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UQ Program: Bachelor of Arts

Everyone I spoke to before going on exchange told me it would be the time of my life, meeting lots of international people and making friendships which will last a lifetime, and they were right. The 5 months that I spent in Salamanca, Spain really were some of the best months of my life. Although a lot of the experience was quite different to what I expected, it was bigger, better and easier than I thought it would be.

I was studying subjects towards my degree in Spanish so they were basically Spanish history and cultural subjects which were really interesting and would not have been the same if not studied in the country. The only problem was the exams at the end, which were worth 100% for all of my subjects, but you get through ok.

The life in Salamanca is pretty easy. The Spanish people really take being laid back to another level. Siesta for 3 hours a day in which all you can do is eat and sleep is a pretty easy lifestyle. The nightlife is amazing. The community is mostly students with a huge international population which makes going out heaps of fun and there are no shortage of bars and clubs (with the 2nd highest bar to human ratio in the world).

The friends I made in Salamanca were mostly international students because the locals tend to keep to themselves, but this has allowed me to travel around Europe visiting people I know.

There are a few experiences in Salamanca that I would definitely recommend.

- 1) Visit the fresh food markets in the morning to do your shopping, it is an experience and the food is amazing and cheap.
- 2) Try the bar Paniagua (ask a local they will direct you). It is a dirty indie music bar with a litre of beer for 3 euros.
- 3) Do a language exchange with a local. You get to meet some really cool people and it makes such a difference to your confidence with speaking.

Suerte para tu intercambio!

