience taking classes or joining clubs at sale?
38:53 San Pablo. Have you done anything with your son, Pablo?
38:58 University. I have not four classes or clubs there because I find myself busy enough for the clubs at the Suffolk.
39:06 Madrid campus were the one that I really love doing is every Thursday is or every other Thursday Spanish immersion club
39:15 where we usually go and get tapas start go see a movie in Spanish or like just last week you've got tapas sort of place,
39:21 which is really nice and we some would be a week or two before that,
39:25 mostly call it some somebody with me, but it was in Spanish and I really enjoy doing that.
39:32 But I personally haven't had the experience with the City of San Pablo.
39:35 Yeah, I think the kids that students that have had that have gone over have been playing sports.
39:41 They've been doing some sports activities. Yeah, I think those are held over there.
39:45 Yeah. Okay. There's a question about how many classes they can take in Madrid.
39:53 Sylvia, would you mind talking a little bit about that?
39:58 How long they can spend in Madrid before making the internal transfer to Boston.
40:02 Could you clear that up a little bit? Certainly for most majors you can do up to two years.
40:08 So that's four semesters. And the first semester is pretty much, you know, more or less the same for for other students.
40:17 There's writing there some core requirements as careers start, things like that.
40:24 But then. Then you can choose different. And then there's Spanish as well.
40:28 And then you can choose other classes such as political science or history or or other that will work towards your major,
40:39 for example, macroeconomics or microeconomics as well.
And science majors can usually stay with us for a year because that will give them enough time to catch up with their math if they need to do their writing requirements and and some of the classes. So we offered a limited number of science majors, specific classes, for example. But for the rest of the majors, mainly two years, they can do very good.

Okay. There's a question about the meals in the residence hall if there's a vegetarian vegan option. Angela, you probably know about that if you've lived there, how that works.

Yes. So basically, you become just like best friends with these kitchen workers.

You know, I'm in a different residence now and I've been here for a little bit over a month. And every time I see them, I ask them how they are. So you kind of build a connection with them.

And because of this, they remember which students are vegetarian and they have already set out for you. They'll even bring it out to the table if it's not ready yet. So it's pretty simple.

You just let them know and and they'll remember from from the non.

Very good. Okay. Well, I don't see any more questions coming in, so I think we're going to wind down.

I'll just share my screen here because I want to.

Remind you that you can make your enrollment deposit to hold your spot. You've been admitted. So now you just need to make the $800 deposit to hold your spot for this fall.

You can log into your admission portal, go to stuff that I need to use,Slash admitted.

And follow the links to pay that online. And we will get you to register for classes and hold the spot in housing for you.

And the deposit is refundable until the May 1st deadline. And that brings us to the end of our webinar on Madrid.

I'd like to thank my colleagues Rafi and Stephanie and Silvia. They've been very helpful in fielding the questions and giving you some information to help you in your decision process.

And Angela and Alex, thank you for giving your personal perspectives.

I know what's going on, 11:00 here in Madrid, and we're in Madrid on midterm exam time.

So I really appreciate your extra efforts. So and thank you for joining us today for this webinar.

If you have any other questions that didn't get answered or something comes up, feel free to email me.

You've got my contact information on the screen. I know I speak for all of us when I say We hope to see you in Madrid this fall.

So that's it for now. After like all areas.