

Rebecca Donaldson
BA Hons French with
Spanish,
Ulster University, Coleraine



Picking French for GCSE was one of the best decisions I have ever made, it has opened so many doors for me and led me to some really amazing places.

After school I started university at Coleraine, studying major honours French (4 year course). In my first year I chose to do beginners Spanish as one of my modules and now, in my final year, I am fully integrated with the other students who have been studying Spanish for years. Ulster University encourages all language students to take on a second language whether it is Spanish, German, French or even Chinese.

In my third year I took part in the ERASMUS programme – which allows students from the UK and Europe to study abroad. As I do two languages I got to go to France and Spain! I spent semester one in Montpellier, in the South of France, studying at the University - *Paul Valéry Montpellier III*. Montpellier is a very sunny, youthful and exciting city to live in, and close to Mediterranean Sea.

Below: *La fontaine des Trois Grâces, Place de la Comedie*



In semester two I went to Salamanca, Spain, a beautiful city north west of Madrid. I studied at one of the oldest universities in Spain - *La Universidad de Salamanca*. I enjoyed the laid-back lifestyle in Spain and tapas bars, and with cheap bus and rail fares I was able to travel around. I visited many cities - Valladolid, Ávila, Segovia, Cáceres, Madrid, Barcelona and Granada.

Below: *La Catedral de Salamanca* (facing the languages department)



Below: *La Plaza Mayor, Salamanca*



I enjoyed my year abroad so much that I am going to work in France as an English Language Assistant next year after my graduation.

Madrid, *Parque del Retiro*:



El Alcazar de Segovia:

