



Name: Cristin Zaputil

Program: SLU Madrid

Semester and Year: Summer 2017

10 Things Future Students Should Know about your Program

1. Stay close to the city
2. Take a Spanish class
3. Travel around Spain
4. Hangout with people from Marquette but also other Universities
5. Don't go on the SLU lead trips. Nobody signs up and you can get a bigger group on your own
6. Make sure you always check for bedbugs in Airbnbs and hostels
7. Have so much fun and don't worry about the money. Don't buy everything in sight but don't short yourself on experiences
8. Always say yes to learn Spanish dances
9. Roam the city by walking or get very familiar with the metro. If you choose to live in centro then your metro to school is about 15 minutes
10. Have so much fun and if you are there to speak Spanish, then speak Spanish. You can speak English with your friends, but anyone not from the United States you should speak to in Spanish. Practice makes perfect





Name: Lorena Dulce

Program: SLU Madrid

Semester and Year: Fall 2017

10 Things Future Students Should Know about your Program

1. Depending on how many classes you take, the amount of coursework is relatively the same to Marquette.
2. Befriending international students is possible, but you have to put in the effort to meet these students.
3. If you have a problem with your host family, don't be afraid to tell the school about it.
4. Get involved in clubs and activities the school organizes if you find yourself wanting to meet more people.
5. Don't bother bringing a lot of school materials; there's a store close by where you can purchase notebooks, pencils, etc.
6. If you are unfamiliar with the Spanish language, try learning the basics; you cannot assume everyone knows English!
7. Dress up if you want to blend in with the international crowd.
8. Companies like Weekend Student Adventures and Discover Excursions offer organized weekend trips for study abroad students. You should take advantage of this!
9. If you are a vegan or vegetarian, do not fret; there are options for you here in Spain!
10. Go to class! You are there to not only travel, but study. You do not want to fall behind.





Name: Valeria Dulce

Program: SLU Madrid

Semester and Year: Fall 2017

10 Things Future Students Should Know about your Program

1. It is as rigorous as Marquette, because it is an American Jesuit university.
2. SLU Madrid does not provide many opportunities to engage with Spanish students.
3. Most study abroad students at SLU Madrid tend to take classes from Monday to Thursday to travel during the weekends.
4. The cafeteria is the only option to purchase food on campus, but it's good.
5. You will most likely purchase your textbooks at the campus bookstore, which can be quite expensive!
6. SLU Madrid is quite cliquey, with the permanent students sticking together and the visiting students sticking together.
7. Most students must commute to school on the Metro or bus.
8. To improve your Spanish, one must seek opportunities outside of campus at foreign exchange student events.
9. Take advantage of the opportunities to travel with SLU Madrid to cities surrounding Madrid.
10. Make the most of everyday because the semester flies by too quickly!





Name: Maggie Kates

Program: Nursing at St. Louis University, Madrid

Semester and Year: First Semester Junior Year, Fall 2016

10 Things Future Students Should Know about your Program

1. Madrid is an incredibly underrated city, and should be a main destination for anyone visiting Europe. It has beautiful parks, many art museums housing some of the world's greatest artworks, vibrant neighborhoods, and is the center and heart of Spain.
2. Spanish culture is very different from Latin American culture in so many ways that I couldn't have even imagined. You have to go and see it for yourself!
3. There is no better way to learn the Spanish language than by living in a country where that language is spoken.
4. Madrid is a very economical city to visit—a lot of things there are less expensive than they would be in the US, so it's a great place to go if you don't have a big budget.
5. The weather is excellent, especially in the fall. Madrid is full of parks and green spaces, and there is nothing better than sitting out in the sun, watching people row boats in the lake in Retiro Park in October without needing a coat.
6. The food is delightful. There is so much to try in Madrid, and so many dishes that you have never heard of. The food is unlike anywhere else in Europe or the US, and there are a lot of things you will fall in love with that you'll find yourself craving once you come back home.
7. Madrid's public transportation is excellent. It is so easy to get around the city, and very safe. If you are looking for a place where you can go exploring, I would recommend Madrid!
8. SLU-Madrid is a great university, with lots of opportunities to go out and explore or travel with other students facilitated by the school. Going on these trips early in the semester really helped me to build community, and I made some excellent friends at SLU.
9. Madrid has a fantastic nightlife. There are so many places to go, and you can pick the neighborhood based on what kind of night you want. You can find yourself in quirky bars with old-fashioned couches to lounge on or a beach theme complete with sand on the floor. You can go to huge clubs with big crowds, or find live flamenco music at 3 am. There is so much to do after dark in Madrid.

10. Finally, the opportunity to live with a Spanish host family should not be passed up. The Spanish are a vibrant, energetic people with cultural norms and quirks that are both infuriating and fascinating. I loved learning about Spanish culture by living with my host mom, and I would recommend the experience for anyone interested in study abroad.

