



EDUCATION ABROAD CENTER  
OFFICE OF SUMMER ABROAD  
TEL: (530) 757-8308  
FAX: (530) 297-7142  
EMAIL: [summer-abroad@ucdavis.edu](mailto:summer-abroad@ucdavis.edu)

ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

Dear Summer Abroad Parent,

Your college student has expressed an interest in a Summer Abroad Program that I lead in Burgos, Spain, and I would like to provide you with some information about the organization and objectives of the program. As you well know, in our global society, having an experience abroad is a great asset for the education and professional future of the new generations, and UC Davis is making every effort to provide this opportunity to its students.

First of all let me introduce myself. My name is Cristina Martínez-Carazo, I am a native of Spain and I am a professor in the Department of Spanish at UC Davis. One of the most rewarding experiences of my career is taking students to study abroad in my home country, Spain. I have been designing and directing programs in Salamanca, Burgos, Santander, and Madrid for the last fifteen years and I have seen the extraordinary impact that study abroad has had on my students.

The program that I am leading this coming summer in Burgos is meant to introduce students to the rich arts of Spain. As you may know Spain has a long and complex influence of many cultures and the result is an amazing artistic legacy. Celts, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, Arabs, and French left a strong imprint in the architecture, sculpture and painting of Spain.

I would like to give you some reasons why I chose Burgos for this program. First of all Burgos is a very old city, founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century and it has a wealth of artistic monuments that reflect the many cultures that interacted in Spain. It has the most spectacular Gothic cathedral, impressive monasteries like Las Huelgas Reales, in which students will get to see an Arab chapel inside a Christian construction, La Cartuja, and San Pedro de Cardeña. It also has Renaissance palaces and Baroque Churches, medieval neighborhoods, and many modern art galleries.

Besides having this artistic patrimony, Burgos is a very safe city of about 200,000 people. Students live in a new residence very well located, with 24/7 front desk service, within walking distance to downtown and all the appealing activities for them (shopping, restaurants, promenades, entertainment, etc...). All meals are included at the residence, rooms are double or single occupancy with private bathroom, daily cleaning service and weekly laundry service. Safety is the main concern for the University and for you as a parent and in that regard I think that Burgos is an ideal place. This does not mean that students don't need to be careful. Quite the opposite! We have an orientation the first day of the program and they have to follow the safety advice that I give them during that meeting. Besides that the city is very friendly to visitors and it is not too touristy, allowing the students to get a taste of Spaniards' real life. During our stay in Burgos the city celebrates the local 'fiestas' for a week with concerts, dance performances, street shows and bullfighting allowing the students to be part of this joyful side of Spanish life.

From Burgos we take three field trips, to Salamanca, Madrid and Bilbao, to complete our approach to Spanish art. During the first one we spend two days visiting Salamanca, the most famous college town with the oldest university of Spain (13<sup>th</sup> Century) and the richest city for Renaissance art. We stay in a beautiful hotel and students love to have a taste of what college life is in Spain. In our second field trip to Madrid we visit the main museums of Spain, Museo del Prado, Reina Sofía and Museo Thyssen, one of the biggest private painting collections in the world. Since the second part of our course is devoted to painting, students get to see the works of Velázquez, El Greco, Goya, Picasso, Dalí and Miró. We also stay in a great hotel downtown where students can enjoy the cosmopolitan life of Madrid. During the visit we also attend a flamenco show, a great and vibrant part of Spanish culture. Finally we travel to Bilbao to visit the spectacular Guggenheim Museum, which draws visitors from all over Europe.

From an academic standpoint, my objective is to allow students to experience art first hand, teach them to enjoy it, stimulate their curiosity and keep what they have learned for life. When we are in the classroom and study art, a palace, a cathedral or a painting all have the same size - the size of the image projected on the screen. But feeling the space inside an immense cathedral, going up to the towers, seeing a painting like the Picasso's Guernica (11ftx25ft) is a totally different experience, a unique one that will leave solid traces in the students' mind. Many students say after the program that they cannot walk anymore in front of a monument or painting without asking themselves to which style or period it belongs.

Besides our tight schedule (daily classes plus art visits) students also have free time to travel with friends or to experience the city at their own rhythm. Given the fact that distances in Europe are short compared with the United States some students use a weekend to fly from Madrid to London, Paris, Rome or Amsterdam, less than two hours away.

I hope this information helps you to have a clear view of the Spanish Art program and alleviates any concerns that you may have about your son's or daughter's experience abroad. For information about fees, units, and dates please see: <http://summer-abroad.ucdavis.edu/programs/current-programs/program.aspx?program=2051>. I will be more than happy to answer any of the questions you may have about the program. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [cmmartinezcarazo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cmmartinezcarazo@ucdavis.edu).

I am looking forward to sharing this rewarding experience with your college student.

Sincerely,

Cristina Martínez-Carazo  
Associate Professor  
Department of Spanish  
University of California, Davis