USC’s exchange program in Spain is designed to expose students to the life and culture of the Spanish people and provide them with opportunities to refine their Spanish language skills. This program is located in Pozuelo de Alarcón, a western suburb of Madrid, Spain’s capital city. Students will have the chance to study in a smaller town environment approximately 40 minutes outside of the downtown area. Madrid has a very vibrant nightlife, great shopping, fantastic tapas and sidewalk cafes, as well as numerous cultural and historical attractions. Only USC undergraduates are eligible to participate in this program.

Participants will attend the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (UFV), an institution known for the strength of its academic programs particularly in the fields of journalism, business, and visual communications. This immersion program is designed to increase students’ language proficiency and knowledge of Spanish culture while allowing them to complete major/minor coursework in Spanish. Participants will attend regular university classes alongside Spaniards and other international students.

Students participating in this exchange must have completed five college level Spanish classes or the equivalent. The majority of the classes are taught in Spanish, however some business classes are taught in English. An optional four-week intensive language and cultural immersion program is available prior to the start of the semester for an additional fee.

Courses and Credits
Students typically enroll in five classes and earn 15 US credits each semester. Listed below is a sample of the subjects offered. For courses in English, visit http://www.ufv.es/docs/courses_in_english_10-11_20-05-10.pdf

Subject Offerings
Advertising  Audiovisual Communications  Biotechnology
Broadcast Journalism  Business  Computer Engineering
Elementary Education  Fine Arts  Graphic Design
Journalism  Nursing  Public Relations
Living Arrangements
Students are responsible for finding housing in Madrid with some assistance from UFV. Participants should arrive in advance in order to secure accommodations, which are typically flats shared with other students near campus. Students can also live with a host family; UFV will provide a list of available host families which students can contact independently. Most students secure housing within the city of Madrid and commute approximately 45 minutes out to school. Students should expect to pay between 500€ and 800€ a month depending on the type of housing.

Budgeting
Students should budget approximately 900€ to 1100 € per month depending on the type of housing they select. Students pay in-state tuition and fees to USC and do not need to pay tuition to UFV.

Master Schedule
The school year starts in the first week of October and ends the last week of June. The school year is divided in two periods of 15 weeks each (semesters), with a 2-3 week break for first semester exams. USC students may be able to attend UFV in the fall semester if they are able to take their final exams early in order to return to USC for the spring semester.

Insurance
Per university policy, all USC students will be charged emergency medical, evacuation and repatriation insurance for their time abroad. Please contact the Study Abroad Office with questions.

Orientation
UFV has mandatory orientation days for international students during the last week of September and the first week of February.

Excursions
While the exchange program does not provide for organized excursions, students will have the opportunity for individual travel.

Extracurricular Activities
UFV students can compete in basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, paddle tennis, skiing, fencing, tennis, squash, off-road biking, cross-country and adventure sports, among others. The students can be part of a University team competing with other schools, or participate in internal tournaments.

Visa
Students that attend the UFV program for a semester or academic year are required to obtain a Spanish visa. Students must register for an appointment and appear in person at the Spanish consulate or embassy. Planning ahead is vital as appointments are difficult to obtain. Please contact the Study Abroad Office for information on the Spanish visa process. More information on the visa process can be found at http://www.conspainmiami.org/.

Footnotes
USC students can attend Universidad Francisco de Vitoria during the fall semester, spring semester or the academic year. Visit the host institution’s website at http://www.ufv.es/ for more information.

For more information on living and traveling in Spain, particularly in Madrid, please visit http://www.spain.info/TourSpain?Language=en

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