

Danielle Welsh
Class of 2015
Aerospace Engineering and Spanish
Sheet-Metal Forming Simulations (#3645)
Polytechnic University of Valencia at Alcoy, Spain

This summer I was given the opportunity to conduct research in the small city of Alcoy, Spain. I worked with Dr. Miguel Ángel Selles Canto at the Polytechnic University of Valencia at Alcoy on his sheet-metal forming simulation project. During my stay in Spain, I was able to assist with testing, design components for the machine, and collaborate on reports pertaining to this study. The advanced steels being tested were provided by General Motors, and I really enjoyed conducting research whose results were pertinent to real-world manufacturing processes. Researching this summer was such an interesting and valuable experience, and I learned that this may be a field I would like to continue studying in the future.

As a dual-degree student studying both engineering and Spanish, this experience not only allowed me to learn more about the engineering field, but also gave me the chance to become immersed in the Spanish language and culture. While living in Alcoy for two months, I had countless chances to practice my language skills and learn more about the Spanish customs. Researching at a Spanish university also gave me the unique opportunity to combine my engineering and Spanish interests because I was able to learn an engineering vocabulary in this language, while also collaborating on a project with people from backgrounds different from my own. I had never expected to be so immediately and openly welcomed by the professors at the university, as well as all the people of the town who I was fortunate enough to meet. This has been an experience that will not be forgotten, not only because of the work I was able to do, but