



Dear Carmelo Urza and the Carmelo Urza Scholarship Committee,

I chose to study abroad because I wanted the chance to live in the Basque Country in order to learn about and experience my heritage. Also, I want the opportunity to learn and practice my Spanish in a country where it is natively spoken. I chose USAC Donostia because it gives me the opportunity to live in the Basque Country in a location that is close to my relatives who live in Iparralde. I knew I had to experience the amazing cultural and gastronomic experiences that Donostia has to offer.

I hope to make meaningful connections with my Basque family members and learn about my Basque heritage. Also, I hope to come out of the USAC program being conversationally proficient in Spanish. Connecting with my fellow students from all over the United States has been a privilege, and I am very excited to make friends with the new students next semester. Learning Spanish will be immensely helpful in making connections with the many people of Hispanic origin in my hometown and at my university. Professionally, having an international experience and being proficient in a foreign language will make me a much more attractive job candidate in the future.

This semester abroad, I took the first level of Spanish, which consists of four semesters of college-level Spanish condensed into one term. I also took a Basque language and culture class and a Basque and Spanish culinary class at a local culinary center. Next semester, I plan to take the third level of Spanish as well as classes such as history and literature that are taught fully in Spanish. I also plan to participate in the USAC program that allows students to teach English in local high schools.

This scholarship will be immensely helpful in relieving the financial burden that my family and I face. It will allow more of my money to be spent on travel, food, and cultural experiences rather than on books and tuition. I am very honored to receive a scholarship targeted at students of Basque descent and am very grateful for the opportunity I am being given to experience my heritage, explore the Basque Country, and meet my family.

Thank you for your generosity in selecting me for this scholarship.

Jackson Paris