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Linfield College: Study Abroad in Spain

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Linfield College: Study Abroad in Spain
Patrick Miller

I am now the World Language Department Chair at Malibu High School, having taught level 1-3 Spanish at Malibu High School for the past 6 years. Having first planned on simply taking the minimum requirements to obtain a B.A., it was not until some prodding from Prof. Juan Manuel Gomez that I decided to continue my studies. The dedication and hard work of my three professors helped me gain a better appreciation for the Spanish language and the knowledge and skills needed to become proficient. Most importantly, my time in Granada, Spain helped me gain the confidence needed and allowed me to truly think in the language. I never say I studied abroad, but rather lived abroad. Having a Spanish roommate, in addition to a host family and creating routines, which allowed me to interact with locals on a daily basis, made me really understand what it meant to be Spanish. Yes, the travelling was nice and I learned enough in my classes, but it was the small daily interactions and experiences through which I learned most about myself, my culture, the Spanish language and their culture. Now, I try and impart that same knowledge, interest and passion upon my own students.

PS: I am finishing up my M.A. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and will most likely be looking for an Assistant Principal job in the fall.

