

November 16, 2016

Dear Class of 1955,

My name is Mallory Turner and I studied in Granada, Spain during the fall 2015 semester. I am writing to thank you for your contribution to my experience. Studying in Spain not only helped me perfect my Spanish but also gave the opportunity to grow personally and professionally.

Personally, I was able to develop a sense purpose and being through volunteering, traveling, and interacting with my host family. I volunteered weekly at a residence for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. My time there was spent developing relationships with the residents and gave me the opportunity to see the work that Spain does for disabled populations. In addition, traveling alone to neighboring countries gave me the independence and problem solving skills which are needed in all aspects of life.

Professionally, I was able to develop many skills. By being immersed in a language which I was not fluent in, I was required to learn how my nonverbal actions were read by others. I learned so much about my U.S. culture and how others perceived us. This gave me the ability to approach issues from another perspective and learn how to communicate even when we may not speak the same language.

As I am in my senior year, I have been applying for many positions involving travel and volunteer service. My time in Spain gave me some of the experience needed to successfully travel and work abroad.

Unfortunately, this letter does not even begin to cover my four months of experience. I am truly grateful for your generosity and help for making the trip possible. As many students

struggle to find ways to study abroad, I am thankful not only from myself but also from the entire Cornell community.

Many thanks,

Mallory Turner '17

