

**Madison Zimmerman**  
**Alcalá de Henares, Spain Summer 2022 Study Abroad Program**

Hello! My name is Maddie Zimmerman and this past spring I participated in the Education Immersion Study Abroad Trip to Alcala, Spain. During this experience, I stayed with a host mom, Rosa, and a fellow ISU student as my roommate. I decided to embark on this journey to learn more about how to be a mindful future educator about new cultures and backgrounds for all my future students and coworkers.

After living with my host mom, exploring the cities, and immersing myself in all the culture in Spain, I have learned so much about how to be an informed citizen and future educator to students of different cultural backgrounds. While working with my co-teacher and all my students in the Spanish school system, I learned how different educational curriculums, student behaviors, and classroom expectations can be in different cultures, especially compared to American school systems.

After gaining this new knowledge, I have been able to apply it to real life as I have been working at a local daycare that is well known for its diverse population of enrolled families and their children. After this experience, my actions and teaching ideologies as a toddler teacher with a highly diverse population have greatly improved from my teaching ideas from last summer. I am able to provide a better-quality cultural appreciation for my students of different backgrounds starting from a young age.

Then, after this summer, I will start my field base experience in Decatur, IL this fall. With this new experience starting, I feel as if I am ready to be able to provide and safe and loving environment for my students of all backgrounds and cultures by listening to my students and their ideas and beliefs and incorporating that into my teachings.

This experience has been truly life changing and I greatly encourage all who can participate to do so. I have made new lifelong friends, and memories that I will cherish forever. I also learned so much about myself as a person and as a teacher that will impact my life in positive ways for years to come.

