**Basic Information**

Full Name: Keavash Darren Assani

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College: McMicken Arts & Sciences

Major: Biology (Biomedical Sciences), Chemistry

Minor: Spanish

Title of Project: SPAIN: 2014 Summer Program in Madrid (Faculty-led)

Thematic Area: Global Studies

Expected Project Start Date: May 12

Expected Project End Date: June 20th

1. **Project Information**

**Abstract**

This summer I will be studying abroad in Madrid, Spain in a faculty-led trip. Madrid is the liveliest of cities, and has an unparalleled cultural offerings. With Spain Today I will be in class with Carlos M Gutiérrez who is a Professor of Spanish and the Director of the Madrid Summer Program. We will learn the Spanish language and explore all aspects of Spain and its culture that cannot even be found in a textbook. We will study the current events through newspaper articles, study history, learn about geography and much more. The whole class will be primarily Spanish-speaking based. I am most excited to develop my skills in the Spanish language and learn everything that this program has to offer. I feel I will become a more enlightened individual. I will grasp a better understanding of how different cultures interact which will help me to be able to relate that learned experience when meeting other individuals of different cultures. Being actively involved in the Madrid culture I will be forced to learn Spanish. This will hopefully allow me to learn Spanish much more quickly than if I were to learn the information in a class at UC, plus I am gaining the hands on experience which a class cannot provide. I also plan to observe others in the classroom and throughout the city. My goal is to observe the progress of the students as well as myself and see how I progress through the course relative to learning and being able to speak. I will observe the participation habits and monitor them. I will also watch to see how everyone interacts with the culture of Madrid. With these observations I will be able to reflect on the information and be able to further develop myself by seeing how others participate, what works best, who is accelerating the quickest and why.

This experience will benefit me substantially as a person, a student, a Spanish speaking individual, future med-student and a doctor. Through this extensive study program I will travel, learn, grow, experience Spain and all the wonderful things it has to offer. I am going above and beyond what my fellow classmates at the University of Cincinnati. I am going to be submersing myself into the Madrid culture and learning a language first hand. This will help me to learn and progress much more quickly and will help me in my future career as a doctor. From this trip I will be able to communicate with patients who do not speak English well and also be able to understand their culture better.

This program is aimed at beginners, intermediate, minors and Spanish majors and earns up to 13 total credits, 10 transfer credits and 3 UC credits from SPAN 3083 Spain Today. Through this experience 25 contact hours plus daily cultural activities will occur per week through a 6 week program, coming to a total of 150 in class contact hours. There will also be field trips to world class cultural sites. While there we will be in a family stay with another student from UC (double occupancy). We will be provided 2 meals a day: breakfast and either lunch or dinner.

Information of a specific itinerary are not yet provided, but once they are they will be posted.

1. **Connections to Learning Outcomes within Honors Thematic Area**

* Possess global literacy, including knowledge of geography, history, current world issues and similarities and differences among cultures

This program is not only about learning the Spanish language, it is also about becoming a more aware individual who will gain an understanding on what everyday life is actually like. Through the class SPAN 3083 Spain Today I will learn many aspects of the culture, geography, history, and current world issues. These classes are designed to help submerse oneself into the Spanish culture and gain a better grasp of everything Madrid has to offer all the way from culture and exciting places to go to current events and history. This coursework is going to be very intensive. We will study newspaper articles during class and as homework to be aware of the current events that are happening and also listen to music to help learn. The class will be nearly completely Spanish-speaking based. This will force me to speak Spanish and hopefully develop my Spanish speaking skills so that I can better communicate with members of the community. It is going to be very fascinating to communicate and interact with native speakers and hear what they have to say. It will be interesting to see what they think of Americans typically and other common stereotypes. Being directly involved with the culture of Spain everyday will help me to understand the differences and similarities. I look forward to observing these and documenting them in my journal. While recording what has occurred in my journal I will constantly reflect on things and be able to incorporate them in a way that will help me better communicate with people and understand a multitude of cultures.

* Interact with individuals from different cultures and express a sensitivity, appreciation and respect for the complex range of experiences of diverse peoples

Through the time period that I am in Madrid I will be constantly immersed in the culture. I will be able to talk and communicate with many natives so that I can gain a better understanding of individuals and how different cultures interact. I think it will be a very eye opening experience. I know from my roommate last semester who was from Querétaro, Qro. Mexico, that the way of life in Mexico is very diverse from the ways of life here in America. These differences are shown in school work, jobs, nightlife, society, food, etc. There is so much to learn and with opening eyes I am quite excited to learn all that I can. I am probably most enthusiastic to see what people from Madrid like to do in their free time and also see what kinds of fun places and activities that there are to do. From what I have heard from Dr. Gutierrez, the nightlife of Madrid is extravagant. They like to celebrate and dance a lot. The music and the way they dance will also be interesting to see. In these different activities that I engage myself in I will be able to see how people of different cultures go about their life and what there is to do. Since I will be in a family stay, I will learn an abundant amount from them and how they do things in everyday life. I will be with these people a large part of the day. They will provide two meals a day for me so seeing the type of food that they have will be interesting. It will be interesting to see how actual Spanish food tastes in different countries and what types of dishes they have compared to Mexican restaurants in the U.S. There is so much to learn and with opening eyes I am quite excited to learn all that I can. There is so much diversity and differences all around the world, this will be an enlightening experience that will hopefully give me a greater appreciation and respect for diverse peoples.

* Participate in a global society and understand the role of a global citizen

A global citizen is someone who identifies with being part of an emerging world community and whose actions contribute to building this community's values and practices. While abroad one of my goals is to observe people in my classroom as well as myself and also other people within the Madrid community to gain a better understanding of how they participate in class, how they progress with learning a language, and how they interact with people in the city as well as how those individuals interact with us students. With observing the citizens of Madrid I will observe differences and similarities in things that they exhibit throughout their daily lives. This information will help me to better understand the role of a global citizen. I will personally see and interact with all kinds of people in Madrid with diverse backgrounds and upbringings. I will engage in conversations, participate in activities and learn about the culture from individuals and information learned from the class. I will gain an understanding of what it is to be a Madrid citizen. Participating in a global society through going out to eat in restaurants, being with the host family, going out into the nightlife, taking field trips, reading newspaper articles are all things that will help me to understand what different cultures are all about. With all of this immersion I will be able to be part of an emerging world community to help understand and build the community’s values and practices. I will be able to spread my knowledge of all the information I learned so that I can contribute to global understanding of different cultures. I can do this by dissemination. I will spread all that I have learned and observed to different groups, Spanish classes, and to family and friends. I will also put the information on my Weebly account so that anyone can view the information if they please.

1. **Connection to Goals and Academic Theories**
2. In the future I want to become a doctor. I want to grow not only as a person but as a student so I can be the best that I can be. Helping people is my number one moral and I feel by being a doctor it is a way to give back to the community. In order to become the best doctor that I can become, I feel that having a background in the Spanish language will be most beneficial so that I can speak to non-native Americans who do not speak English very well so I can best diagnose those individuals and be the best doctor I can be. It is a valuable skill in many other aspects also such as talking to individuals, eating at restaurants, business, etc. Another reason I am studying abroad in Madrid, Spain is so that I can establish that goal in the most efficient and beneficial way possible. It will allow me to become fluent in the language and learn much about Spanish culture which will help me when learning and understanding the cultures of my future patients. There is a lot of Spanish speaking individuals who immigrate into the United States looking for jobs that cannot speak English well. By learning the language now I will be able to best help those patients in diagnosing their condition. This will help my main priority in life of giving back in a unique and beneficial way. I also want to self-develop greatly. The way that I view life is that if you are not moving forward then you are stationary or moving backwards and not progressing in life, so how is that living? This experience will test me in numerous ways that will provide me with insight on myself and therefore give me the ability to reflect on those experiences and make me a better me. It will help disestablish ignorance that I may have unknowingly learned and come to a better understanding of different cultures. Everything about studying abroad fascinates me and I feel will help me personally as an individual, student, future med-student, and future doctor and put me ahead of fellow peers and colleagues.
3. Chickering’s Theory of Identity Development (1969)

This theory is based on the core development issue that students encounter during college. It uses seven vectors to identify development which include: Developing Competence, Managing Emotions, and Moving through Autonomy toward interdependence, developing mature interpersonal relationships, establishing identity, developing purpose and developing integrity. With these vectors I will observe key factors that influence my personal development based and see how I develop as an individual. Self-reflection is very important so I will keep a track of how I myself change. With this I can also track how I change with my language speaking development and interactions with the Madrid culture. I hope to personally grow substantially in this experience. I am actively introduced to several different cultures here on campus in my dorms, classes, organizations, etc, but none of these experiences can provide the experience that studying abroad in a country for six weeks can give you. I will be gone for a long time without seeing my family and loved ones, which of course will be very hard. Studying abroad will show how I deal with these things and why I deal with them the way that I do. Once I know this I will be able to make myself better by being able to better deal with the situation. Being involved in a completely new culture will also be very beneficial to my self-development. I hope to learn all about the culture so that I can to become more culturally aware and become a global citizen and best contribute to the community. Examining and reviewing how I interact in the culture will teach me about how I feel about different cultures and how comfortable I feel within them in the beginning of my trip relative to towards the end. I hope that I can grow in a way so that I can become comfortable interacting in everyday life of the Madrid citizens. I want to self-develop and improve myself in the best way possible through this program and of course, the best way to do this is through reflection and analyzing then applying what I have learned to the multiple situations.

http://www.forumea.org/documents/Fri4-8-11UtilizingStudentDevTheoryRaderandLuzader.pdf

Numerous Culture websites and guidebooks

Using these websites and the guidebooks I will be able to gain a better understanding of the Madrid Culture and what Madrid has to offer me. These sources will give me valuable information on currency exchange, exciting sites to see, monuments and museums available, the nightlife, flights, cultural aspects, useful videos on experiences and information on what Madrid is like and about, and services and businesses in Madrid. This information will be very beneficial in the way that it will help me be prepared to know everything that Madrid has to offer. It will make me more aware of how I can go about in the daily life of Madrid and fit in with the social aspects of Madrid life more easily and be able to interact with others better. It will make navigation and planning of activities much easier.

http://travel.state.gov/

http://www.spain.info/en/que-quieres/ciudades-pueblos/grandes-ciudades/madrid.html

http://www.esmadrid.com/en/portal.do

http://www.tourspain.org/madrid/

http://www.red2000.com/spain/madrid/

Spanish 1-4 in high school

Basic Spanish II Class 1st semester of College

All through high school and the first semester of I took Spanish class every day. In college I took Spanish II the first semester everday. In these classes we spoke Spanish often, watched Spanish films, read and evaluated Spanish articles and newspapers, and listened and interpreted songs. We also had to submit weekly activities online though conjuguemos.com and vhlcentral.com. The activities entailed vocabulary, listening, conjugating, stem changing, Fotonovela, context, culture, further learning, and review. There were several tutorials and videos about different cultures and way of life in different Spanish speaking countries. All of these aspects of the classes advanced my knowledge of Spanish and the culture of other countries by means of their food, music, daily lives and more. This information will be very beneficial because I will be able to use and apply the information I have gained in Madrid. I will be able to use the language to communicate in the classroom, the community and in my homestay. The cultural aspects of my Spanish courses have opened my eyes and given me a better understanding of what there is to expect when studying abroad.

**Initiative, Interdependence, and or Creativity**

Not everybody studying at the University of Cincinnati gets the opportunity to study abroad and learn extensively about the language and culture of a new country has to offer in a firsthand way. By doing this experience I am setting myself apart from my peers and future colleagues in a unique way. As a doctor learning Spanish and understanding different cultures will give me the ability to communicate with people of Spanish speaking origin in their own language so they can communicate with me so that I can best diagnose and treat patients while respecting their culture. While in Madrid I also plan to create an experience unique that will help me develop further and also help others develop further by displaying and disseminating what I have learned.

Through this program I will be a student within a class of nearly 30 others from the University of Cincinnati. I will be actively communicating in class and so will the other students. My plan is to watch and observe the students as well as myself and track their progress in how they participate, how well they are accelerating though the course and also how they interact with others. In a way it will be a social experiment and there will be many aspects that I will have to look out for such as grades, activity and participation. This will help provide a way to see how quickly in a new country develop. I could even further do research on my own time of how quickly students not immersed in the country learn compared to those who are. I also want to see how they interact with the culture and other natives of Madrid. I have many research skills that I have gained at UC. I am a biology pre-med and chemistry major and also a Spanish minor. I have been in many labs that have given me proficient research skills. I have been in Spanish classes at the university also that will help me in these explorations. I will make sure that I do not violate any of the students or citizens’ rights when performing this experiment. By performing these observations and reflections I will be able to gain a better understanding of what it will take to be a global citizen.

**Reflection**

Each night I write a journal of my daily proceedings and how they affected me. I make sure that I reflect upon my experiences and how I can further use those experiences to help me. With this program I plan to take that a step further and keep a detailed journal of how the culture interacts with one another, differences and similarities, what I learned from the classes and what I learned from the field trips I visited and how they impacted me. This will help give me an outlook of the culture of Madrid, become more appreciate and respect diverse peoples, and participate in a global society and become global citizen. I also want to observe how others and myself interact in the program and how we all develop. I will keep a separate journal for that and reflect on those observations and be able to see our individual progression so that I can better understand how everyone interacted and developed so I can better develop my learning and comprehension skills making me a better person and student.

**Dissemination**

What is the use of learning all this information if you cannot spread the word!? I plan to discuss all my findings and my experiences with multiple groups. Some groups that I think would be beneficial to discuss the information would be groups that I am involved on in campus such as University Honors Association, Alpha Epsilon Delta, MAPS, CADUCEA and the National Kidney Foundation. Since I am actively involved in these organizations and am a leader of some sort in each of them I will be able to display this information to them I can increase their knowledge and help teach them so that they can become better individuals themselves and motivate them to study abroad so that they can self-improve in similar ways as well as unique ways as me. I can also go to different Spanish classes to talk to them about my experiences because I feel it would be beneficial for them to know what that culture is like. I’m sure they would be interested and have a multitude of questions to ask. I also will put my experiences on Weebly.com so that others can go to my website and view what I’ve been up to. I can advertise that through Facebook, twitter and other social media.

**Project Advisor**

Carlos M Gutiérrez

Title: Professor of Spanish. Director, Madrid Summer Program

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Tel: 513-556-1239

Email: carlos.gutierrez@uc.edu

**Budget**

Tuition

MLTI 3000

$200

Program Fee

$525

UC Tuition Fee

$3,656

Room & Board

$1,300 approx.

Airfare

$1,200

Other Costs

ICIS card

$25

Field Trips & Local Transportation

$200

Third meal of Day

$5 a day x 7 days a week x 6 weeks=

$210

Total Costs

$7306