

Barcelona study abroad program report



College of Architecture launched a semester long study abroad program in Barcelona, Spain, in 2007, under the initiative of **Julius Gribou**, UTSA's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs and the former dean of the college. Last year, **Dan Gonzalez**, CoA adjunct faculty, led 18 students as the first group of the program. This spring, twelve undergraduate and four graduate UTSA architecture students are currently studying in Barcelona under the direction of **Candid Rogers**, CoA adjunct faculty. The students are enrolled in a design studio at the **Barcelona Architecture Center** at the **University Polytechnica de Catalunya** and are working on a project for a photography exhibit in Barcelona. In conjunction with the design class, students have been criss-crossing Barcelona by Metro, exploring its districts and sketching and photographing the significant architecture and the substantial historical and cultural contexts inherent to the city.

Barcelona contains architecture from its inception as a Roman city to cutting edge modern designs commissioned for the 1992 Olympics. Students participating in the program have the advantage of being exposed to a diverse range of architecture from architects like Antonio Gaudi, Mies Van der Rohe, Frank Gehry, Herzog and de Meuron, and Jean Nouvel as well as other notable Spanish architects. Students also benefit considerably from their immersion in the different cultural context of Europe in general and Barcelona in particular. This significant advantage was reinforced by the fact that more than half the students speak Spanish fluently and are helping their classmates hone their language skills as they learn to integrate into this urban community.

