



TRANSCRIPT – AN INTERVIEW WITH DON

- ***Can you introduce yourself?***

I'm Donald Hickey; I'm from Middletown, Ohio. I'm 24 years old and I studied Spanish at Ohio State University.

- ***How long have you been here in Spain?***

I have been in Spain since the end of last September, so for 9 months.

- ***What are you doing here in Spain?***

I was working this school year as an English teaching assistant and I will be doing that again next year. I also teach private classes to earn more money.

- ***What was the idea you had of Spain before you came here?***

The first things that I think of to answer this question are ways I knew Spain is different from the U.S., so some ideas I had were that the healthcare system is quite different and the food is quite different as well. Overall, my perception of Spain was that it is a very nice country and a popular travel destination.

- ***Has that idea changed since you've been here?***

I think my experience in Spain has confirmed my expectations. I have experienced how the healthcare system is different from the system in the U.S. I have tried many different foods that are certainly not common in the U.S. And I have seen that people come from many different parts of the world to visit Spain.

- ***Were you surprised about Galicia?***

I don't think I have been very surprised, because at my university I knew a professor who is from Galicia and I also communicated with a guy working in the same program before I came here, so I think I had a good idea of what to expect.

- ***What are some of the cultural differences that you notice between Americans and Spaniards?***

I think you can find similar people in most parts of the world if you look. But, I would say that I have noticed my friends in Spain spend much less time watching TV and playing video games than my friends in the United States. Here it is more common during free time to meet with friends or colleagues at a bar or café to talk and relax. One other little thing that stands out is it seems much more common for people here to drink coffee or tea at all hours of the day, even at night.

- ***What is the worst thing about living here?***

I would have to say the weather, because in the winter it was cold and raining every day, and I really don't like all the rain.

- ***And the best thing about living here?***

I have enjoyed being able to travel and see new different places and attractions here. Also, the food is great!

- ***In general, how has your experience been?***

It has been an awesome experience, getting to experience a new culture, make new friends, and see new places. Of course I have also been practicing my language skills with Spanish and helping others with English as well. I am definitely looking forward to another year in Spain and the new experiences I will have in the future.