



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 4 inclusive.

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

2. Your academic program

Major

IPE & Computer Science Double

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?

The learning environment focused on theory more than practical aspects. This presented some challenges but has provided me with a different perspective on material I have studied both at Middlebury and in Spain.

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:

Less interaction with profs.
Attendance is not mandatory.
Few big assignments, and the exam counts for at least 70% of the grade, in some cases 100%.

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 have grown significantly in Spain because I had to depend on myself in every area; finding an apartment, cooking, etc. I found it very important to remain calm during stressful situations, and to be able to push myself out of my comfort zone in order to make friends and improve my language skills.

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

Having completed an internship at the Jordanian Embassy in Madrid, my career goals have been altered significantly to include the possibility of pursuing a career in diplomacy.

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 |
|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

Having an apartment allowed me the freedom to invite my Spanish friends over for dinner and deepen the cultural and language exchange.

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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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.

Jordanian Embassy in Spain. It allowed me to interact with Spanish citizens and politicians interested in my home country, as well as study the Jordanian-Spanish relations.

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 wasn't sure what to expect, but I managed to push myself to interact with locals, so I frequented the same stores/coffee shops in order to make connections with locals who worked there.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Focus on theory, more reliance on work outside the class.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Classes are not as structured, and the grade is often given subjectively.

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

The Social Aspects and Politics of the Welfare State, 2nd Year Class

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

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

In class work, midterm on book, final exam.

Please describe the course content:

Studied the components of the welfare state, mainly in Spain and in some other european countries.

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.

The prof. had a summary of notes that he disributed and he lectured from them throughout the semester.

Other comments about this course:

I was the only international student in the class, the students and the professor were very helpful, the class was interesting but the lectures were sometimes long.

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 checked="" 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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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

The EU: Structure and Processes, Senior Seminar, Elective

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

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

Exam, final project.

Describe course content

Focused on the history and organizations of the EU

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.

The prof. lectured for 4 hours, hardly no discussion.

Other comments about this course:

I would not recommend this class as it was a lot of material that was not explained well in class, and the final assessment relied on the exam solely. I had to teach myself a lot of material and the expectations on the profs. were very different from what I am used to in terms of writing style/content. The class was often very boring.

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input 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

Educational TV, Short Course

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

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

Final group project

Describe course content

Talked about how TV and the internet are used to educate people

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.

The first few days, we were lectured by experts in the area, then we had to film a 2 minute spot on a social issue of our choice

Other comments about this course:

very interesting course, i really enjoyed it.

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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 checked="" 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

Advanced Grammar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury School in Spain

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

Daily homework, small papers, final exam

Describe course content

Advanced Spanish grammar

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.

the daily assignments were very helpful

Other comments about this course:

learned a GREAT deal in this class, and it has assisted me in improving my language significantly during my time in Spain

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 checked="" 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.

The landlady of my apartment was an older Spanish woman who had a lot of prejudices against non-white students, and often made homophobic and discriminatory remarks that made me uncomfortable.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

I learned a great deal during my time in Spain, I enjoyed the experience, my language has improved significantly and I was exposed first-hand to the Spanish community.

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

Don't just hang out with American students, try to push yourself out of your comfort zone, and you'll be able to make local friends and improve your language skills. Also, don't freak out if things don't work out the way you planned, there are often many solutions, and panicking isn't the best approach.

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?

It would be helpful to include housing options (maybe where previous students have lived).

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

2. Your academic program

Major

Geography and Economics

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?

I adjusted very rapidly because my main focus was not to have an intense academic experience, or to learn the language, but to experience the student life, the culture of Spain, working environment in Spain, politics of the country, health system, immigrants situation, etc. The classes at the university were actually quite similar to those at Middlebury except for the little interest of some students.

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

6. Please Comment:

I am from Mexico, and the cultures of Spain and Mexico are similar in many ways. I found the differences between the USA and Spain quite big though. There is a much greater sense of sharing and community there, which is reflected in the government and welfare systems which tries to bring equal opportunities to everyone and does not exist in the USA.

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

Tolerance, cooperation and respect are needed for anyone who goes abroad, and I hope the office emphasizes that to everyone before going somewhere else, as I could realize that some people did not enjoy their experience because they could not tolerate differences in the way things are handled in a different culture.

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

It has enriched both. That is the kind of education I like the most.

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 |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

I could live with spanish and undocmuneted migrants and see their relationship.

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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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.

internship at austrade

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input 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 a Spanish native speaker, and language was not my main goal for studying in Spain

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Economics

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

Economia Publica (Public Economics)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Carlos Tercero

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

exams, homework

Please describe the course content:

efficiency and distributive impacts of tax policies

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.

very similar to middlebury classes, better at explaining math and some theory

Other comments about this course:

excellent but very hard because of weak economics background at Middlebury

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

European Economics

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Carlos Tercero

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

papers, homework, exams

Describe course content

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.

lectures without student participation

Other comments about this course:

interesting but bad professor

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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input 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

History of Economic Thought

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Carlos III

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

papers, exams

Describe course content

history of economic thought

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.

lectures with participation of students and discussions

Other comments about this course:

great course

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

Internship at Australian Trade Comission

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Australian Embassy

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

work, and paper

Describe course content

Market research, reports writing, etc

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.

The office staff are extremely helpful

Other comments about this course:

.....

34. 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"/> |

35. 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"/> |

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

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

37. 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

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

Yes

No

39. 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.

The discrimination was not directed at me, but there is a general feeling of discrimination against immigrants including among the site staff

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Spain is great, the staff are very nice, opportunity for internships and availability of many activities because of living in a city

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

Do as many cultural activities as you can, and do not concentrate in academics. Try to get out of the centre of Madrid, and explore the new aspects of spanish life that is brought by the people from other countries who are settling down there

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?

Very helpful for obtaining my visa. Nothing else

45. Further comments:

I know that this survey helps the office a lot for further improvements, but please try to send it at another time cause the last thing I want to do at the beginning of my senior year, when I have to be applying for fellowships, jobs, move in, start classes, etc, is to sit down and answer a 104 questions survey. I think it's great to do it, but perhaps during the summer people find more time to finish it.

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

2. Your academic program

Major

Political Science

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?

Sense of personal responsibility increases. Less communication with professors.

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

6. Please Comment:

Turkey and Spain both have Mediterranean cultures.

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

Independence.

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

Thesis research in Andalusia.

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.

Living in a homestay could have helped more.

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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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.

Independent study on gypsy political mobilization.

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?

Much greater than 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:

.....

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

24. 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

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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

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

Poor

Good

Excellent

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

Poor

Good

Excellent

30. 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

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

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

Study for a year, not one semester.

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

Yes

No

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

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

36. 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 good

37. How did you learn of the Middlebury program? (Check all that apply.)

- searching the web
- a friend who attended a Middlebury program
- a friend (who did not attend a Middlebury program)
- a sibling or other family member
- a faculty member at my college/university
- by attending the Middlebury Language Schools
- a study abroad fair
- a study abroad office/adviser
- a news article

Other

.....

38. Why did you choose this particular program and site?

For improving spanish and traveling in Europe.

39. Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad?

- Completely matched
- Was what I expected for the most part
- Was somewhat different from what I expected
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected

Comments

.....

40. Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion?

- Yes
- No

41. Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?

- Yes
- No

42. How would you recommend that we improve in this area?

Was good enough

43. Were there particular challenges unique to you as a student from another institution? Please explain.

no

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Columbia

2. Your academic program

Major

Comparative Literature

Month & Year of (expected) graduation

May 09

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 system does not require you to go to class and the people participated a lot less, which I found disappointing.

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

6. Please Comment:

I am from Germany and had been to Spain many times, so the culture was not new to me. However, I did become aware of specifically the education system differences, which I had not been exposed to before.

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 know that on the long-term, I want to move to Madrid. I always suspected this, but being there for a semester really made it clear to me.

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

Again, I plan to move back to Madrid, something that I had been unsure of before. I also learned a lot about myself from the Spanish way of life and seeing other people take things in a more relaxed manner in Spain helped me put my own life (and my tendency to stress a lot) into 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 felt extremely at home in my studio apartment and got to know the people who were renting it to me.

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

students already had their established friend groups

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 participated in events organized by ESN the Erasmus student organization, which were fun, but sometimes prevented me from getting to know many Spanish students because all the other students were mostly foreign, too.

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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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?

The progress I made was as expected in terms of speaking, but in terms of grammar and writing, I learned more than I expected. I recommend continuing the language class held at the Sede Prim.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

lack of literature courses in Getafe

24. 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"/> |

25. 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"/> |

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"I learned a great deal in this course."

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| | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

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"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"/> |

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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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"I learned a great deal in this course."

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

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"I learned a great deal in this course."

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

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

40. 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

41. 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

42. 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

43. 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

44. 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"/> |

45. 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"/> |

46. 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"/> |

47. 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"/> |

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

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

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

Poor

Good

Excellent

50. 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

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

you will learn the language!

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

Be open-minded and especially try to find Spanish friends, it will make such a difference! Dont hang out with only Americans.

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

Yes

No

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

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

56. 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?

The materials were clear and well presented.

57. How did you learn of the Middlebury program? (Check all that apply.)

- searching the web
- a friend who attended a Middlebury program
- a friend (who did not attend a Middlebury program)
- a sibling or other family member
- a faculty member at my college/university
- by attending the Middlebury Language Schools
- a study abroad fair
- a study abroad office/adviser
- a news article

Other

.....

58. Why did you choose this particular program and site?

Middlebury is known for its strong emphasis on language learning. Also, I knew that I wanted to go to Spain and specifically Madrid because I wanted to know whether I would want to live there in the future, in addition to perfect my Spanish

59. Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad?

- Completely matched
- Was what I expected for the most part
- Was somewhat different from what I expected
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected

Comments

even more emphasis on learning and speaking Spanish always than I expected

60. Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion?

- Yes
- No

61. Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?

- Yes
- No

62. How would you recommend that we improve in this area?

they were fine and clear.

63. Were there particular challenges unique to you as a student from another institution? Please explain.

Corresponding between my adviser at Columbia and the Middlebury adviser to do course selections. Also, Columbia does not give credit for internships and otherwise I would have done one. I would also have liked to do an independent study.

64. Further comments:

Thank you for making my stay in Spain such a successful one, Middlebury was crucial in improving my Spanish and in letting me learn more about myself and my future. I am very grateful that I got to be part of the Middlebury program. Special thanks go to Teruca and Lena in Spain for their support (and a particular thanks to Lena for a Camino de Santiago I will never forget!). GRACIAS!