



Hello everyone!

My name is Laura Lopez Garcia, I'm 22 years old and I was born in Madrid, the capital of Spain, even though I've lived most of my life in Valladolid, a smaller city in northern Spain.

I live with my parents, Jose and Pili (both teachers), and my siblings, Alberto (who is my twin brother) and Marta (my older sister). We live in a flat situated in the city centre, which is great as most of the time I can move around the city without needing a car. We enjoy a lot traveling and since we were very little my parents took us to different trips around Europe (Italy, France, Germany, Check Republic, Portugal, etc.). Also, since we were very young, my parents took us to ski for a week during the winters, first to small ski stations in Spain and later to bigger ones outside the country like the French Pyrenees.

Lately, I've travelled a lot more on my own. I participated in the Erasmus+ Program, in which I spent one year studying abroad in Hungary. During that year I travelled all around Europe with the friends I made there (Poland, Austria, Slovenia, Greece, Croatia, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Tallinn, etc.).

Also, I've spent two summers in the USA with the Work & Travel Program, in which I learn a lot about the American culture and customs, as well as visiting amazing places

like the Rocky Mountains, The Great Canyon, NYC, Washington D. C. or The Niagara Falls among others. During those summers I worked at the YMCA Hotel in CO as a crew leader in housekeeping, food service, central services and the reception desk; and at an amusement park as a ride operator and game operator, and at a Swarovski jewellery shop as a seller, both in Maryland.

I just graduated in Kindergarten Education and now I'll start the degree in Elementary Education Teacher. Also, I've worked as a tutor since 2015 helping children with their assignments and homework and explaining them the topics needed. Also, I did two internships, one in a public kindergarten in Hungary and the other one in a private kindergarten school in my city.

Moreover, I'm a volunteer at the Scout Group San Jorge 103 103 since 3 years and a half ago. There I'm in charge of the kids between 7 and 12 years, teaching them through the action so that they enjoy learning. My duties include the planification of the activities, research, organization of places, materials, activities and schedules, etc. I've also volunteer in other organizations, once I went to a school to help foreign kids in their adaptation to the school and another time I spent some afternoons in the hospital entertaining the residents and taking care of them.

I'm an animal lover. When I was a child, I had a parakeet that lived 12 years. Now I don't have a pet, but I love spending time with my friend's pets, usually dogs. Also, I enjoy exploring in nature and observing wild animals in their habitat, even the small ones like lizards.

I have many hobbies, like drawing and reading when I want to relax; hiking, skiing and skating (ice and roller skating); and, of course, travelling, which includes meeting new people, getting involved in the culture and tasting traditional meals from the places I visit. But I also have other interests like listening to music, singing (I've sing in a choir since I was 8 years old), playing the transverse flute (though the last years I didn't have much time for it) and taking pictures, especially when I travel or attend events.

I consider my self an active person, I like to plan trips and activities and stay busy. I enjoy hanging out with people, meeting for a coffee, going to the cinema, karting and paintball, watching series, playing boardgames, attending events or parties and festivals, etc. every plan is great.

Also, I like taking care of my body, so I train in the gym lifting weights and practicing cardio and HIT. Moreover, I like to ride my bike to move around and for excursions, as it's an ecological and non-sedentary way of transportation. And, I enjoy cooking all kinds of food, especially healthy food without oil or butter and if I want to eat sweets as they are healthier if they are homemade, even though I don't eat them very often. Also, I eat all types of food except medium or very spicy food and some of my favourites are inked squid, rice with chicken and vegetables and "cocido" which is like a stew made up of

two dishes (first the soup with noodles and secondly chickpeas with a wide variety of meats).

Finally, I want to share my excitement on participating in this program as I think it's going to be an amazing experience in which everybody will be enriched by the interactions with the others. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all and start sharing my culture and knowledge and learning about yours, finding what things do we have in common and what singularities distinguish us. I can't wait to travel there again and get involved in the American life style and, this time, to learn about the educational system and travel around the country to all those places I haven't visited jet.

See you soon!



Paragraph about myself

My name is William Serrano. I was born in 1995 in La Paz, El Salvador. I am 24 years old. I study Applied Linguistics at Instituto Centro Cultural in San Salvador, the capital of my home country, El Salvador. I am currently studying my fourth year of university there. I have been teaching English for two years now. I taught English as a volunteer at Tabernáculo church to Adults during one year. Then, I volunteered myself for another year to teach English to children from 7 to 13 years old, who live in the communities nearby the university. In addition, I am working as an English teacher at an English Academy in Zacatecoluca, La Paz as a part-time job until I travel to The United States to start with my Amity Exchange Program.

Some activities I enjoy doing as hobbies or quality time are listening to music, watching series, and movies on Netflix, playing soccer and basketball with my brother, reading books, going to the beach, taking long walks and traveling around my country.

My parents have lived in Zacatecoluca, La Paz since they were children and my brother and I have been living with them. My father's name is William Serrano Rodríguez. He is a mechanic. He has his own shop. He is 47 years old. My mother's name is Marlene Moreno. She is a medical dressmaker. She is 47 years old. My brother's name is Dennis Serrano, he is 20 years old. He is currently studying his second year of university.

My family and I like going out to eat every weekend because it is our family time. For example, after church on Sunday nights, we go to eat pupusas which is a traditional dish in El Salvador, or we go to different places to eat different kinds of food.

I have been looking for information about Minnesota, and I am very excited and looking forward to know it as well.

Finally, I would like to know about the lifestyles in the United States, the Education system, the various and different teaching methodologies and other things that could help me improve professionally and personally. I am also very excited to share with you all my home country customs, food, music, traditions, and everything I have learned at my university.



My name is Celina and I am 23 years old. I was born in El Salvador on May 1, 1996, in a city called San Vicente. I lived there with my mom and my grandparents until I was six. Right now I live in San Salvador, the capital city of El Salvador, with my parents, Lucy and Juan (stepfather), and my two teenage sisters. Even though we live far from my city of birth, we usually go there to visit to my grandfather. In these days, as I finished my studies at college, I am working on my graduation project. Thus, as soon as I return from the internship, I will defend the project so I will graduate from the English major at Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador. I have some experience in teaching, I made teaching practice as required subject; there I worked with both kids and teenagers, and I'll say it was a great experience. Also I helped students that just have started the same major to improve weak areas they had. When I have free time I draw or even paint something, dance (just at home), watch videos about historical facts and music, and I enjoy reading both literature and history. I feel so excited about this new experience because I want to share many things about my country, and I want to learn from Americans many things as well. I want to share my culture and that they share theirs, I want to improve my English as well. Moreover, I really want to learn about their way to teach in order to bring that model to my country.

Thank you Amity Institute for the opportunity!



My name is Gerardo Alexis Lopez Ascencio and I'm 27 years old. I was born in El Salvador in its capital San Salvador. I'm living with my father Felipe and my grandfather Jose both are great help in my life. My mother Claudia and my brother Kevin live apart in Santa Ana which a big city from El Salvador. I just finished my 4th year at Universidad Tecnologica de El Salvador, I'm studying English because I want to become a teacher and help others to learn this great language. I've been working with kids since I was 17 in my local church and I've been an instructor and teacher assistant at University. I worked in a call center for 6 years, I worked for US Cellular and AT&T account as customer service, tech support and sales agent representative. In my free time I like to listen music and play soccer with my friends, we are playing in a local tournament in our neighborhood. Also, I like to go out with my girlfriend, we like to eat and try new restaurants, we like going to the theater, to the park or to dance even though I'm not a good dancer. During my time in Minnesota, I would like to get involved in the community, meet new friends, visit new places, participate in local events, volunteering,

share my Salvadorean culture, learn about education systems, improve my english, get new teaching techniques so I can apply them here in El Salvador, and most important I would like to have a great time at St. Louis Park.



MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

My full-name is Álvaro Andrés Velásquez Sotelo, but people call me “Alvarito” in a friendly way. I was born in Colombia, in a pretty town called Chiquinquirá in 1995. I live there with my parents Álvaro and Ruth, my sister Yohana, my nephew Jezahel, who is 10 years old and three beautiful pets: one dog, one cat and one parrot. My parents are a nice couple and hard-working people who like spending time with us and they do their best for us. My father is a metallurgist worker that makes many things such as doors, windows, railings, and other things made of iron, aluminium or metal. On the other side my mother who works as a cleaning assistant in a bank. Since, I was a child, I was always a kind and helpful boy because I worked with my father, I used to accompany him and thanks to that I learnt some things about his profession. Also, I studied my primary and high school there in a public school, then I wanted to study social communication but it was very expensive, so I decided to choose another program which was cheaper and also offered by a public university; hence I started studying

Foreign Languages English and French in UPTC, an important and known university in a city named Tunja. There I finished this program in 2018 and started my specialization in Educational Management when I finished it in July, 2019. I have worked as a teacher or tutor in some schools and institutes during almost 3 years. Therefore, teaching has been a great experience in my professional and social life because I have had the opportunity of meeting new people and learning several things about pedagogy and languages too. I have worked in different things like bricklayer, courier, salesman. I love sports, I consider myself a big fan of wrestling, soccer, cycling and others. Plus, I love all kind of music, especially Rock bands. I enjoy seeing movies or series, reading horror books, riding bike with friends, hanging out with them to eat or drink something delicious. I like to travel and visit new places, I think those are ones of my likes. I feel quite excited with that great adventure I will have there in Minnesota because I want to teach and share many things from my country and have the opportunity to learn such amazing things about life and education in USA, travel everywhere there and improve my English level. I look forward to having an unforgettable and enriching experience.



My name is Pablo Gasulla and I was born in Barcelona, Spain. I am 22 years old and I live with my parents, Enrique and Ángeles and with my sister Celia. Although we are very busy during the week, we reserve a moment on weekends to spend time together sharing week's experiences and concerns. We all love to travel. Therefore, we make a trip all 4 together once a year.

Before going to Minnesota, I studied a degree of primary education. Moreover, I worked as a shop assistant in a small candy shop in the neighborhood. In addition, during the summer, I participated in different summer camps as a coach, where I prepared leisure and educational activities for children from 6 to 12 years old.

I consider myself a responsible and empathetic person. I like to live new experiences and make new friends from around the world. I enjoy a lot hanging out with my friends and I like traveling a lot. I have visited some countries of Europe as Italy, Belgium or Holland. But my favorite destiny is always the same, my village, where I see my friends and families of different parts of Spain. I am so energetic thus since I was 5, I play

soccer. I like listening to music and my favorite style is *indie*. In my free time, I also like to read and watch movies and series in the original version. But what I would highlight about myself is that I am pretty social active with social inequalities.

What I want to take out from this experience is mainly learning the USA lifestyle: what are its customs and traditions, how education works in North America and travel and visit many places as possible. In addition, I want to contribute with the knowledge that I have acquired in college and I also want to share Spain's traditions.



My name is María and I was born in Spain, in a small village of Extremadura in 1995. I live with my parents Jose and Isabel, and I have a brother but he doesn't live with us. His name is David and he is 30 years old. My parents are from a little village name Garganta la Olla, which is in north Extremadura.

I studied my degree in a university in Segovia. I studied child education teacher. When I studied I have done my work experience in two different schools with children are 4-5 years old. Last summer I was a monitor camp with children between 9 and 14 years old.

I really like to do Zumba. Also, I like to listen to music, read books, watch film specially cartoon film, hanging out with my friends and travel.

I am very excited with my future experience in Minnesota. I'm really looking forward to learning about the customs of the EEUU as well as seeing the educational system. Also I want to teach the same of my country, language, customs and other things that they have taught me. Also I want to travel around the country and improve my English.

Maria



My name is Elena and I am from Zamora a small city of Spain but I lived in a small village close to Zamora with my parents and my brother since I was born until I was 21 years old. When I was 21 years old I finish my first degree in education to teach children from 0 to 6 years old I went to live in Wales and I was there for two years.

Now I am living in another city of Spain named Valladolid and the last three years I have been working as a waitress and studying to be a Primary School Teacher.

Traveling is one of my favourite hobbies, I have been in as many places as I could and I really enjoy meeting people from other places, different cultures, languages...

Also, I enjoy listening to music and going to concerts and for sure, I like watching movies. Another thing amusing which I actually enjoy are board games.

I am sure that my new experience in Minnesota will be one of the best of my life because I could show many things about my country and also learn a lot from USA thanks to my family there, the school, my new friends there and of course from children.

Kind regards,

Elena