Mandy Rodriguez is a graduating senior majoring in marketing and international business. Last spring she was given the opportunity to complete a study abroad experience in Europe through Lindner International Programs. She knew going into college that she wanted to study abroad and this particular experience worked well with her schedule and allowed her to explore her family’s heritage in Spain. She knew studying abroad would be great, but she didn’t expect it to change her life as much as it did. She had the opportunity to travel throughout 14 cities in France, Spain, Italy and Switzerland. Learning about other cultures outside of a textbook was incredible; and she was able to interact with people she would never encounter in the US.

Studying abroad not only strengthened her ability to understand people better, but also encouraged her to strive for higher heights because she can accomplish anything - there is nothing like standing at a train station and not knowing where you are supposed to go when the train is supposed to leave in five minutes. She had to learn to break past communication barriers, think outside of the box and even how to read Italian maps. Having to do these small, but hard tasks, helped her grow as a person and a member of global society.