

**Sydney Stahly**

**Alcalá de Henares, Spain Spring 2024 Student Teaching Program**

During the spring 2024 semester, I had the amazing opportunity of living in Alcalá de Henares, Spain for two months. Here, I have been able to satisfy the remainder of my student teaching requirements after student teaching for eight weeks in Illinois.

This experience has blessed me with the opportunity to live with a host family, work with 1st and 2nd-grade English learners, and travel to different Spanish cities and other European countries as well. Not only have I been able to explore different aspects of the Spanish culture and school systems, I have been able to build deep connections with residents and other study-abroad students from ISU and other universities.

In addition, I have been on a journey of personal growth as well. Studying and living abroad has pushed me beyond my comfort zone in numerous ways. From the challenges and experiences I have faced during my time here, I can confidently say I will be returning to the US much more resilient and independent than when I left for Spain.

Not only have I grown as an individual during this experience, but I have grown as a future educator. I have learned new teaching strategies and gained new perspectives from working in a Spanish school. I am looking forward to implementing these techniques in my future classroom and sharing my experiences with my students and colleagues.

