Barcelona, Spain
1 week Language Course

My Goals For the Week:
1. Increase my proficiency in the Spanish Language.
2. Surround myself in a context where everyone spoke the language to allow me to constantly practice and learn about the culture.
3. Explore the City by myself for the first time.

Getting ready to go:
• I was inspired to go because I was successful in Spanish GCSE and wanted to build on the foundation that I already built. I also believed this would set me apart in the job market.
• As a result of the experience, I hoped to increase my proficiency, whilst being surrounded in a context where people spoke the language everyday to make my experience more authentic.

My experience:
• Stepping off the plane, I was surprised at how easy it was to adapt to the culture. Like in the UK, I was able to use Google Maps to walk around and explore the City.
• I was initially overwhelmed by the fact that the teachers only spoke Spanish, however, this benefited me greatly as I found myself picking up the language more rapidly than I ever had before.
• My proudest achievement was the fact that by the end of the week, I could sustain 1 hour long conversations in Spanish with my teachers and understand roughly 90% of what I was told.

Reflection
From an academic standpoint, this experience helped me to reignite my passion for languages. In addition, personally, exploring the City on my own and interacting with various people from all over the Globe, developed my independence.

The Images above show:
1. St Joseph Market, La Boqueria.
3. A national festival celebrating the most important Spanish Saint.