

Nieves Ruiz Ibáñez
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Innovation Fellows Program - University of Florida
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Nieves is a junior student whose major is Biomedical Engineering. She is from a city called Murcia, which is located in the southeast of Spain, although she is currently living in Madrid. She is an exchange student from Spain and she will be staying in Gainesville for both Fall and Spring semesters.

During her stage in high school she was in a special research program. The objective of this program was to gather good students and introduce them to researching. She conducted a research on colinesterase in the cerebellum of *Octodon degus* (a kind of rodent) with some professors from Universidad de Murcia. She also graduated from high school with an honorable mention.



In 2016 she started studying Medicine in Universidad de Murcia. Although she is really fascinated by the human body, she realized she did not want to be a doctor. Therefore, she moved to Madrid to study Biomedical Engineering in Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

During her stay in Madrid, she joined the student government and became the representative of the students pursuing a major in Biomedical Engineering. She also became the president of the Biomedical Engineering club. They organize activities to promote Biomedical Engineering, as not everyone in Spain knows what it is about. Every year they organize two big events: a job fair and a hackathon called Engineering Medicine, which pursued the collaboration of students from different backgrounds to solve problems related with the field of Biomedical Engineering. These two events were a success and they brought together people from all over Spain.

She is very enthusiastic about languages. She is a native Spanish speaker, although she can speak fluently English and French, and a little German too. She has also participated in various Cominius projects which seeks to join together people from all over Europe. Therefore, she had the opportunity to do volunteering in exchange programs in Denmark, Poland and Finland.