

Unique Sevilla

I have thought a lot about this question; “If someone ten years down the road asked you to give them one word describe your study abroad experience, what would it be?” Some people would say amazing, others would say fun, some would call it beneficial, and others would claim it was the best time of their life. But if I had to put one word to describe the past four months, my word would be unique. Of course now comes the follow up question, “why unique?” If I’ve thought about the first question a lot, I’ve thought about this second question even more. The definition of unique I enjoy the most is, “having no like or equal; unparalleled; incomparable” because that is exactly what this experience has been. No travel booklet or pictures from previous years can fully grasp what exactly studying abroad in Sevilla has been like for me. I have had the pleasure of enjoying sunny days at Marbella across from school with other Spanish students, but a picture of it can’t capture two different cultures enjoying each others company and conversation. I’ve been to the top of a gigantic rock full of monkeys running all over the place, but a Rick Steven’s book can’t reproduce how magnificent the overlooking panorama of the ocean from the Rock of Gibraltar really is. I’ve traveled to a continent I never thought I would step foot on in my lifetime to visit students in Morocco. Yet a class picture of them couldn’t tell you that they are just like you and I, studying hard, trying to one day make a living just like us. A class description of a course at the FCEYE could tell you what you will do in that class. However, I bet it can’t tell you what it’s like to experience a class in a totally different language, the frustrations and the triumphs. Something that sticks out even more in my own personal experience is the fact that I was able to network my way to be able to DJ in Sevilla, a place completely foreign to me. Sure, a picture or a video could provide as a token to look back and remember a wild Wednesday night, but it couldn’t capture the true appreciation I had to be able to share with complete strangers, something I have a deep passion and love for. Photos from this trip will make people remember how awesome Sevilla was, how fun it was, how much they learned, but what I will hold onto the most is the memories from my trip that made it truly unique. If I had to give advice to someone who was coming here I would tell them, it *will* be fun, it *will* be awesome, you *will* learn a lot, just don’t forget to hold onto the lifetime of unique memories you’ll have from four amazing months in Sevilla.

Kevin McVey – Señor DJ