

# GRANADA, SPAIN

MCKAYLA MILLER

**Program:** UIUC Spanish Studies in Granada, Summer

**McKayla's Major:** Biochemistry

**Academic Life:** The classroom setting was very small and intimate, so I felt like I really got to know the professors and my fellow students. I was also able to get a lot of practice speaking Spanish in class. The professors were Spanish professors with degrees in teaching Spanish to English-speaking students, and they were all super helpful. The classes were interesting and challenging, but definitely manageable.

**Most Memorable Moment:** Our entire program went on a hiking trip together in the Apujarras (local mountain range) and that was a really cool experience. We hiked for two days in the mountains, stayed in a hostel overnight, and had meals together as a program.

**Advice for Someone Considering This Program:** It was a fantastic program in an incredible city. Granada is the perfect size, and is pretty close to other cool cities in Spain and also only an hour from the coast. The professors were great and very helpful.

**Housing:** I lived in an apartment with an older Spanish woman and her adult son. It was a nice apartment, and I had my own room. Her grandkids would visit every other weekend, and it was fun to interact with them. We got to the point where we got along really well and she was like another grandma to me.

**New Perspectives:** I think that I have a better understanding of how cultures that seem to be pretty similar can actually be very different. I got a taste of what it is like for immigrants and other people living in new conditions that are unfamiliar, and of how difficult that can be. I think that offers me an extra sense of understanding and compassion when working with others.



McKayla at a welcome dinner in the old neighborhood of Granada.

**“ This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, so make the most of it!”**

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