UCEAP | **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAM**

Rocío Navas

Senior Program Coordinator, UCEAP Madrid Study Center
Carlos III University of Madrid

Madrid's diversity and sheer immensity can be overwhelming for some foreign students. The dedication of advisors at the study center, including Rocío Navas, the program administrator for EAP Madrid at Carlos III, makes transitioning into a new culture seem almost effortless.

Rocío was first inspired to work with foreign students as a teenager while her parents hosted US exchange students during her high school years. Wanting to further consolidate her English-language skills while still being surrounded by a diverse array of students, Rocío eventually came to work for the Hispanic Studies program in Madrid after being employed by EAP in Cordoba and Cadiz for 3 years. She now boasts 11 years of work dedicated to academically and culturally advising American students and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Though not a native of Madrid herself, Rocío embraces the cultural diversity of the city and embodies the image of a true Madrileña in her poise, generosity and affable demeanor. Like many Madrileñas, Rocío can be found frequently walking her dog around Retiro Park, sharing tapas with friends at La Latina, visiting the museums and smaller galleries, enjoying the sweet sugar of fresh churros and warm chocolate at San Ginés, visiting the Arabic baths, and even attending the occasional musical at the Gran Via Theater – activities that she promotes to all curious students new to the city.

Though immensely passionate about Madrid, Rocío is even more passionate about the students she works with. She does all she can to ensure a smooth transition to their new life and successful immersion into the culture, while maintaining a high standard for academics and language acquisition. Her counsel and devotion truly brings the Madrid program to life, with her endless resources of cultural activities, trips, and academic/emotional support, which make her a true asset to any student abroad seeking guidance or refuge.