Carolina Estrada Bascuñana
Barcelona, Spain
Direct Entry Course
at CET
Doctorate of Musical Arts

How long have you been at CET? Which program? What will you do after CET?

I was enrolled in the 15 week course, DEC15. It was the first time in my life to have a proper English language education. It was a comprehensive and cohesive approach to the language given by world-class language professionals providing all the hints and skills necessary for success at the university.

I was very lucky to receive a CET Scholarship and to receive so much support from the teachers and extraordinary staff, who encourage and help students to achieve their dreams. CET not only offers a highly rated education but also it fosters communication between students. Today, my best friends here in Sydney are those friends I made in CET, and I know I am not the only one with this experience.

CET is a family that welcomed me to this new country, so far away from my own people. It was a very important moment in my life that became easy and fun thanks to CET.

What has been the best part about your academic program?

The University of Sydney is ranked as one of the top universities in the world. My faculty at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music has the best concert halls in the city and the most sophisticated equipment. I can freely use all the conservatorium equipment while studying my Doctor of Musical Arts degree, which means I am able to practise and record in the best halls with the best instruments and having the access to cutting-edge recording technologies. I also had the opportunity to meet some of the best professionals in the music world and to join master classes, workshops and conferences with invited world-class experts. But the most important fact for me was that I received full support to be able to do groundbreaking research that carries enormous historical significance in terms of the Spanish piano musical heritage and tradition, which I would have not been able to do in my own country since such performance-based research is not available in any university and music conservatorium in Spain.

What has been your most memorable moment at the University of Sydney?

I was co-founder and organiser of this unique event in Sydney International Spanish Music and dance Festival, Encuentros Españoles that explored the links between Spanish classical keyboard music and dance and included concerts, master classes, workshops, lecture-recitals and a full day forum of back-to back lecture-presentations. It involved 22 artists, both local and international, including some of the world’s most renowned researchers and performers in my field. This event had important media coverage and a strong influence on my study, drawing on and contributing to national and international scholarship in my field of expertise.

Another memorable moment was when I received two Australian Faculty Merit Postgraduate Awards, the prestigious George Henderson Award and the Kathleen & Allison Short Scholarship, which was possible thanks to the support given by the CET teachers and staff. I was also awarded two Postgraduate Research Scheme Support grants to present conference papers in Australia and Spain, thanks to the Australian Postgraduate Awards.

Do you have any advice to students from your country thinking about studying at the University of Sydney?

Australia is probably the country that offers the best quality life in the world today. If you have the opportunity to study at the University of Sydney, you are a lucky person. The moment you arrive you will not get eaten by a crocodile or killed by a spider. What you will get is a wonderful society welcoming you with their smiles, because Australian people are warm and generous with foreigners. The country is so beautiful and there are so many amazing things to do here. That’s why you’ll soon realise the Australian smile is on your face too.

What has been the best part about life in Sydney?

Honestly, I am not able to explain in words the feeling of happiness I feel living in Sydney. Probably, because I am an artist and the best way I know to express feelings is through music. What I know is that Sydney has made me a better person and for this I feel so grateful to this country. Indeed, this is a country like no other.

How has the best part about your academic program?

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY