

Adrienne Legg
October 19, 2015
End of Study Abroad Program Report

Thanks to West Chester University's Department of Languages and Cultures, I was able to live out a lifelong dream of studying abroad in Granada, Spain. Without the Lombardi-Braidotti award and WCU's study abroad scholarship, I would not have been able to ride a camel in Morocco, I would never have been able to hold Spanish conversations with local "Granadinos" on a daily basis, and I would never have met some of my greatest friends.

Before studying abroad, I questioned whether or not I should even bring up the topic with my parents. I knew they would be excited for me, but the only issue would be whether or not we, as a family, could afford it. Receiving these awards made it possible for my family to financially handle sending me to a foreign country for five months, it took a tremendous pressure off of my shoulders, and it allowed me to more fully enjoy my time abroad.

I can honestly say that studying abroad was the most enriching, growth-filled season of my life thus far. I learned so much about the Spanish way of life, my Spanish vocabulary expanded exponentially, and I became much more comfortable holding conversations in Spanish. Nevertheless, my learning did not stop there. I learned even more about myself as a person, what I want to accomplish with my life, and how I can be a better global citizen. I learned to truly value and appreciate my family and my home more, while also learning to love the unknown, foreign places of the world, and how to make those places my home too. It has taken some time, but I can see a change in myself after studying abroad, and I believe it is for the better.

Once again, I am forever grateful to the West Chester Languages and Cultures Department not only for awarding me these scholarships and awards that allowed me to live out a dream, but for believing in my abilities as a foreign language learner, and for investing in those

who are brave enough to dive into the unknown and come out on the other side a more informed, worldly individual.