



Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation: 2007-2008

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad (this does not apply to non-Middlebury students). Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of the Middlebury Schools Abroad/International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 2 inclusive.

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

2. Your academic program

Major

International Studies (Spanish Literature & Culture)

Month & Year of (expected) graduation

June 2009

3. What was the period of your study abroad?

fall semester

spring semester

academic year

spring semester followed by fall semester

4. Given that educational systems abroad differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on your learning, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment?

The Spanish education system made me appreciate the US education system and realize how many American students tend to take the services and opportunities provided for them by the university for granted. I learned to be more patient with the lack of organization in the classes. The Spanish style of teaching environment is very different since grades are based on exams. Since almost all classes are lectures, I gained note-taking and listening skills.

5. AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

6. Please Comment:

Spain and the US are two very different cultures which is reflected in the way that the people act and speak. In Spain, life takes place out in the streets and have a completely distinct lifestyle that revolves around an opposite timetable from that of the US. Spanish culture is also tied to the Catholic Church and celebrates many religious traditions.

7. In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I feel that I've grown a lot intellectually and personally stronger because being on your own in a different country is much harder than being away from home for college in the US. It's important for a person to be confident, independent, open-minded, and patient whenever he/she travels.

8. How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I feel lucky that I had the opportunity to study abroad in Spain because it has been one of the things I've always wanted to do in life. I hope to continue studying Spanish so that I will be able to become a Spanish-Japanese translator or interpreter. I would love to go back to travel and learn more about Spain as well as other European countries in the near future.

9. What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

10. Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

Not at all - it was isolating

Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected

As helpful as I expected

Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected

Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration



11. Please comment on your response to the question above.

Host families were not available for Middlebury although students from other American universities had host families. Finding housing in Logroño was hard because students are expected to find housing on their own the first few days after arrival. So it was very helpful having someone in Logroño help. The residence hall La Ribera is not recommendable since there is not much interaction and expensive. I lived in a moved to a shared apartment with Spaniards from the student residence after half a month. I was happy to be able to have a complete immersion experience by living with native Spanish people from whom I learned a lot.

12. Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

13. If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

.....

14. Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

15. If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

- | | Not helpful at all | Only slightly helpful | Somewhat helpful | helpful | Very helpful |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

16. Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I found a dance studio on my street and took flamenco classes twice a week. I was able to meet older Spanish women and loved learning to dance flamenco.

17. What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

- | | No improvement | Little improvement | Improved somewhat | Improved | Very much improved |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

18. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

19. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

20. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

21. Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I am happy that my Spanish has improved significantly in all components. Living with Spanish girls both from different towns as well as meeting Spaniards in the region and other students learning Spanish helped me pick up differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.

22. Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Spanish language

23. Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

24. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

El Español de América

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de La Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

written exam, oral presentation, graded homework assignment

Please describe the course content:

linguistic aspects and differences between Spanish in Latin and South American countries and in Spain

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

group presentations, some lecture

Other comments about this course:

lots of technical problems, group presentations interesting but not very effective

25. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Conocimiento y Uso de La Lengua Española II

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de La Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

written exam

Describe course content

correct use, grammar rules, and common errors of Spanish language, Spanish expressions

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, texts, handouts, newspapers, song

Other comments about this course:

Handouts helped detect errors, and better understand to explain why wrong

28. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Dialectología Española

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de La Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Written exam

Describe course content

characteristics of Spanish dialects; geographic, historical, social, linguistic aspects of Spain

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, texts, handouts, CD

Other comments about this course:

Explanations and handouts of each dialect in depth helped compare and contrast the dialects of Spain

31. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

32. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

33. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Elementos Constitutivos del Léxico Español

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de La Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Written exam

Describe course content

lecture, texts, handouts, dictionary

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

origins of words, history of Spanish language

Other comments about this course:

Professor asking individuals for definitions helped to remember words and relate them to other words

34. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

35. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

36. Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

37. Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

38. Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat
helpful

Very helpful

39. Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

Yes

No

40. Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

Yes

No

Please explain:

New good small university

41. What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Take advantage of your time abroad by meeting new people, traveling, going to cultural events because time passes by so quickly. Have fun but keep up with the studying throughout the semester to avoid cramming at the end of the semester. Make time to participate in extracurricular activities and attend various events with others. The Universidad de Logroño really looks after the foreign students by offering small classes with kind and understanding professors and International Relations staff. I enjoyed my semester in Logroño, it's a beautiful town and there's always things going because it's not too small or too big, and not too far from other interesting places in the north of Spain. The university facilities are new, classes are small and interesting, most professors are nice, and it's easy to meet ERASMUS students from around the world.

42. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

43. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

44. ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

It was great being able to listen, ask questions and talk with past study abroad students. It would help to have the booklets and dates for the different programs ready a little earlier if possible.

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

2. Your academic program

Major

Chemistry

Month & Year of (expected) graduation

May 2009

3. What was the period of your study abroad?

fall semester

spring semester

academic year

spring semester followed by fall semester

4. Given that educational systems abroad differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on your learning, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment?

It was interesting to see the different educational system. The adjustment was fine. I think any experience in a different setting with different expectations is very rewarding. I do think however that it is not only unfair, but narrow-minded to translate another countries system to the U.S system. I think grades should be pass/fail, as the a translation as opposed to a direct correlation, which is relatively meaningless within the countries system.

5. AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

6. Please Comment:

The purpose and approach to education is entirely different, which is why it is silly to try and map one system to another.

7. In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

It forced independence and allowed me to enjoy a broader life vision as opposed to the narrow minded tunnel that we often get caught up in.

8. How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

It has not influenced them much, but rather put them in perspective.

9. What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

10. Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

Not at all - it was isolating

Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected

As helpful as I expected

Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected

Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration

11. Please comment on your response to the question above.

I think homestay's should be mandatory (or at least offered). I know it is difficult, but it is possible. And if there is one area where middlebury fails to achieve excellence abroad, housing is it! A family offers so much more knowledge than can ever be gained from other living situations. I lived in an apartment with one spaniard and one person from indonesia. I liked them both a lot, but I don't think my spanish improved as drastically as it maybe could have with a family.

12. Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

13. If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

.....

14. Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

15. If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

- | Not helpful at all | Only slightly helpful | Somewhat helpful | helpful | Very helpful |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

16. Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

Kickboxing and soccer, this provided me with the opportunity to actually hang out with spaniards.

17. What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

- | No improvement | Little improvement | Improved somewhat | Improved | Very much improved |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

18. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

19. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

20. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

21. Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

About what I expected.

22. Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Anything with Professor Mangado

23. Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

History

24. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Sintaxis de Oración

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

participation and exam

Please describe the course content:

diagraming sentences and the function of words in a sentence

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture (awesome)

Other comments about this course:

PROFESSOR MANGADO is awesome

25. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

26. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

27. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Microbiología Enológica

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Lab, Lab reports, exam

Describe course content

Wine microbiology -- a study of the microorganisms that effect wine

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture (powerpoint and transparencies) and hands on lab work

Other comments about this course:

I liked doing a science in another country

28. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Los Pueblos de la península ibérica de antigüedad (or something like that, usually referred to as "los pueblos")

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exam

Describe course content

Ancient peoples of the iberian peninsula, which helped to shape the spain of today

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Handouts, readings, lectures, power point

Other comments about this course:

Professor was a bore, but I liked the material

31. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

32. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

El Uso y Conocimiento de la lengua española

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Rioja

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exam

Describe course content

A close examination of all the different types of words, there characteristics and exceptions

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture, book, handouts

Other comments about this course:

I would not recommend this class to anybody.

34. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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36. Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37. Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

38. Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

39. Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

Yes

No

40. If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Housing is poor. But, otherwise the Logroño program is great! Kim Griffin was great, but Teresa Cordova did not seem to do her job ever (she did not come to Logroño for more than 24-hrs total, which was during our initial arrival).

41. Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

42. What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

DO IT!

43. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

44. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

45. ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

Talking with the students that had experienced the same program.