

# BROWN-IN SPAIN FAQ

(CONSORTIUM FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN BARCELONA)

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## OVERVIEW

### WHAT IS THE CONSORTIUM FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN BARCELONA (CASB)?

The Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona (CASB), a collaborative initiative involving six high caliber U.S. universities – Brown, Chicago, Northwestern, Cornell, Harvard and Princeton -- provides students with a unique opportunity to have direct access to three distinguished Spanish universities.

### WHICH UNIVERSITIES IN BARCELONA IS THE CASB AFFILIATED WITH?

The Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona partners with Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Universitat Pompeu Fabra. The three universities combined course offerings provide students with a vast array of opportunities in the humanities, social sciences, physical and natural sciences, art and architecture and business.

### WHAT IS THE ACADEMIC OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM?

Students will take the majority of their courses at the Consortium's partner universities in Barcelona (UB, UAB and UPF). To obtain four Brown credits, students take 27-30 ETCS credits. A typical semester includes:

- Required Language and Culture Pro Seminar Course (three-week pre-session course)
- One Course offered through the Consortium Center
- Three regular university courses

### WHERE WILL I TAKE MY CLASSES?

All three universities provide a wealth of courses taught either in Castilian Spanish or Catalan. Fall term students will choose courses offered through the UPF and, with prior approval of the student's home university, the UAB. Full year students will choose courses offered through the UB, the UAB and the UPF. Spring term students will choose courses offered through the UB and the UAB. Due to academic calendar differences, UB courses are not available to fall term only students and UPF courses are not available to spring term only students. The CASB course is instructed at the CASB center.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Minimum Requirement: HISP600 (or the equivalent of six semesters of college level Spanish). Students must be in good academic standing (3.0 or better GPA).

### HOW DO I APPLY TO BROWN IN SPAIN? WHERE DO I START?

Go to <https://www.brown.edu/Administration/OIP/apply/> Follow the step by step directions.

### HOW DO I CHOOSE COURSES FOR THE APPLICATION?

You should stop by the OIP library and look through the catalogs of courses. You can also access some of the course catalogs online. You should discuss with your concentration advisor which courses are the most appropriate for your course of studies.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT THE CLASSES I HAVE CHOSEN?

During the application stage, the list of courses is fairly flexible. Before you arrive in Spain, you will pre-register for courses with the help of our on-site staff. Upon arrival in Spain, you will meet individually with our on-site staff members to solidify your academic plan.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE CLASSES I HAVE CHOSEN ARE NOT OFFERED WHEN I ARRIVE IN SPAIN?

One role of our Resident Director and Academic Support and Student Services Coordinator is to help you make adjustments to your selected course list and suggest alternative courses that will fulfill your requirements and needs. It is therefore crucial to keep an academic conversation going.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### WHERE WILL I LIVE?

The CASB worked closely with its Barcelona partner universities to secure housing in the Residencia Universitaria Onix, an ultra-modern, clean and secure university residence hall located in L'Eixample district. The rooms at the Onix are fully furnished with kitchens and baths that are shared with one other suitemate. Shared rooms are spacious by Spanish residence hall standards and every effort will be made to place students with a Spanish roommate.

### DO I NEED TO KNOW CATALÁN TO ATTEND THIS PROGRAM?

Although Catalan is not a requirement for this program, we strongly encourage you to take a catalán course prior to your departure as this will help your cultural integration. Look at catalán as an important “value added” when it comes to your experience in Spain. All three partner universities provide a wealth of courses taught in Castilian Spanish or Catalan.

### WHAT IS THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Fall: Early September - Late December

Spring: Early January - Late June

\*Students will not know the exact final program date until after they have formally selected courses at the start of the term.

### HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

Set up an appointment to meet with an OIP Study Abroad Advisor, visit the OIP Resource Library to read evaluations from past program participants and talk with peer advisors.

## PASSPORT AND VISA

### WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY PASSPORT?

If you do not have a passport, APPLY NOW! To apply: [www.travel.state.gov/passport](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport)

If you do have a passport, verify the following items:

-Expiration Date: your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. If it has expired, will expire while you're abroad, or will expire less than 6 months after your scheduled return, you must renew it immediately.

-Make sure you have at least one blank page remaining in your passport for your visa stamp

### WHAT IS A VISA? DO I NEED ONE TO STUDY IN SPAIN?

A visa is an official authorization placed in your passport that shows you have permission from the Spanish government to enter Spain and stay for a specific period of time. A student visa is required to study in Spain. You **MUST** have your visa when you enter the country, or you could be sent back to your home country at your own expense.

\*Please note: Students with EU citizenship do **NOT** need a student visa to study in Spain, as long as you will be carrying a current, valid passport from an EU country while in Spain.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA?

Once you have been accepted to the Brown in Spain program, your Study Abroad Advisor will begin to provide you with detailed visa information to help you navigate the process of applying for a student visa. It will be your responsibility to follow all visa instructions very carefully. Although the OIP provides guidance through this process, each student is responsible for obtaining their student visa.

Each Spanish Consulate requires different documents to process a visa. Your Study Abroad Advisor from the OIP at Brown will provide you with information for the Spanish Consulate in Boston, which as a student in New England you are eligible to utilize their services. Otherwise you must apply through the Spanish Consulate with jurisdiction over the state in which you live. If you decide to use a different

Spanish Consulate it is your responsibility to determine their contact information and what materials you'll need.

\*Please note: During your visa appointment with the Spanish Consulate, your Consular officer will collect your passport along with other visa documents. Your passport will then be held by the Spanish Consulate for **up to a month** while your visa is processed. Please be mindful of this when planning international trips prior to the program.