

# Summer Global Internship Program in Madrid, Spain

Grace Schneider, Marketing Major

## Historical Research

In my research I learned that the first settlements were made by the Arabs, and the first important construction of the town was ordered by the Emir Mohamed I. However, after conflict with the Christians, Alfonso VI conquered Madrid and by 1202, Madrid was mostly a hunting ground for the rich. In 1561 Philip II decided to establish the royal Court in Madrid and the city was declared the capital. Today, the city has a population of over 3.2 million people and has the third largest GDP in the European Union. One of the most talked about attractions is the Plaza Mayor which is the city's most famous square and was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by John II. The buildings around the square burned down three times in 1631, 1672, and 1790, but continues to bounce back and be the heart of the city. Madrid also has three art galleries in close proximity called the Golden Triangle, they consist of the Prado which has works of art including Botticelli, El Bosco, Velazquez and Goya. The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza features works by Renoir and Van Eyck. Lastly, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, houses twentieth century Spanish art including Guernica by Picasso. After interviewing a student who recently went on this trip, Lauren Vonderbrink, she stated, "One of my favorite parts of the trip was exploring Madrid's many cafes. I think my biggest advice is to try your best to utilize your language skills and seek adventure. I think that communication with the local community really helped me to immerse myself in the Spanish culture and made Madrid feel more like a home, and not just a place to visit. Lastly, wake up earlier and stay up later and spend all your time soaking in the beauty of Madrid!" The research about Madrid and talking to Lauren helped prepare me and ignited excitement for my travels. This preparation helps me feel more connected to Madrid even being thousands of miles away (creating a home there already).



## Project Description

This summer, I am interning abroad in Madrid, Spain through the Fischer College of Business's Summer Global Internship Program. For my project, I have attended weekly conversation tables every Monday with the Spanish and Portuguese Club to learn, improve, and prepare my Spanish speaking skills for Spain. With no Spanish speaking experience or background, my main focus was learning the conversational basics to hopefully embrace the full experience with the language this summer. Although I was intimidated at first, my peers in the club quickly made me feel comfortable. We have discussed a breadth of different topics including vocabulary, common phrases, but I think the most beneficial part of the group, is listening to others speak. My project also includes research on historical landmarks and restaurants in the city, interviews from past students in the program, the creation of a personal budget for the trip. This project focused mainly on preparing my language skills, however has taught me how to create a budget and enriched me with information and history of the beautiful city of Madrid.



Part of my project has involved researching my expenses and creating a budget. After the program and flight costs (includes my housing), the next big expenses that I researched were work transportation via bus, and travel expenses for weekend trips. I am interested in travelling to some cities like Barcelona, Munich, Budapest, Rome, and even Ibiza. Creating a budget was a really eye opening experience, and has shown me the breadth of expenses that I will incur for the duration of the trip. The weekend excursions cost the most money, however, my aim for this program is to gain international experiences inside and outside the workforce, and I feel that spending my money on travelling is well worth it. Creating this budget keeps me out of debt, has helped me plan and prepare, and has encouraged me to continue to create budgets for the future.

Monthly Expenses	
ITEM	AMOUNT
Total Program Cost	\$4,995.00
Round Trip Flight Cost	\$1,300.00
Bus Transportation	\$40.00
Food (non groceries)	\$120.00
Cell phone	\$40.00
Groceries	\$300.00
Travel Expenses	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$150.00

## How did your experiences impact your academic, personal, and life goals moving forward?

My experiences working with the Spanish and Portuguese Club not only helped build fundamental language skills for my trip, but also connected me to other students in the club and in my scholars group as well. Researching and creating a budget taught me fundamental financial skills, and opened my eyes to the expenses I will incur. I look forward to this opportunity in Madrid, Spain as it could help me better understand my place in the world. Travelling and learning abroad helps me to feel connected to history, to cultures, and to people I meet. I hope to immerse myself in the Spanish language, and I look forward to utilizing and strengthening my communication and business skills by interacting with many individuals, cultures, and businesses of all different types and locations. Through the internship, I hope to be challenged with thought provoking assignments that expand the depth of Marketing, my area of study, and to apply theories learned from the classroom to an introduction into the workplace.

## How has your participation in IA impacted your project?

Being an IA scholar has encouraged me to go out of my comfort zone and try new things with new people. This project especially has prepared me for my experiences abroad but also here at Ohio State. I have participated in the conversation tables with another IA scholar and have built strong relationships with my fellow scholars students that will last a lifetime. Throughout this program, I have learned to think like a global leader and continue to respect other cultures and political systems, and view the world and its issues in other culture's perspectives.

