

-It's been a month since the State of Alarm was decreed. How are you living this moment away from your families? How are your relatives?

At the beginning of the quarantine it was difficult to be far from our families. Some of us were unsure if we should return to the United States to be with them. We decided to stay because our lives, friends, and jobs are here and we have each other. We talk to our families frequently during the week over video call. Sofía speaks to her family during the day because they are in Belgium and the rest of us call at night because of the time difference to the States. Our families are healthy and social distancing! Some of us had plans to visit our families in the USA this summer, but now we don't know if that will be an option. We are waiting to see how the quarantine continues and what the situation will be in the USA.

-The United States is now one of the areas suffering from the largest spread of COVID-19. Do you think that the right actions have been taken with the information that was already available about other countries which had experienced the spread of COVID-19?

Some states were very slow to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, while other states were quick to establish social distancing guidelines. We think Spain has done a good job at enforcing social distancing. We hope that the USA takes the situation just as seriously. Our friends in the USA have been social distancing and most of our families are working from home although some have to continue working directly with the public as health workers. We have seen our communities really come together to support one another. For example, Emma's mom has been sewing masks to send to local hospitals! However, the country's response in general has been disheartening and there is a definite lack of preparedness and measures to protect people.

-Has the situation affected you work-wise? Can you tele-work? Do you think that working from home may set a precedent? Do you have any projects that have been interrupted?

During the quarantine, we've been preparing materials for the students from home. We're continuing to work as language assistants at our schools but most of us haven't been able to do our other jobs. We work teaching languages but some of us have had our classes cancelled due to COVID-19. It's worrying because we don't know til when the situation will last. Emma has been able to continue working as a freelance writer but a lot of our work cannot be done virtually.

-Do you think there's going to be a change in life-style or in interpersonal relationships?

We think that this quarantine has brought our community together. It has changed our relationships with our neighbors. Before the quarantine, we didn't know most of our neighbors. Since the quarantine, we've established more of a connection with our neighbors from our balconies and windows. We sing happy birthday when it's one of our neighbor's birthdays. We wave at the neighbors during the day when we see them from the balcony. It really feels like we're all in this together. We think that this will last after the quarantine. Manu, the neighborhood DJ, made a WhatsApp group message with all of our neighbors and we hope to have a neighborhood dinner after the quarantine has ended and we can all come together. We imagine there will be many long-term consequences due to the pandemic. Our whole way of handling ourselves around others and preoccupation with hygiene rules and sharing spaces with others could change for good.

-As teachers, do you keep in contact with your students? What do you think you bring to your students on the island? What do you like the most about your job?

We mostly maintain contact with our students during the quarantine by making videos and materials to send them. We believe that we give our students a cultural experience and an authentic point of view of our countries. Some of our students didn't have any interest in learning English or French when we first started working at our schools. So an important part of our job is to help make languages interesting for our students and show them the importance of learning them. What we like the most about our job is being part of those moments when students become interested in learning our languages and cultures.

-Have you adapted well to European life or do you thin that we are very influenced by your culture?

We've adapted well to European life! The timetable of the day is really different here than in the US. For example, we're used to eating dinner around 18:00 in the US, but here we eat between 21:00 and 22:00. We like eating later, especially in the summer in Mallorca, because it makes the day longer! There are a lot of customs that are different for us but we enjoy seeing new ways of living and learning about interesting little cultural differences.

In some ways we see how our country has an influence here. Our students watch a lot of American movies and listen to American music. We also see our students wearing clothes with the names of American universities and teams. The presence of American culture in Spain surprised us. Many students know a lot more about American history and culture than we expected.

-You all are an essential part of cheering up the neighborhood during the time of applause in recognition of the work of all citizens. Do you rehearse the choreographies or do you improvise in the moment?

In the moment! We would like to say that we rehearse during the day and think about our dance moves, but the truth is we just come up with it on the spot. We didn't realize how many people were looking, or even that people were able to see us on our balcony. The time in the evening when Manu plays music for the neighborhood is our favorite time of the day. It allows us to let go and move and be carefree. And we love to see our neighbors dance too!

-Do you have daily routines for the confinement? Do you workout, study...?

We've actually surprised ourselves with how busy we've been during quarantine. None of us have gotten bored yet! We laugh because we feel like our list of things to do during the quarantine is so long that we won't be able to do everything we want to do before it ends! Almost everyday we exercise on our balcony. Emma and Craig do a routine that they made together, and Sofia does a lot of yoga. With some extra free time we're also taking advantage to study and practice our language skills. In the afternoons we have tea time with little things we bake. Every night we cook dinner together. It's been really nice to have time to cook meals we wouldn't normally take the time to cook. Like everyone else is apparently doing, we're having fun trying lots of homemade breads and deserts. We made a list at the beginning of the quarantine of recipes we wanted to try and so far we haven't repeated any meals! Some of our favorite dinners we've made so far have been crepes, vegan burgers, homemade ravioli and pizza. After dinner we play cards or watch a movie. It's fun to learn new games from each other and find new interests.

-Spending so much time together, sometimes tension can build up. Has this situation made you more generous with each other or were you already before? Have you noticed any change in your attitude towards your flatmates? For example, how do you get organized to do the shopping? Are you experts on each other?

We all got along really well before, the five of us are generous with each other and we care about everyone's wellbeing. We want everything to go well and we're trying hard avoid any kind of tension. We're careful not to invade each person's personal space, knowing that the five of us need time to be alone as well. We're also learning a lot about the others, since we hadn't all lived together before. We're aware that we're really lucky to get along well. A good example is that cooking or cleaning the flat we don't really have to talk much to coordinate, everyone takes initiative quickly. We plan our meals for

the week together well to be able to send one person to shop for everyone. We're happy for the opportunity to keep being together and getting to know each other better.

-What will be the first thing you do when the lockdown ends?

The first thing Emma will do when the quarantine ends is play frisbee! She plays for the Mallorca Ultimate Frisbee Team and the team has had "practices" over Google Hangouts but she's excited for her team to be together in-person. Jay and McKenna are really excited to go swimming at some of the beaches here. Sofía wants to go on a long hike near Soller. Craig is simply looking forward to going on a long run along the paseo marítimo and enjoying some sun around Palma.

-What do you like most about Palma? Recommend a place where you like to have a nice time.

What we most like about Palma is being able to walk around the city. For those of us that come from big cities it's incredible to be able to go anywhere without needing a car or bus. It's really different from the United States: there you usually can't just go out walking to grab a coffee, we normally have to take the car to get around. Walking around the historic center or around Bellver Castle is a great way to spend free time. We love watching the sunset from the Cathedral near the paseo marítimo, (maybe enjoying an ice cream from Rivareno). We also love the coffee shops in Mallorca! We go to Arabay and La Finca a lot. We really like Barbara's Bakery as well. We even ordered cakes from her bakery last week for our tea time.

-Everyone recommend a book, a song, and a movie

McKenna-

Book- Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One (Raphaëlle Giordano)

Song- Thinking About It (Liimo)

Movie- Dirty Dancing

Jay-

Book- 100 Years of Solitude (Gabriel García Márquez)

Song- Papillon (Voyou)

Movie- The Prestige

Sofía-

Book- The Little Prince (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry) / The Truth About the Harry Quebert Case (Joël Dicker)

Song- Hurt (Johnny Cash)

Movie- Little Miss Sunshine

Emma-

Book- Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One (Raphaelle Giordano) / Into Thin Air (Jon Krakauer)

Song- Sedona (Houndmouth)

Movie- Free Solo

Craig-

Book- The Da Vinci Code (Dan Brown)

Song- L.I.F.E.G.O.E.S.O.N. (Noah And The Whale)

Movie- Bienvenue à Marly-Gomont (The African Doctor in English)