Housing Comments From Students
Who Participated In The Study In Madrid Program 2013

Whitney:
I stayed in an AirBnB accommodation and I enjoyed it. I stayed in a private room in a 3bd home with my host in Getafe. I liked that I was able to get the local perspective and away us Americans!

Nancy:
Neighborhood called Chueca which is close to Puerta del Sol metro station. This is neighborhood is known to cater to the gay population of Madrid. This is a lively and very fun neighborhood. I would not suggest this neighborhood for those that require a peace and quiet at night and in the early mornings. Noise in this neighborhood is excessive. That being said, the neighborhood is very, very fun with great places to eat and drink. I would definitely suggest this neighborhood.

Bradley:
Last year I stayed in the dorms located in Getafe at Fernando de los Rios. Below is my pro/con list as well as some general comments.
In general, the dorms are the easiest but certainly not the nicest option. As long as you go into it with the mentality that you’re staying in a college dorm and not a hotel you should be fine.

A lot of people who weren't happy were expecting hotel quality from the dorm which seemed a bit ridiculous to me. I was occasionally annoyed by little things not being easy (mostly the heat at night), but I got what I paid for and that's part of the adventure of travel.

This year though, I will be renting a apartment in downtown Madrid.

Pros:
- Proximity to classes and walking distance meant never being late due to the trains which is nice given the attendance requirements.
- Dorms had kitchenettes and the local Supermercado nearby made it easy to prepare simple lunches and breakfasts for low costs (there are no dishes or cookware though, so I stress "simple" meal prep on purchased disposable flatware).
- The cost was very reasonable, roughly $50 USD per night.
- Easy and safe to set up. Since it's part of the program it was easy to sign up for (relatively) but I had full confidence I would have a room on arrival.

Cons:
- Administration was difficult to deal with especially having to find a place to stay the last day because they decided to close the dorms on the last day we were there.
- Far from the city center, the local trains close down at night around 10pm and dinner in Madrid doesn't really start until 9pm so if you go out you can take the train but coming home you almost always have to take a cab which is about 20 Euro from the city center.
- The Air Conditioner turns off from 10pm - 10am and it is ungodly hot in the dorm rooms. I ended up sleeping with a cup of ice next to me, all the vents on the balcony open, and with little more than a bed sheet but still woke up sweating and unable to sleep, also venting the room does let the bugs in.
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- The door keys demagnetize at random causing you to have to get new ones from the front desk whose staff does not speak English. Also, the front desk has to buzz you in at night and is often not at the desk causing you to wait outside until they notice you.
- They will not call a cab for you, and cabs cannot pick up from the street. So if you need a cab from the dorm you will have to be able to call for it yourself.
- Housekeeping only comes every few days and when they do they will obliterate any order you've created in your room as they sweep your belongings to one side to clean the surfaces.

Maily:
I would just caution students looking at apartments on Airbnb to really do their research. Avoid places the locals would consider seedy as these places compromise safety as well as fail to provide necessities like convenient restaurants and shopping places. Also, when browsing Airbnb, make sure the photos of the apartment show wide sweeping shots of the rooms. Close up shots of random corners or objects in the apartment usually indicate the owner has something to hide. Some airbnb hosts really care about and put effort into their rentals, and this will show through their photos. This is the biggest lesson I've learned using airbnb. That said, I highly recommend airbnb. I used it in London and Iceland immediately after I left Spain and had no complaints in those countries.

I also split my time in Madrid staying in the dorms at Getafe campus. I thought the dorms were great, although I wish they had left more food options open for the summer. I understand the program won't return to the Getafe campus so perhaps this feedback is moot.

Heather:
I got a fabulous deal in an awesome location- an apartment right next to Plaza Mayor for $70/night. I booked through airbnb. Here is the link to the apartment I stayed in: [https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/755587](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/755587). The couple I rented from own several apartments in the same building, and another student also stayed in one of theirs and also had a great experience.

You can feel free to pass on my contact info if anyone would like to talk to me more about it.

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