Postcards From Spain
2016 TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENT
DEVON CHASE SHARES SNAPSHOTs FROM HIS SEMESTER IN SPAIN

What was one thing that surprised you about your experience?
How close I would become with the other UVic students who were abroad. Of course, I met many incredible people from around the world who I will be close with for life, but I didn’t expect to return to Canada with some of my new best friends living so close to home!

What is the most important thing someone going abroad for the first time should pack?
I think the key message is to not pack too much. So much travelling can be done while on exchange, and being able to put everything that you need for a quick trip in one backpack is a must.

This past year Gustavson introduced international study travel grants. Thanks to the generosity of more than 30 alumni and community donors, three undergraduate students were provided with funds to help finance a semester abroad. If you’re interested in supporting future travel grants, visit: extraweb.uvic.ca/innovation/travelgrants

What was a new business idea or concept you learned while abroad?
I learned a lot about different adventure tourism ideas when hiking and camping in Norway. I’d like to make outdoor activities more accessible and affordable for tourists. Often, unless you know locals or can afford your own transportation, many outdoor pursuits are out of reach for visitors.

What was one thing that surprised you about your experience?
How kind everyone is all over the world and how willing people are to help you. Honestly, I asked and received so many times. People were so willing to lend a hand. Whether it was hitchhiking across countries or asking for help translating, so many experiences were made possible thanks to the help of others.

What is the most important thing someone going abroad for the first time should pack?
A carry-on sized backpack. You would be surprised how much you can fit in it. It saves you SO much money when flying. Some budget airlines charge the same for a checked bag as they do for the original ticket!

What was your most memorable day/moment?
1) Watching the sunset from Pulpit Rock before spending the night camping overlooking Norway’s unbelievable fjords.
2) After spending the night in a mountain refuge and cooking with 20 local Moroccan men, summiting the highest peak in North Africa—Jebel Toubkal.

How did it impact your future career?
The experience really propelled me to seek international opportunities and work toward gaining a well-rounded business foundation from different cultures, industries and countries in general. After exchange I had the confidence to seek a co-op position in Australia and I hope to continue working internationally and exploring new countries in the coming years.

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Postcards From Prague
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AUSTIN STUDER HITS THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HER ADVENTURES ABROAD

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