
Autora: Aina Graells Calvo

Tutora: Carme Alonso

Do experiences in the USA broaden our minds?

Presentation

This is a research project where you can find any type of information based on studying abroad, especially in the United States. It explains the beginning of these experiences, every step anyone should follow in order to study abroad in the USA for a year, all the process of adaptation while you are there and lots and lots of examples of experiences, including mine, to encourage you to have this experience since it broadens your mind.

There is also a part where you can see the consequences of the coronavirus in these studies since nowadays, it's a very important fact to take into account.

Methodology

In spite of reaching the goals I established for this project, I decided to keep an order on how my project would be developed. I decided to start with the theoretical part. I started searching for information about the history and I also talked with lots of agencies in order to get more information that I couldn't find on the internet. Once I had this information I started to make my own conclusions.

For explaining the steps that must be followed to leave, I decided to search information from the internet but also to take information from my own experience such



as a picture of my visa. To end up, I talked to two friends, one that was there while the pandemic happened and another that wanted to leave the next year so I could see the consequences from the coronavirus. While I was working on these, the interviews I wanted to do were already done since I did them at the beginning of the project. I sent them to people who had this experience in the USA so I could find the result I needed to make my conclusions.

Here it started my practical part.

After finding these conclusions and comparing the results, I finished my research project by explaining some differences between Spain and the United States and finally I explained my experience.

Body of work

My research project is divided into two parts, the theoretical part and the practical part. The main information you can find in the theoretical part is the steps you must follow during this year in order to be legal in the other country and in the practical part I focused on trying to explain how these experiences broaden our minds by explaining other experiences including mine.

For my theoretical part, firstly, I explained a little bit about when this experience started taking place in the USA because it didn't use to be as common as it is now. Secondly, I explained and marked all the steps that must be followed before leaving and also once you are there such as: the rules, the coordinators, the validation procedure...

I also added the consequences on how the coronavirus affected people who wanted to leave this year or people who were already there when the pandemia took place. For my practical part I started explaining as many experiences as I could from people of different ages and I compared them in order to get differences and similarities. I also explained the most common differences between the United States and Spain such as the traditions, the high schools, sports, teachers... Finally, I finished my project explaining how my experience was from the beginning to the end so everyone can read it and know how it was.

Conclusions

Regarding the question we have on the title of the project: "Do experiences in the USA broaden our minds", in the conclusions of my research project I wanted to focus on which are the benefits of studying abroad since the main goal of my project is to encourage students to do and experience this year in the USA. After doing all the interviews to people from my age and also to people older than me, I made my conclusions of how beneficial it is studying abroad. It has lots of advantages which you will appreciate all your life and you will always thank your parents.

In the conclusion I wrote the five most important things I would choose if I had to explain to anyone why this experience broadens our minds. I took these five things regarding my experience, and also each experience from the people I interviewed. The first one is that travelling, knowing languages and also knowing how to deal with new situations will help you have more opportunities to get a job. Second, living in a foreign country is completely different from a holiday even though you might think it is the same. If you live for a year in a whole new city you will be picking up local knowledge such as where sells the best coffee, what tourist traps to avoid and how to get the most out of your new city. Third, you will make lifelong friends and you can see it in interviews with people older than me since they still talk to friends from their experiences. Fourth, you will learn more about yourself and you will have more self-reliance. Last but not least you learn to appreciate the smaller things more such as your mum preparing dinner for you. Even though these are the ones I chose, there are plenty of benefits which I mention during my research project. However, these are the ones I find the most important and the ones which broaden your mind.

Webography

- <<https://journals.openedition.org/dhfiles/>> - <<https://www.archives.com/1940-census/donald-watt-ny-58181705>> - <<https://www.archives.com/1940-census/donald-watt-ny-58181705>> - <https://study.com/articles/Study_Abroad_Coordinator_Job_Description_Salary_and_Duties.html> - <<https://work.chron.com/job-description-study-abroad-coordinator-23220.html>> - <<https://hr.uconn.edu/study-abroad-advisor/>> - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor%27s_degree> - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_student#Study_abroad> - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travel_visa> - <<https://www.internationalstudent.com/migration/j1-student-visa/>> - <<https://www.ayusa.org>> - <<https://www.interway.es/ano-academico/los-5-finalistas-del-concurso-iw-top-student-2019/>> - <<https://www.interway.es/ano-academico/interway-top-student-2019/>> - <<https://www.study.eu/article/impact-of-covid-19-on-studying-abroad-in-europe-overview>> - <<https://institutions.educations.com/insights/student-survey-covid-19-and-study-abroad>> - <<https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/25-reasons-study-abroad>> - <<https://theconversation.com/heres-a-new-way-to-do-study-abroad-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond-138931>> - <<https://studyabroad.yale.edu/prepare-go/study-abroad-covid-19-coronavirus>> - <<https://www.mastersportal.com/articles/2789/how-will-the-new-coronavirus-affect-my-plans-to-study-abroad-in-2020.html>> - <<https://info.umkc.edu/international/five-rules-i-follow-while-studying-abroad/>> - <<https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving>> - <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/modern/jb_modern_halloween_1.html>
