With the faint sounds of fingers strumming on a flamenco guitar behind me, a beautiful scene of Granada’s ancient Moorish castle is painted in front of me. Sitting on a stone wall that is most likely older than the United States, I peacefully watch the Alhambra glow red as it mirrors the colors of the sunset.

Due the fact that it was my favorite area while studying abroad in Granada, Spain, the memory shared above is a compilation of multiple moments when I went through the same ritual. It was magical being able to view the Alhambra from that perspective, but it was even more magical having the opportunity to tour and film inside the Alhambra itself. It was through the funds granted to me from the Honors Enrichment Award that I was able to visit and appreciate beautiful architecture and ancient history.

However, the Alhambra is not the only place I had the great pleasure to visit with the funds awarded. I also toured and filmed in a museum called Parque de las Ciencias (Park of the Sciences) on two different occasions, and I went to a cave museum in the Sacromonte. The Sacromonte is an area in Granada where Gypsies (properly referred to as “Roma”) have lived in caves for many years. Moreover, I visited the Cathedral of Granada, and the Capilla Real which hosts the final resting places of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (who reigned over Spain from 1474 until 1504, and granted Christopher Columbus permission to sail in search of more land [America] in 1492).
Not only did I use the money to enter locations where I desired to learn and film, but I also used it for travel expenses. There were busses that granted access to all of Granada, so I often used those as I was lugging a large amount of camera equipment around the city.

After assessing the opportunities that these funds allowed me while in Granada, I am confident I will have a quality thesis that has and will contribute to my learning process as well as prepare me for a future career.