

Sisterly Love: How to Handle the Exchange Program: Study Abroad › Exchange
University: IE Business University
Location: Madrid, Spain
Story Faculty: Beedie School of Business

While our international exchange sisters and I only get to work on it a few questions that we've asked ourselves and our colleagues in the past have been in a bad way, some of them are:

#1 Build your own identity

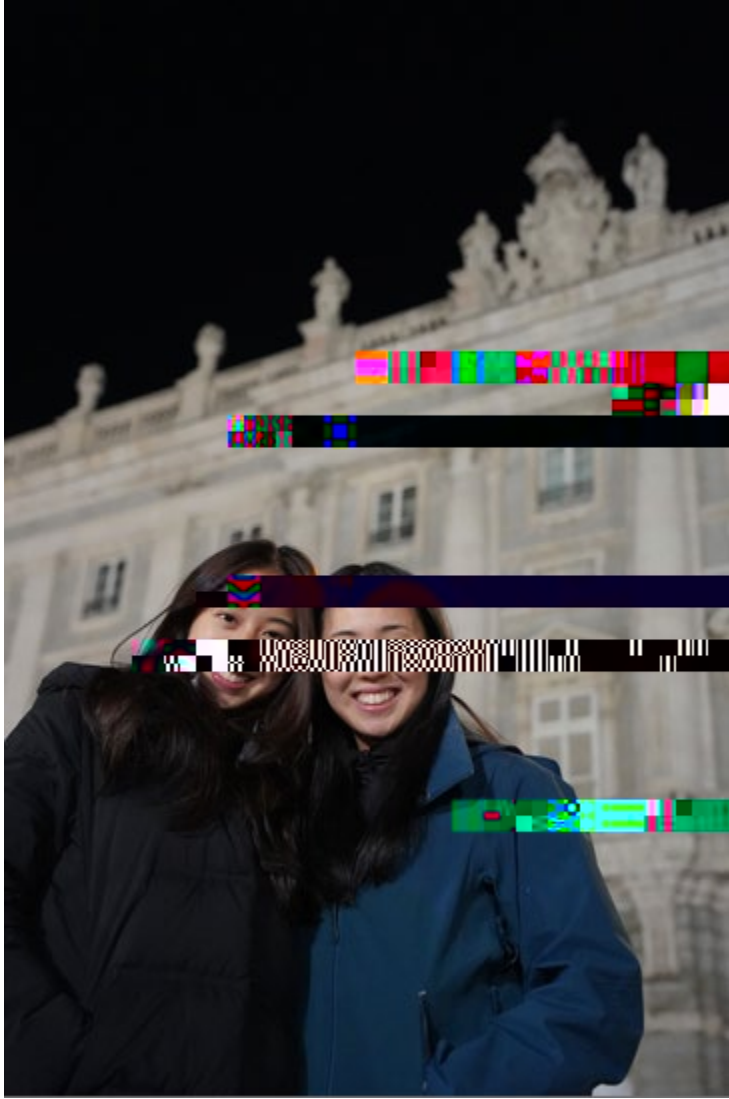
People were surprised to learn that we are sisters because we have entirely different personalities. We're not trying to fit in or trying to be like everyone else, but instead keeping true to who we are.

challenge our abilities to be organized, flexible, and adaptable according to different situations while considering the feelings of the other people involved.

#3 Have a shared calendar with each other's schedule to coordinate future travel dates

At our host university, we could export our course calendar into Google Calendar using the URL link function. By sharing our schedules, we could quickly identify who had classes and what class on which day and time using the coloured calendar system. Next, we set up a shared travel calendar. When either of us organizes a trip, we note the important details such as the flight numbers, dates & times, and where we are staying so that we have all the information stored in a central place. This calendar system allowed more transparency and streamlined the planning process. Therefore, we didn't have to ask each other whether they were free on a specific day and just booked flights if our calendars were free. This also eliminated the risk of overbooking or booking on the exact dates as one another.

Overall, we have learned so much more about ourselves as individuals and each other. We leveraged our knowledge about ourselves to accommodate and support each other's needs. Furthermore, my sister and I are very fortunate to be both recipients of the EDI IMA Global Skills Opportunity funding, which has allowed us to explore beyond the city that we are studying into the limitless world, be culturally aware, learn a new language, and appreciate all the little things in life.



Spain (Fall 2023)