

Christy Welk

WLC 400

MLO5

The fifth Major Learning Outcome, MLO, for Spanish majors at California State University is Cultural Praxis, cultural internalization and immersion. To fulfill this MLO I studied abroad for eleven months during the 2011-2012 academic year in Granada, Spain.

During my time in Granada, I studied at the Centro Lenguas Modernas through the University of Granada and took a total of eight classes all taught in Spanish. I also negotiated and rented an apartment, traveled and lived everyday in a Spanish community. By being in Granada for almost a year, I really feel I was able to grasp the language, experience a new culture and become a part of the community. I made plenty of friends, traveled to many places and experienced new things. My favorite part about studying abroad was meeting new people and trying new food. A major accomplishment during my time in Granada was being able to understand and tell jokes. As I like to make people laugh this was a big deal for me, until I was able to do this I felt very boring in Spanish as I could only convey information, not opinions or be funny. My year in Granada allowed me to do all of that.

I was in Spain during many major holidays including Semana Santa and had Christmas Eve dinner with my landlady and her family. I even participated in various festivals including La Tomatina, Las Fallas and La fiesta del agua y fuego. By the time I left Granada I felt as though I was leaving my second home. Without studying abroad I

would not have been able to continue my Spanish studies, as I do not feel I would be where I am with the Spanish language.

By studying abroad I truly feel I able to gain a unique learning experience one can only receive when living in a foreign country. I feel truly blessed to have studied in Granada and will always remember the best year of my academic career.