

Narrative Report

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With the support received through the Graduate Travel/Research Grant I was able to travel to Madrid, Spain in September 2011 to conduct interviews for my Master's thesis entitled "A constructivist analysis of the evolution of Spanish Foreign Policy."

My research investigated the effect of institutional socialization on Spain's foreign policy practices and how Spain's understanding of the international system had changed since its accession to the European Union. This study used interviews to establish Spain's understanding of itself in the international arena and analyzed several cases to determine how Spanish foreign policy practice has evolved.

I carried out interviews with members of the Spanish Foreign Service who had intimate knowledge of Spain's dealings with the European Union in international affairs. The material gained from these interviews established the current Spanish perspective on international affairs as well as providing insights into the case studies selected for this thesis.

The interviews conducted were crucial to completion of this research project and I am grateful to the Centre for European Studies and the European Commission for enabling this process through this grant. I would also like to offer my thanks to the Centre for European Studies staff and to my thesis advisor, Professor Joan DeBardeleben for all of their support during the research process.