



Statement of Purpose

Studying abroad is an opportunity that would be not only be enjoyable but would also help me in my future career. When I graduate with both my majors in Mexican American studies and in public administration, I would like to be the founder of a non-profit organization that helps children who are citizens of the United States whose parents have been deported. When undocumented immigrants are deported they often have nothing in the country that they once left behind to take their children to nor family here to leave their children with. This non-profit organization would offer the parents the opportunity to let their children stay in this country, while finding a family who will take them in as the child remains in constant contact with the parents. Through this non-profit organization, not only does the child not lose the chance to gain from the opportunities that this country has to offer, but they also don't lose their parents.

Working in this environment would require me to work with parents and children who speak foreign languages, predominantly Spanish. Since most immigrants in recent years have come from Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries, it is important to be able to effectively communicate with them in that language. I am currently trying to teach my eight-year-old daughter Spanish and often find myself needing help with Spanish myself. Being around Spanish speakers in Spain and taking an intermediate Spanish course while abroad will help improve my Spanish. With improvements of my Spanish, I would not only be sure that I am properly teaching my daughter Spanish but can also be of better assistance to the children and parents that I would be working with.

My future career would also expose me to many different cultural backgrounds. The experience of studying abroad in Spain would also be beneficial in that it will further my experience in communicating with people from different cultures. This would be my first time going overseas. The interpersonal speech class that I intend to take while in Spain, focuses on the type of intercultural communication that will be just as useful as the Spanish language.

One of the reasons that I chose to study Mexican American studies is because of my fascination with the origins of the culture of Mexican-Americans. A significant part of Mexican-American identity is born from Spanish heritage. Studying in Spain would allow me to further explore the Spanish side of the Mexican-American heritage. Outside of school, I also happen to study music with a strong Spanish influence called Son Jarocho. I would love to learn more about the communities in Spain who are carrying on this Spanish influenced musical tradition. My interest in studies of culture, intercultural communication, language and music, and most importantly, the benefits that studying abroad in Spain would have on my future career in working with immigrant families makes studying abroad in Spain a fundamental part of the fulfillment of my purpose.



Service Project Proposal

As my service project proposal, I would like to volunteer to at Pre-Departure Orientations to offer advice to respective students studying abroad. My choice of degree in public administration is a testimony to my interest in assisting and leading others. My personality is friendly and welcoming. Having the opportunity to relive an experience abroad in Spain by giving advice to others would not only be a pleasure for me but it would enhance study abroad experiences for students in the Alamo Colleges District.

My ability to remember and articulate my experience in Spain will be useful to students who haven't been because of the amount of information I would be able to share. I would effectively cover the details of the flow of the classes, safety matters, money matters and any other concerns that a student may have about the cultural adjustments that are necessary for studying in a foreign country. I would also be happy to share with students any activities that can be done, that might not be on the itinerary but may be of interest to them during their free time. For example, I plan to visit the General Archive of the Indies while in Seville to do research on some of the history and culture of Spain. If their interest is in the music and dance that Spain is famous for, I could share the knowledge that I already have of the music and dance as well as the knowledge I will be gaining about the music of Spain at the Tablo Flamenco (Flamenco show) and the other cultural events that we will be attending. The knowledge that I gain and am later able to share with students at Pre-Departure Orientations might inspire them to get the most out of their experience while there by pursuing research in subjects of their own interest.