

# THE SNC STUDY ABROAD

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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### PROGRAM of the MONTH

*University of Virginia  
Hispanic Studies  
Program*



*Valencia, Spain*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EVENTS

Check out our [Events](#) page for a complete listing of study abroad events.

### QUESTIONS

Have a question about going abroad? Check out our [FAQ's](#) page. It's a great resource to help answer your questions.

### PROGRAMS

Looking for a [complete list](#) of study abroad programs? With over 75 programs in 37 countries, you're bound to find the perfect program.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Searching for additional funding for your semester (or year) abroad? Glance at our [Scholarships](#) page for various funding opportunities.

### SPRING 2012 STUDENTS

Glance at our [world map](#) to see where the Spring 2012 students are studying.

### WALK-IN ADVISING

*Tuesdays & Fridays*

*3:00pm - 4:00pm | Bemis 321*

Need more information about studying abroad? Stop by [Jeremy's](#) office to learn more. No appointment is necessary.

**El programa de Estudios Hispánicos en Valencia ofrece a nuestros estudiantes una oportunidad única e incomparable. Students travel to the third largest city in Spain to study with the University of Virginia's program that is specifically designed for study abroad students from the United States.**

Upon their arrival, students are given a placement test that directs them to the appropriate level of courses. While the courses are taught by native speakers of Spanish, the students come from various U.S. universities. The program offers several [courses](#) that align with the SNC Spanish major and minor. Starting in Fall 2012, the University of Virginia will be offering a new track of business courses.

Spring semester students who are more linguistically proficient may



take up to two courses at Universidad Católica de Valencia. This experience allows SNC students to take courses side by side with Spanish university students.

Students stay with host families throughout Valencia who provide three meals per day. The majority of students have an American roommate who is also participating in the program. Students have the option of a group flight from New York to Valencia, which helps with the transition of going abroad.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Fútbol, Mamá, & Papá by Parker Phillips

My name is Parker Phillips, and I spent my semester abroad in Valencia, Spain last spring (2011). It was an incredible experience that was made even better by my wonderful host family and a whole lot of “fútbol.” For me, soccer is plays a big role in my life, and I have grown up playing and watching soccer around the world. I was lucky enough to attend several matches while in Valencia, and see some of the craziest fans in Spain in the process. It was also cool to walk by a stadium that seats close to 60,000 people several times a week as it was near school. The culture is much different than in America, and many of the fans are cheering and singing songs throughout the entire match.



I also enjoyed my host family a lot. My “mamá” Maribel was a very kind lady who loved to talk and was almost as good a cook as my mom back home. Her husband Paco, my “papá” was a hilarious older gentleman who loved the Spanish bullfighting scene. It was very different living in a situation where I had to speak Spanish every day just to get by, but I loved every minute of it. If I were to study abroad again, I would not mind living with a host family. Overall, I loved my experience abroad and would do it 100 times over if I could.

(Continued from page 1)

Outside of the school activities, students can travel to many places in Europe. Many types of transportation are available in and around Valencia, including busses, taxis, and trains. That said, walking remains the most popular form of transportation around the city. Valencia’s location on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea gives students the option to visit the beaches that are only a few miles away.

The beautiful city of Valencia elegantly mixes old charm with newer, modern public services, business establishments, and attractions. Students have plenty of monuments and museums to check out, such as the Fine Arts Museum and Modern Art Museum.

To learn more about the program in Valencia, along with other Spanish language programs, visit the SNC Study Abroad [web site](#). You may also contact [Rosemary Sands](#), Director of Study Abroad.

## Scrubbing in ... in Valencia by Stephanie Raab

One of my biggest worries about going abroad had to do with my classes. I am a biology major hoping to go to medical school next fall, and a semester with no science classes was completely terrifying to me, especially since I was scheduled to take the MCAT a month after returning to the States. The opportunity that I had in Valencia, however, was so much more educational than any science class I've ever taken. The school provides the students with the chance to participate in service learning internships. When I found out there was one on the cardiology floor of El Hospital General de Valencia, I knew I had to apply for and get that internship. I was chosen for the spot and for the entire semester, I got to shadow Dr. Juan Martínez León, the best cardiologist in Europe. My very first time in the operating room, Dr. Martínez León looked at me and asked me if I wanted to scrub in. I washed my hands with the ugly yellow soap I've seen surgeons and Grey's Anatomy characters use countless times and slipped my arms into the surgery gown. Before I knew it, he handed me a tool used to hold open the patient's rib cage. I was actually helping this man as he dissected someone's heart. It was an experience I would never had had if I did not choose to study in Valencia. It will look amazing on my resumé and it is *definitely* something that I will never forget.



**SNC STUDY ABROAD BLOG***Global Knights. Local Daze.*

*The following excerpt comes from Keri Hodnik's post, Just Do It! Keri is currently studying abroad in London, England, with the Foundation for International Education (FIE).*

The decision to study abroad is one that many people struggle with. They are afraid they are going to miss school, friends, parents, boyfriends or girlfriends, and they let this fear convince them that studying abroad is not worth it. I want to take the time to tell every single one of you who are on the fence about studying abroad to **JUST DO IT!** I admit that watching my parents and boyfriend fade into the distance as I walked toward my gate at O'Hare was one of the hardest things that I have ever done, but my time in London has been the experience of a lifetime. I know that I myself have changed since I first arrived. I have grown to be more independent, more open-minded, and more cultured.

There will not be many opportunities in life that are like studying abroad, where you can experience an entire lifestyle ...

*Continue reading Keri's post on the SNC Study Abroad blog, [Global Knights](#), [Local Daze](#). Follow the other Fall 2011 study abroad students as they reflect on their experiences abroad.*

## Top Sites in Valencia, Spain

Valencia, situated on the Mediterranean coast and best known as the birthplace of paella, also boasts many tourist attractions, including the following:

### City of Arts and Sciences

The work of Valencia's own Santiago Calatrava (who also designed the new wing of the Milwaukee Art Museum), this complex is an example of architecture at its most futuristic. It houses Europe's largest aquarium (the Oceanográfico), an opera house/performing arts center, a science museum and an IMAX cinema.

### Plaza de Ayuntamiento

The Plaza del Ayuntamiento is the largest square in Valencia, and undoubtedly the most impressive. Take a seat at a café and spend an afternoon admiring the incredible neoclassical and modernist buildings that surround the square.

### Plaza de la Virgen

Plaza de la Virgen is the picturesque emblem of the Old Town: the Basilica de la Virgen, the back portal of the Cathedral, and the monumental Palau de Generalitat.

### Cathedral

The Cathedral, consecrated in 1238 by the first bishop of Valencia after the Reconquista, is the religious center of Valencia. It is a spectacular hybrid of styles, from gothic to baroque to neoclassical. The Cathedral houses what is purported to be the Holy Grail but controversy surrounds this claim.

### Torres de Serranos

These towers, supposedly the largest Gothic city gateway in all of Europe, were constructed at the end of the 14th century as part of the city's fortification. They, along with the Torres de Quart, are all that is left of the walls that used to completely encircle Valencia's city center.

### La Lonja

One of the best preserved and most stunning examples of gothic architecture in Europe, La Lonja was once a silk market during the Golden Age of Valencia.

### Mercado Central

This masterpiece of modernist architecture in Valencia was inaugurated by King Alfonso XIII in 1928 and is one of the oldest continuously-running markets in Europe. With a surface area of over 8000 square meters, inside you can find almost anything in the more than 1000 stalls selling fresh fish, vegetables, meat, fruit, and more.

### The Port

Atmospheric old docks, ultra-modern America's Cup Port complex, and great sea views await you.

by the  
**NUMBERS**

**224**

**the number of posts on the  
snc study abroad blog,  
global knights. local daze.**