

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Program Overview	3
Why Barcelona?	4
Catalan in a Multilingual Spain	4
U.S. Contact Information	5
The CASB Center in Barcelona	8
CASB Center Contact Information	9
Program Staff in Barcelona	9
Barcelona Universities	10
2009-2010 Program Calendars	12
Academic Overview	13
Course Load	14
Grades	16
Course Structure and Attendance	16
Higher Education in Spain	17
Preparing for Your Departure	18
Applying for a Student Visa	18
Getting to Barcelona	20
Transportation from Airport to City Center	20
Getting Around in Barcelona	21
Housing	22
Managing and Budgeting your Money	23
ATM Cards and Debit Cards	24
Traveler's Checks	24
Travel during the Program	25
Health Relating Issues	25
Questions to Consider when Acquiring Health Insurance	26
Prescription Medications	26
Immunizations	27
Avian Flu	27
Contraception, STDs and Counseling Services	27
Emergency Procedures and Staying Safe	27
Other Helpful Tips	28
Suggested Reading	32

Photo Contributions:

Dianna Baros, U. of Chicago, "Casteller," front cover

Dianna Baros, U. of Chicago, "La Sagrada Familia," p.3

Lynn Walters, U. of Chicago, "Flower Sellers on La Rambla," p.23

Lisa Czanko, U. of Chicago, "Living Statue on las Ramblas," p.29

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona (CASB) Program. Long considered one of Spain's most progressive regional capitals, Barcelona is proud of its unique position within the country and its well-established reputation as a center of political, social and cultural activism. With a history dating back over 2,000 years, its cultural, artistic and linguistic traditions offer a perfect backdrop for serious academic study.

This handbook will provide you with a wealth of information that will guide you as you prepare to immerse yourself fully into the academic, cultural, and sociolinguistic context of this important region of Spain. Use it as a resource but don't consider it to be your only guide to Barcelona and the CASB academic program. Dedicated staffs at each of the CASB member institutions, together with our experienced personnel on-site, are fully committed to delivering a program that will challenge you to go beyond your comfort zone, to gain an understanding of the subtle – and sometimes not so subtle – nuances that have come to define Catalonia. As you prepare for your experience abroad, heed the advice provided in the following pages, read up on Barcelona, and allow your mind to be open to discovery. The true value of a lengthy and profound sojourn abroad is that it erases the frontier between cultural awareness and cultural experience. Experience Barcelona in a way that no short-term wayfarer could ever imagine.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona (CASB), a collaborative initiative involving seven high caliber U.S. universities – Brown, Chicago, Northwestern, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton and Stanford -- provides students with a unique opportunity to have direct access to three distinguished Spanish universities. The program capitalizes on the already strong academic linkages existing between the Hispanic Studies departments from each of the U.S. consortium members and their counterparts in Barcelona and fills an important education abroad niche in arguably Spain's most dynamic and avant garde city.

The genesis for the program dates to 2004, when the six U.S. partners observed that, despite growing interest in Barcelona as a destination city, students with advanced

language skills were limited in their program options to “island” programs (which allow for limited integration into the host culture) and Spanish university-delivered programs designed specifically for international students. Few full immersion opportunities existed for students to directly enroll in regular university courses alongside Spanish classmates.

The CASB program fills this void. It is designed for students who are looking for serious and rigorous academic study alongside local nationals. Barcelona is a bilingual city, and as such, you will have the opportunity not only to greatly improve your fluency in Castilian Spanish but also gain a working knowledge of Catalan. The similarities between the two languages will allow you to quickly develop an ear for the latter, provided you are open to it. The program will be delivered in Spanish. Single semester students who arrive with proficient oral and written skills in Catalan and full-year students who have acquired Catalan proficiency during the fall term may have the option to pursue content courses in Catalan. The CASB firmly believes that by exposing yourself to the complexities of both languages, you will achieve a deeper understanding of the rich cultural mosaic of Catalonia and greater Spain.

Why Barcelona?

*“Catalans who climb here love their land more,
They see all the ranges, vassals to their range,
They see all the peaks at the foot of their titan:
And foreigners who bow down, from afar, before this mountain,
Cry “This giant is a giant of Spain,
Spanish—and Catalan”*

Catalunya viewed from the Pyrenees, in Jacint Verdaguer’s *Canigó*

The selection of Barcelona as the host city is by design. The CASB considers the region’s vast historical, cultural, linguistic and artistic legacy to be an ideal looking glass through which students can examine key political, social, economic and cultural issues affecting Spain, the Mediterranean region and the whole of Europe today. The bilingual and multicultural characters of the city will remind students of the complex relationship between Catalonia and Spain’s center, in Madrid. Together, they reinforce the program’s efforts to expose students to the complex issue of Spanish national identity, a challenging theme on nation-state building whose origins can be traced back to Spain’s formation as a state over 500 years ago.

Catalan in a Multilingual Spain

It may be surprising to know that Spain is, after Belgium and Luxembourg, the state where multilingualism has most importance within the European Union, to a degree that, far from being something anecdotal, it represents a fundamental feature of the State. In Spain, there are 16.3 million people who live in territories with more than one official language. This represents 41% of the total population of the State. And two out of three of these people, that is, 10.8 million, live in the three territories where Catalan has official status.

Catalan is the seventh most-spoken language in the European Union. The number of people who speak it is greater than those who speak Finnish or Danish, and it is equivalent to the number of speakers of Swedish, Greek and Portuguese in Europe.

Does this mean your opportunities for perfecting your Spanish (castellano) proficiency skills are limited? On the contrary! Both *castellano* and *catalán* are official languages in Spain (as are *gallego*, common in Galicia and *euskera* in Euzkadi), and throughout Catalonia both are spoken everywhere and interchangeably. Look at *catalán* as an important “value added” when it comes to your experience in Spain.

U.S. CONTACT INFORMATION

Brown University students:

Office of International Programs
PO Box 1973
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912
Tel. (401) 863-3555
FAX (401) 863-3311
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm
<http://www.brown.edu/OIP/>
Email: OIP@brown.edu



In the event of a health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, please call the Brown Campus Police at (401) 863-4111.

For administrative and academic questions, please contact OIP Study Abroad Advisor, Andrea Lipkin at (401) 863-3555.

For program payment and financial matters, please contact OIP Financial Manager, Carol Bridge, at (401) 863-3555

University of Chicago students:

Study Abroad Office
University of Chicago
Harper 203
1116 E. 59th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
Tel: (773) 702-9442
Fax: (773) 702-5846
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
<http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu>

All administrative, academic, and financial questions should be directed to Lewis Fortner,

Associate Dean of Students in the College. The study abroad after-hours emergency phone is (773) 612-4680.

Northwestern University students:

Study Abroad Office
Northwestern University
630 Dartmouth Place
Evanston, Illinois 60208 / USA
Tel: 847-467-6400
Fax: 847-467-6410
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm Central Standard Time
<http://www.northwestern.edu/studyabroad/>

In the event of a health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, please call the Northwestern University Police at (847) 491-3254.

For administrative and academic questions, please contact Robin Leephaibul, Northwestern Advisor for the Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona, at (847) 491-4677.

For program payment and financial matters, please contact Sue Kwan, Assistant Director for Financial Aid, at (847) 467-5640.

Cornell University students:

Cornell Abroad
300 Caldwell Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853
Tel. (607) 255-6224
Fax: (607) 255-8700
Office hours: MWThF 9:00am – 4:00 pm; T 10:30am – 4:00pm
<http://www.CUAbroad.cornell.edu>

In the event of a health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, please call the Cornell Police Department at (607) 255-1111.

For academic questions, please contact Cornell Abroad Associate Director, Kristen Grace, kag7@cornell.edu, at (607) 255-6224.

For administrative questions, please contact Libby Okihiro, Student Services Coordinator, ero2@cornell.edu, at (607) 255-6224

For program payment and financial matters, please contact Kathy Lynch, Financial Services Coordinator, kl16@cornell.edu, at (607) 255-6224.

Harvard University students:

Harvard College Office of International Programs
University Hall, Ground Floor South
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
Tel. (617) 496-2722
FAX (617) 496-2563
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~oip/>

In the event of a health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, please call the Harvard College ISOS number, at (215) 942 8226 OR the Harvard College 24 hour emergency number at (617) 495-5560

All administrative, academic and financial questions should be directed to OIP Assistant Director, Erin Goodman, at 617-495-7675.

Princeton University Students:

Office of the Dean of the College
406 West College
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey 08544
Tel. (609) 258-5524
FAX (609) 258-6371
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm
<http://www.princeton.edu/~sap/>

In the event of a health-related and/or safety emergency, contact SOS for assistance. To reach Princeton outside of business hours, please call Public Safety at (609) 258-3134.

For administrative and academic questions, please contact the Study Abroad Office, Dean Nancy Kanach, at (609) 258-5524.

For billing questions, please contact Student Accounts, Maureen Ciambrello, at (609) 258-5039.

For financial aid issues, please contact the Financial Aid Office, Joel Carstens, at (609) 258-3330.

Stanford University Students:

Bing Overseas Studies Program
Stanford University
Sweet Hall, Ground Floor

590 Escondido Mall
Stanford, CA 94305-3089
Tel: +1-(650)-725-0236
Fax: +1-(650)-725-7355
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm
<http://bosp.stanford.edu>
Email: ospstudy@lists.stanford.edu

In the event of a health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, please call the Stanford campus operator at (650)-723-2300.

For administrative, academic and financial questions, please contact External Programs Coordinator, Naoko Sakata at (650)-725-0236 or nsakata@stanford.edu.

THE CASB CENTER IN BARCELONA

The CASB program center is located at Balmes 132, a state-of-the-art facility managed by the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) and located in the heart of the Eixample business district of Barcelona. L'Eixample has long had the reputation of being Barcelona's most elegant district and its history is inextricably linked to the development of Barcelona and its transformation into a modern city. The Provença metro stop is located just outside the entrance to Balmes, providing students with excellent connections to UPF and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). The University of Barcelona (UB) can be reached within 15 minutes by foot.



The program center is located on the fifth floor of Balmes and consists of five rooms. Its facilities include a small computer lab/library, a conference room and offices for the resident director, student/academic support services coordinator, and visiting CASB faculty member. Additionally, the CASB has access to classroom and seminar space equipped with high-end audiovisual and technical equipment. It is at Balmes where the CASB-sponsored courses throughout the academic year, and occasional guest lectures will primarily take place.

CASB Center Computers and E-mail access: Balmes 132 is a wireless facility. CASB computers will have internet access that you may use for email communication. We encourage you to check to see that your account is current and learn to access it before you depart the U.S.; it is the best way to communicate with academic advisors, friends and family. More information about email use at the CASB Center will be provided to students on site. Additionally, there are many cyber-café's throughout Barcelona that

students commonly use for a small charge (approximately 2 euros) per hour. There are also two computer labs with internet connection in the ONIX residence.

BARCELONA CASB CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

The Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona

C/ Balmes 132, 5a. Planta

08008 Barcelona (España)

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm and 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Tel: 011 34 93 542 24 89

FAX: 011 34 93 542 14 30

Email: info@casbarcelona.org

juanjo.romero@CASBarcelona.org

teresa.nandin@CASBarcelona.org

libby.turner@CASBarcelona.org (please note, for the fall 2009, Libby is on maternity leave)

Website: www.casbarcelona.org (log in: student password: student) Upon arrival, you will be assigned your own log in information.

NOTE: Please do not send any packages to the CASB Center if there is a chance they will arrive before you do!

PROGRAM STAFF IN BARCELONA

Resident Director: Dr. Juan Jose (Juanjo) Romero Marín is charged with overall responsibility for administering the CASB Center, including day-to-day management, student advising, liaison with the UB, UAB and UPF and supervision of local faculty and staff. Dr. Romero is a native of Barcelona and holds a Ph.D. in Contemporary History from the University of Barcelona. He brings a wealth of on-site program administrative and teaching experience to the CASB program and has collaborated extensively with all three Barcelona partner universities.

Student/Academic Support Services Coordinator: Elizabeth (Libby) Turner has lived and worked in Barcelona for eleven years, with a significant portion of this spent directly involved with the management of study abroad programs. She has a thorough familiarity with the socio-political and cultural context of Barcelona and greater Catalonia, and wide-ranging experience in both the academic field and student support services.

The Student/Academic Support Services Coordinator works with and under the supervision of the CASB Resident Director to assure the smooth operation of the program and the center on a day-to-day basis. Please note that Libby will be on maternity leave for the fall 2009 semester.

During the fall 2009 semester, Teresa Nandin will be filling the role of Student/Academic Support Services Coordinator. Teresa Nandin, although a native from Galicia, has a

thorough familiarity with the socio-political and cultural context of Catalonia and Barcelona in particular, where she has lived and worked since 2002. She has worked as an academic coordinator for several study abroad programs and Foreign Language Departments in Spanish universities.

CASB Faculty-in-Residence:

The CASB Faculty-in-Residence position for the 2009-2010 year is to be announced.

About the Eixample District of Barcelona

Step outside Balmes 132 and the Eixample district takes you on a stroll of all that is refined and elegant in the city. Here you will find classic, designer stores, prestigious hotels, and much of the city's financial center. The Eixample was designed in the 19th century by Ildefons Cerdà. His urban plan consisted of an enormous network of parallel and perpendicular streets, uniform in design, which formed almost square-like city blocks. The blocks were not perfect squares because their corners were cut off at diagonal angles in order to improve visibility. The Passeig de Gràcia and Rambla Catalunya define the area from north to south. They are intersected by perpendicular streets such as Diputació, Consell de Cent, València, Mallorca and Provença. Balmes, Aribau and Muntaner on the left and Pau Claris, Bruc and Girona on the right run parallel to the two elegant avenues and thus form a quadrant that brings together some of the city's most outstanding examples of modernist architecture. Here you will find such noted works as Gaudí's Casa Batlló and Casa Milà ("La Pedrera"), Domènech i Montaner's Casa Lleo-Morera and Puig i Cadafalch's Casa Amatller.

BARCELONA UNIVERSITIES

The Consortium for Advanced Studies partners with three distinguished universities whose 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.

The **Universitat de Barcelona (UB)** (<http://www.ub.edu/>), founded in 1455, boasts well over 70,000 students. Offering 75 undergraduate degrees, over 90 doctorate programs and 390 postgraduate courses, the UB is the largest of the ten universities in Catalonia and the second largest in Spain.

The **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)** (<http://www.uab.es>), was established in 1968 and has over 50,000 students. The state-of-the-art Bellaterra campus, in Cerdanyola del Vallès, is home to most of its departments, institutes and services. Seventy-eight degree programs are available at the UAB, covering a wide range of fields, including the humanities and arts, social sciences, health sciences, experimental and technological sciences.

The **Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)**(<http://www.upf.edu/cast/web>) is a dynamic institution that was established in 1990 with the aim of providing a new model of a modern research university. Today it has 11,000 students, courses in all fields – from experimental, health and life sciences to human and social sciences and technical studies – and an expanding campus in the heart of the city, stretching between the Ramblas and the district of Poblenou, site of the 1992 Olympics.

2009-2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR:

FALL



August 28, 2009	Fall and Full Year Students arrive
September 1	Language and Culture Pro seminar begins
September 11	Catalonia National Holiday (Diada de Sant Jordi)
September 18	Language and Culture Pro seminar ends
September 21	CASB Courses start
September 25 (approximately)	Classes begin UAB and UPF
	NOTE: UB/UAB courses may start one week earlier.
October 12	Día de la Hispanidad (national holiday)
November 1	Todos los Santos (national holiday)
December 6	Día de la Constitución (national holiday)
December 8	Día de la Inmaculada (national holiday)
December 23	Fall term ends at UPF and UAB (for UAB students, special accommodation will be made to allow fall term only students to complete the term in time for them to return to their home universities to begin the spring term in January)

SPRING

January 8, 2010	Spring Students arrive
January 10	Move to residence Onix
TBA	Language and Culture Pro seminar begins
TBA	Language and Culture Pro seminar ends
TBA	UB courses begin. Add/drop period
TBA	UAB courses begin
TBA	Spring break (Easter)
April 23	UB Holiday
May 1	National Bank Holiday
TBA	UAB classes end
TBA	UB exam period begins
TBA	UAB exam period begins
June 24	Bank holiday
TBA	UB final exams end *
TBA	UAB final exams end *

Note: There is no official date for the end of the spring term at the UB, UAB and UPF. Final exams take place during the month of June. Students will not know their exact final program date until after they have formally selected their UB and/or UAB, UPF courses at the start of the term. **Students are, therefore, advised to purchase an airline ticket that charges only a nominal fee for changing their return date, as the end date of the program is contingent upon each student's exam schedule at the UB, UAB and UPF.*

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

Students will take the majority of their courses at the Consortium's partner universities in Barcelona (UB, UAB and UPF). They will provisionally choose their courses during the semester prior to their participation on the program by reviewing the course schedules made available either on the website or in the course catalog provided by each Barcelona university. It is important that students work closely with their study abroad and academic advisors during this pre-selection period.



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.

Information on courses offered in Spanish at the three Barcelona partner universities can be found by clicking on the following links or on the CASBarcelona website: www.casbarcelona.org (at "Información académica/Estructura del programa/cursos universitarios")

Universitat de Barcelona:

<http://www.giga.ub.edu/acad/fitxes/consulta/taula.php?mode=1>

- Once there, click on a departmental link of interest
- Within each department is a list of courses offered

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona: <http://www.uab.es/english>

- Click on Mobility and exchange
- On the left, click on Study Abroad in Regular Studies
- Near the bottom, click on Faculties and UAB Schools under Academic year 2009-2010
- Select a faculty (listed are the courses available in this faculty)

Universitat Pompeu Fabra: www.upf.edu (select English at the top of the page)

- On the left, click undergraduate studies
- On the left, click Study programmes
- Select one of the 4 study programmes (social sciences and humanities, health/life sciences, communication, design and architecture)
- Select a department option from that Study programme
- On right, click course choices for exchange students
- A new page will allow you to view courses offered in this department

Final selection of courses will take place after students arrive in Barcelona, in consultation with CASB Center staff.

COURSE LOAD

The typical course load each semester will consist of 27 - 30 ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System) which will transfer back to the student's home university as a full equivalent course load of credit. It's expected that students will enroll in courses that are appropriately rigorous in academic content and, in this regard, each home university reserves the right to award or deny credit accordingly. Keep in mind that, in order to grant departmental credit for a course, some home university departments may require that you show the syllabi, reading lists, and your notes and papers when you return from Barcelona.

A typical semester course load will be completed as follows:

Required Language and Culture Pro Seminar Course (6 ECTS credits):

This is a mandatory three-week pre-session course (45 contact hours) delivered to incoming students. The course will be geared toward preparing advanced Spanish and /or Catalan language students to function well in the academic and social context of Barcelona. There may be 2-3 sections to allow for appropriate class sizes.

- **Content:** The orientation will be conducted in Castilian and will provide an introduction to Catalan history and culture, grounding it in Spanish history and culture, with excursions throughout the city and region to highlight the course content. This will be a single course with three basic elements:
 - *Language—Catalan:* The language element of the pro seminar will train students how to listen to and read Catalan for basic comprehension as well as providing them with basic communication skills. Special arrangements will be made for students who arrive with advanced Catalan language skills.
 - *Language—Spanish:* The Spanish component will review elements of the language that will be helpful for writing academic papers and listening to lectures.
 - *History/Culture:* The pro seminar will provide an introduction to the city through its history and architecture with a greater emphasis on contemporary history, culture and politics so that students will be prepared to understand basic social and political elements that will be a part of their everyday lives. The largely contemporary nature of the history and culture course will raise questions of bilingualism, multiculturalism and the varieties of nationalism and globalization within the context of Barcelona as a Catalonian, Spanish, Mediterranean, and European city.
 - *Excursions:* Excursions planned as part of the orientation will be linked to the academic content of the orientation and will help students become comfortable navigating their way culturally.*

**Note: Academic year students will receive credit for the fall pro-seminar and, in general, will not be permitted to attend the activities or excursions organized for the spring pro seminar. Academic year students will be invited to attend certain*

functions in place during the winter/spring pro seminar, as a way of welcoming new students to the program and helping them adapt to life in Barcelona.

One Course offered through the Consortium Center (6 ECTS credits)

Students will choose one of two CASB Center courses delivered each term by the resident director and the faculty-in-residence, respectively. The faculty-in-residence will teach a content course in Spanish that will have broad appeal, touching upon issues/topics relevant to Catalonia and drawing upon local resources. The resident director will teach a content course that provides a comprehensive contemporary overview of Catalonia in the greater Spanish and European context. Both courses will be conducted in Spanish and use Barcelona/Catalonia as a focus for their respective explorations of issues and relevant topics.

Three regular university courses (totaling 15 – 18 ECTS credits)*

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. Students will have access to the full range of courses offered at the three Barcelona universities. Together, they offer an abundance of courses – some taught in Spanish and others in Catalan -- in virtually all subject areas. The similarities between the two languages are many and you will find yourself quickly picking up on Catalan phrases and speech patterns shortly after your arrival. Students who have previously studied Catalan at their home universities may, if they desire, choose a content course taught in Catalan. Full year students who have made a serious effort to learn Catalan during the fall term, may also wish to enroll in a Catalan-taught course during the spring term. Students may write all papers and examinations in Spanish even if a course is taught in Catalan.

It is essential that you complete all course work and adhere to all course requirements before leaving Barcelona at the end of the program. If you leave with work unfinished, the CASB program does not assume any responsibility for providing you with a grade. Do not assume that you can take an "incomplete" in Barcelona and not have it affect your academic record. Just as is the practice in the U.S., an "incomplete" in Barcelona will, in time, become a failing grade on your transcript. Only in the event of severe emergency will consideration be given to allow a student to return to the U.S. before formally completing all coursework and examinations.

**NOTE: It is important that students consult with their home university prior to registration, particularly if their home university is on a quarter system rather than semester system. Quarter system universities may have different requirements regarding the number of regular university courses that students should take each term in Barcelona.*

***Full year students will not repeat the pro seminar in the spring. They will have the option of taking four regular university courses in the spring.*

GRADES

The Consortium director will obtain official grade reports from each of the three Barcelona universities and will forward these and the grades for CASB-delivered courses to each consortium member institution with a cover letter summarizing the courses taken and Spanish-system grades obtained by each student. Each CASB member university will then process these grade reports according to its own study abroad transfer policy.

In most cases, UB, UAB and UPF will use a 1-10 grading scale, with 10 being the highest and 0 the lowest. Each CASB member university will determine its own system of equivalency but the following may serve as a general guide.

9.0-10	A <u>Sobresaliente/Excelente</u>
8.0-8.99	B+
7.5-7.99	B
7.0-7.49	B- <u>Notable</u>
6.5-6.99	C+
6.0-6.49	C
5.0-5.99	C- <u>Aprobado</u>
4.5-4.99	D
0-4.49	F <u>Suspenso</u>

All CASB Center courses will be graded using standard U.S. grading practices.

Students wishing to take a course pass/fail while abroad should check with their study abroad office regarding specific requirements. Don't assume that courses can be taken pass/fail without verifying first with your study abroad office.

COURSE STRUCTURE & ATTENDANCE

The U.S. system will govern the delivery of the pro seminar and all other classes at the CASB center. You will be expected to attend classes regularly, participate in group discussions and keep up with daily assignments. Attendance will be reflected in your final grade.

There are a number of marked differences between the U.S. and Spanish systems when it comes to class attendance. American universities function on the basis of "ongoing assessment." Students are frequently quizzed, tested, or required to submit a number of papers over the course of the term. They, therefore, are able to have an idea of how well, or how poorly, they are progressing in a given subject over the course of the term. Final examinations are often considered to be one (albeit an important one) of a number of assessment tools that will determine their final grades.

Spanish university classes – with the exception of language classes -- generally do not function this way. The role of the instructor is not necessarily to introduce a given

subject to a student, but rather to interpret and synthesize the topic at hand. When a given bibliography is shared with the student, an assumption is made that the student will come to class prepared for the day's topic by having fully read and reflected on the required reading. Simply put, the onus to perform and to acquire knowledge falls considerably more to the student. Rare is the occasion that an instructor will take attendance and a student's grade is commonly determined by a single final exam which, in most cases, is essay in nature and based on the material given in the class and reading lists students are expected to cover independently. Moreover, Spaniards generally give less importance to final grades as they have the luxury of repeating exams that they have failed -- through the practice of *recuperaciones* taken later during the year.

The key to successfully completing your course load is to attend class regularly, take good notes, and keep up with the readings. In addition, CASB offers discipline-related tutorials to help you with the demands of studying in another country. With so much to see and do in and around Barcelona, it may be tempting to skip class, take long weekends, etc. Don't fall into this trap. Students who miss class must work doubly hard to recover and understand the material, and they risk failing the course. Repeatedly failing to attend class, whether in the CASB Center or in regular university courses, may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN SPAIN

The Spanish university system dates back to the Middle Ages. The oldest among Spanish Universities is Salamanca, founded in 1218. The Universitat de Barcelona, founded in 1455, is Catalonia's most venerable university.

The present system, however, is actually a descendant of the 19th century liberal university, inspired by the centralized French model. In the last years, it has experienced its greatest growth in history, while at the same time advancing towards a self-governing and decentralized system. In Barcelona, this is most noteworthy in the creation of two regional universities, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in the 1960s and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in the early 1990s.

UB, UAB and UPF, like the vast majority of their counterparts elsewhere in Spain, are public institutions. The creation of private universities is a very recent phenomenon, dating to the mid-1980s, and there are now a small number of universities in the country that fall under this rubric, most of them located in Madrid. Prior to this time, only four universities were considered private and these fell under the responsibility of the Roman Catholic Church.

In the public university system, the structure of studies and the requirements for degrees are centrally and regionally mandated. Tuition is also nationally and regionally subsidized, with students paying a fraction of what they would pay in the United States. By the same token, students seldom cast a wide net when considering which university to attend, opting instead to attend a university located in the autonomous community -- there are 17 of them in Spain -- where each resides.

Spanish university students are far more specialized in their studies than their American counterparts. Spanish students who wish to pursue university studies apply to a specific school (*facultad*) and, if admitted, take the majority of their coursework through that *facultad*. The concept of electives is something that has been introduced only in recent years; the norm continues to be that students take nearly all their courses in a particular department and in an established sequence. Three year degrees (*diplomados*) are awarded after three years of study in an *Escuela Universitaria*. After four to five years of study, most students complete their studies and obtain a *licenciatura*, a degree which is roughly equivalent to a master's degree in the United States.

PREPARING FOR YOUR DEPARTURE

Passport

If you do not currently have a passport you should start this process **as soon as possible**. The process can take two weeks to a month depending on which procedure you follow. You are now able to download printable passport applications from the internet as well as consult general Passport Services information at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

To get your passport you'll need:

- a) a passport application
- b) proof of citizenship, e.g. a birth certificate
- c) two identical passport photos
- d) the passport fee \$60 (please verify with the post office)

Remember: Your passport is the most important document you have when outside the United States. Know where it is at all times. When you receive your passport, make several copies of the front pages and keep the copies separate from your baggage. You should leave a copy of your passport with your parents at home. Once in a foreign country, keep your copies in a safe place, and ask your program to keep a copy on hand. This will facilitate replacement if your passport is lost or stolen.

Applying for a Student Visa

The Spanish government requires a visa for all US citizens, and many non-US citizens, studying in Spain for more than three months. If you are a US citizen, this means that you must obtain a student visa prior to departure. **Do not leave this matter until the last minute.**

You cannot apply for your visa without a valid passport. If you do not have one, or if your current passport expires within six months after the end of the program, visit the U.S. State Department's Travel Website (http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html) to renew or request a passport.

Students must have the required Spanish visa in order to participate in the CASB program. Immediately check your window of opportunity for visa application and for the consulate that corresponds to your permanent home address at the following address: <http://www.immihelp.com/visas/schengenvisa/spanish-consulates-usa.html>

You must contact the consulate with jurisdiction over the state in which you reside to obtain the necessary visa applications and instructions. In some cases it may be possible to use the consulate associated with the state in which your university is located but this must be verified with the consulate itself. It is your responsibility to inform yourself of the requirements and to get your own visa. Note that the requirements for obtaining a visa may vary from one Spanish consulate to another. ALWAYS verify the application procedure with the consulate with jurisdiction for your home residence.

One of the documents required for a student visa is a letter stating that you are enrolled in a full-time program. Your study abroad office will provide you with such a letter, closer to the date when you should apply for your visa. You may also be required to submit a physician's letter indicating that you are in good health, free of contagious disease, drug addiction or mental illness. These items must be specified in the letter, and a medical doctor must sign it. In some cases, you may be required to present a statement or record from the police department indicating a record of good conduct.

Some consulates will not process visa applications before or after certain dates, and the process can take several weeks, so it is very important to check the requirements early, to learn such details. Generally, one or two visits to the consulate are required, so students must plan accordingly.

When entering Spain, make sure that the official stamps your passport on the same page as your visa. The student visa is good for 90, if you are a full-year student or 180 days, if you are a semester student. Full-year students are required to extend their stay by obtaining a resident's card, once in Spain. The program staff will help you extend it for the length of your program.

Any questions you have about the visa application process, or entry into Spain, should be directed to the Spanish consulate from which you obtained the visa materials.

GETTING TO BARCELONA

Barcelona airport is one of the busiest airports in Europe, with frequent flights and good connections from all over the world. There are a number of direct flights from the United States, but you may find that your initial arrival to Spain



will be through Madrid, with a connecting flight taking you to Barcelona.

Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Fall and Full year students should plan to arrive on Friday, August 28th, 2009. Keep in mind that most transatlantic flights to Spain depart the U.S. the evening prior to your arrival day. This means that, in most cases, you will begin your international flight on the previous day and fly through the night. When checking in for your international flight, verify that your luggage will be checked directly through to your final destination. In most cases this can be done, even if you begin your travel with one airline company and conclude with another.

After purchasing your flight, remember it is essential to provide your Study Abroad Office with your flights details.

Upon arriving to Spain, you will proceed to passport control, after which you will pick up your luggage. If your first port of entrance is Madrid, in most cases, your luggage will be automatically checked through to Barcelona. This means you will not have to clear customs until you reach your final destination.

After clearing customs, you should make your way to the hotel, where program staff will meet you. In August or December, the Resident Director will send you a letter of welcome with the hotel name and street address, how to take a taxi to the hotel, and other important instructions.

Travel and Transport between the Airport and Barcelona's City Center



Barcelona's international airport, El Prat, lies approximately 12 kilometers southeast of the city. The airport is divided into three terminals: A, B and C. Normally, Terminal A serves international flights, Terminal B serves national flights and Terminal C serves the hourly shuttle that connects Madrid and Barcelona.

Plans are underway to build an underground that will one day connect almost every area in the city with the airport. However, this plan is still years from completion, so at this point in time you have three options of getting into the city: taxi, bus or train. **The most comfortable option is definitely the taxi, which generally costs between 25 and 30 euros.**

A cheaper option is the Aerobus (airport bus), which leaves the airport every 15 minutes and drops you off at Plaça Catalunya, right in front of the large Corte Inglés department store. A bus ride costs approximately 3 euros (including luggage) and takes about half an hour to reach its final destination. The buses run until midnight.

The final option is by train, which will take you from Barcelona airport to the city center, where you can change to the metro system at either Barcelona Sants or Catalunya

stations. The journey from the airport takes about 25 minutes and tickets cost approximately 3 euros.

NOTE: If arriving to Barcelona by air from the U.S., keep in mind that you will be tired, jetlagged and disoriented. If there is one time when you might want to consider splurging on taking a taxi cab into the city, it is now!

Getting around in Barcelona

The metro: This is the fastest way to get around the city. Barcelona's underground network covers almost the entire city and, in most cases, one can find a metro stop within minutes walking distance. You can identify a metro stop by the letter 'M' on a red diamond. Barcelona has five metro lines: L1 (Hospital de Bellvitge-Fondo, red line), L2 (Paral.lel –Pep Ventura, purple line), L3 (Zona Universitària-Canyelles, green line), L4 (Trinitat Nova-La Pau, yellow line), L5 (Cornellà-Centre-Horta, blue line).

As is the case in most European cities, you can change lines as often as you like thanks to transfers. You have to validate your ticket every time you wish to ride the metro by inserting your ticket into the machines at the turnstiles. As of March 20, 2009 (zone 1 covers all of the Barcelona city), a one-way ticket currently cost 1.35 euros, but you can choose to purchase a T-10, which is a ten-ride pass that can be used by multiple passengers. As of March 20, 2009 fares, this pass cost 7.70 euros. *By far the most convenient pass, however, is either the one zone T-Mes, which provides unlimited use of the metro for 30 days after the time of purchase., or the T-Jove, which provides unlimited use for the metro for 90 days after the time of purchase. As of March 20, 2009, the T-Mes pass cost 47.90 euros and the T-Jove cost 112.00 euros.*

The bus: The selection of buses is ample. A ride costs the same as the metro and the T-10, T-Mes and T-Jove are also valid for this mode of transport. You can pick up a map showing all the bus lines at any metro station (the bus stops, however, are out on the street).

Taxis: Barcelona taxis are yellow and black, and a small, green light on the roof indicates whether they are available or not. Taxi fares don't start at zero; a ride always starts out from a set, base amount (as of May 1, 2008, 1.90 euros, 4.00 euros if the ride takes place at night). The only times that it might be slightly difficult to find a taxi is during a holiday or in very busy nightlife areas. To find a ride, all you have to do in most instances is find a strategic corner and flag down any taxi coming your way. Taxis do apply additional charges for trips to the airport, handling luggage and waiting for passengers.

Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat (FGC): These trains are similar to the metro and regular trains (in fact, many of their stations coincide), but their routes reach other, at times somewhat more distant, destinations. Their main hub is the Catalunya station (right behind Café Zurich at the top of the Rambla), which also serves lines 1 and 3 of the underground. The price of the ticket depends on the length of the trajectory. Trajectories

within the city limits have the same fares as the metro and the bus, and you can use your T-10 for the trip.

FGC operating hours: Monday to Thursday, from 5.00 a.m. to 12 midnight; Fridays, Saturdays and public holidays, from 5.00 a.m. to 2.00 a.m.; Sundays from 5.00 a.m. to 12 midnight.

RENFE (Red Nacional de Ferrocarriles)

Spain has a single national rail company, called RENFE, and its website, www.renfe.es, provides daily train timetables and other useful information. Madrid is connected with Barcelona through RENFE's new high speed rail system, the AVE. It's Talgo system also provides convenient national railway service to and from Barcelona. Purchasing round-trip tickets that coincide with *días azules* entitles you to a 20 percent discount. You should also enquire about other discount promotions, such as *Tarjeta Joven* and *Tarjeta Turística*. Information on *Interail* and *Eurotren* passes is also available.

For more information regarding Barcelona's public transport, please visit www.tmb.net

HOUSING

The CASB has 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. Its contact information is

Residencia Onix
C/ Sardenya 101-137
08013 Barcelona (Spain)
Tel. 011 34 932 666 100 FAX 011 34 932 666 101

Residencia Onix (see www.residenciaonix.com) is a 234 room facility with efficiency flats that cater to a mixed Spanish and international student population. Flats are shared doubles with fully furnished kitchens and baths. Shared rooms are spacious by Spanish residence hall terms. Amenities include independent air conditioning, central air, heat, fully equipped kitchens, telephone, internet, television, desk and table lamps, closet space, single beds and bed linens. The facility provides a shared computer lab for student use, a fitness gym, solarium, swimming pool and a common reading room. Conveniently located in front of the Barcelona Nord bus station, next to RENFE train station and the Arc de Triomf metro station, Residencia Onix is only a 15 minute walk from the UPF and with excellent metro communication to the CASB Center, UB and UAB. Should additional housing be required, the CASB will ensure that it is modern, clean and secure.

Each student will be required to sign a housing contract in order to secure his/her housing space for the duration of his/her period of study. Students will be billed for housing directly by their respective CASB home institutions. Included in this bill will be a \$300

damage deposit that is refundable at the conclusion of the student's period of study. Please note, all semester only students are required to live in the CASB assigned housing.

Independent Housing Arrangements for Year-Long Students

Year-long students may remain in the Residencia Onix or, if they choose, they may make their own housing arrangements for the spring. Students who choose to live on their own **must** make that decision by **November 15th, 2009** and move out of the Onix before **January 1, 2010**. It is very important that students who take this independent housing option realize that program staff members will not be responsible for making the alternate arrangements, nor will they act as intermediary on any issues related to the independent housing arrangement. For example, if they choose to share an apartment with friends, they must find their own apartment rental, sign their own rental contracts, deal with repair and maintenance items themselves, etc.

MANAGING AND BUDGETING YOUR MONEY

Banking and other money matters are your responsibility. Please budget and manage your money carefully because the CASB program does not have the means to aid you if you find yourself without funds.

The program fee you pay your home university covers tuition and related academic programming activities, the Language and Culture Pro Seminar, program excursions, and other program-related events. It does not cover mandatory health insurance (see *Health Related Issues*, below), airfare, housing, meals, books, local public transportation and related personal expenses. Refund policies are governed by each CASB member institution and may vary. Consult with your study abroad office.

Before you leave for Barcelona, you should plan how to handle your money during your term or year abroad. You will need to budget for expenses such as groceries (food), local transportation, toiletries, social activities, and any additional travel. The Spanish banking system can be cumbersome, and there can be long delays in transferring money to a local account in Barcelona. With the abundance of ATMs throughout the city, it is not necessary to open a bank account. If you decide to do so, however, it is advisable that it be a savings account (Libreta de Ahorros) rather than a checking account (cuenta corriente). Checks – even on local Spanish banks -- are generally **not** accepted for purchases.

Banks are generally open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 2:00pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 1:00pm. During the summer, banks are generally closed on Saturdays. The following sections describe various options for managing your money while in Barcelona.

ATM Cards and Debit Cards

It is generally, not at all difficult to find an ATM machine in Barcelona (or, for that matter, anywhere in Spain). The most common cards used in the U.S. (Plus and Cirrus)

are accepted in nearly all machines and students have found this to be the most convenient way to access funds. If you need more funds while abroad, it is much easier (and less costly) for parents to simply deposit money to your U.S. account rather than try to make send you money by bank wire. ATM withdrawals generally give you a competitive exchange rate, but bear in mind that you will be charged a transaction fee by your home bank. If you plan to use an ATM card, advise your home bank that you will be out of the country so that it can ensure that your card will not be rejected in Barcelona due to a concern about identity theft. You may also want to consider having your parent's name on your account. Finally, make sure you have a PIN that functions internationally (most ATMs in Europe have number rather than letter keys).

Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks offer the security of a refund if they are lost or stolen. When obtaining traveler's checks, make sure you keep the check receipts and secure them in a safe place separate from the checks themselves. Keep a record of the checks as you cash them so that, if lost or stolen, you will know which ones are missing. When cashing checks, make certain you countersign them in the presence of the bank teller, **not** beforehand.

Keep in mind that the exchange rate for traveler's checks is often lower than for ATM cards, and that banks may also charge additional transaction fees.

Credit Cards

Credit cards, particularly Visa and MasterCard, have become commonplace throughout Europe and can be invaluable in a financial emergency. Ask your bank for a PIN identification number that will be valid in Europe. In the event of an emergency, you can go into any Visa- or MasterCard-participating bank in Western Europe, present your credit, and draw cash immediately or purchase traveler's checks. Because of high interest rates and fees charged for cash advances, it is advisable to avoid this method to obtain money unless you have no other option.

In some cases, a Spanish merchant may not allow a credit card to be used when the amount being spent is too small. For example, it may not be an option to use a credit card to pay for an inexpensive meal in a restaurant, even though there may be a MasterCard or Visa logo in the window. Spaniards understand that the card can be used to pay a large bill for a party of guests, but not for lesser amounts. It is wise to ask before assuming you can use your credit card. It is important to carry some form of ID with you when making purchases with your credit card, as you will invariably be asked to show your ID. A photocopy of your passport is usually sufficient.

At a cardholder's request, most major lenders will issue an additional card in the name of a son/daughter. If you plan to use your parents' credit card account, you should request the additional card early enough for you to have it before you leave, and it should have your name written on it exactly as it appears on your passport. If you elect this method, the line of credit is the same amount as on the cardholder's account, and the monthly bill is also presented to the cardholder.

TRAVEL DURING THE PROGRAM

Barcelona's excellent intercity links to points elsewhere in Spain and its proximity to France make it an excellent hub from which to plan travel elsewhere. *If you travel outside of Barcelona during the program, you must provide program staff with your itinerary and contact information prior to departure.* Because this policy relates directly to student safety and the program's ability to respond to an emergency, failure to follow the appropriate procedure could result in a student's expulsion from the program. During your first days in Barcelona, you will be given specific instructions on how to report this information. You will be on your own for any travel prior to the program start date or after your last final exam, so you should establish a plan with family at home for how you will contact one another, and procedures you will follow, in case of an emergency during those times.



All hotels in Spain require guests to present a valid passport at check-in, so it's important to always travel with your original document even when not crossing an international frontier.

Once the program is underway, you are expected to attend classes at the program center and at the Barcelona partner universities. Your travel plans should not cause you to miss classes. The academic calendar at UB, UAB and UPF allow ample opportunities for breaks and long weekends, some of which are included in the program calendar above. The dates of additional holidays will be provided when available. Schedule your trips during these holiday periods or after the program ends.

In sum, we recommend that you make your travel decisions wisely and set priorities carefully, so that you can meet your educational goals and remain safe during your term abroad.

HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

Prior to their departure for Barcelona, all students are required to demonstrate to their home CASB universities that they have obtained a comprehensive health plan that will provide coverage for accidents and illnesses, including emergency evacuation and repatriation, for their entire period abroad on the program. If you are currently covered by a plan through your home university, you may be provided the option to continue this coverage while abroad. If not, you will need to present evidence of coverage to your

home CASB institution before you travel abroad. Check with your study abroad office for additional details.

Questions to consider when acquiring health insurance for study abroad:

- Will the plan cover hospitalization for accidents and illnesses for the entire period while I'm abroad? (Some policies provided by a parent's employer may cover medical expenses for brief stays abroad but not for the full term of a study abroad program.)
- Will the plan cover doctor visits and medication prescribed abroad?
- Is there a deductible? If yes, how much?
- Is there a dollar limit to the amount of coverage provided?
- What are the procedures for filing a claim for medical expenses abroad? Do I need to pay expenses up front and then submit receipts to the insurance company for reimbursement? Make sure that you get full information from your policy about how to arrange for routine treatment, medical emergency procedures, and what is required to pay for or be reimbursed for a claim. Many overseas health providers will not process American insurance claims and will expect payment at the time of treatment so students should have access to a minimum of \$400 (either by credit card or traveler's checks held in reserve for emergencies) in the event that medical treatment is required abroad. Be sure to obtain a receipt to submit with your insurance claim for reimbursement upon your return to the US.
- When does the plan begin and end?
- Will this insurance cover me in the US for the insured semester if I decide, for medical or other reasons, to return before the end of the program? (If students have a serious accident or illness abroad, they may need to return to the US for further care; it is therefore important that the student carry coverage that applies not only abroad, but in the US during the study abroad period as well.)
- Does the plan cover pre-existing medical conditions?

Prescription Medications

If you require prescription medication, you should bring a supply with you to last the entire time that you will be abroad. Although many medications are available worldwide, they are not always identical in strength or composition to what you take at home. In addition, brand names of the same medication usually differ between US and Europe. Bring medications in your carry-on luggage, in their original containers, along with a letter from your doctor explaining the dosage, why the medication has been prescribed, and why you are traveling with a large quantity. This is especially important if you enter Spain with medications that are highly controlled due to their tendency to be abused in other contexts.

Note: It is illegal to ship medications to Spain; any medications found will be confiscated and a heavy fine may be assessed.

Immunizations

If you plan to travel outside of Spain, particularly – given Spain’s proximity – to the continent of Africa, please make sure you have had the necessary immunizations. You can learn about associated health issues through the Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Avian Flu

Your Resident Director will discuss emergency preparedness in general during your first days in Barcelona. With respect to avian flu, the program recommends that all students familiarize themselves with current recommendations found on the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/tavel/>. The Resident Director and/or your home study abroad staff will notify you if there are any cautions related to avian flu that are specific to Spain or nearby European countries. You should also take measures to protect yourself by remaining informed, checking the CDC website periodically for updates, and taking all recommended precautions.

Contraception, STD’s and Counseling Services

It is extremely important to be informed ahead of time about the availability of various services and products related to contraception, STDs and sexual activity. The following information is a brief outline of what you can expect to find in Barcelona.

Birth control is widely available in Spain. Birth control is available at clinics and family planning services. Condoms are also easily purchased in pharmacies and in vending machines in bars, pubs and on the street. Abortion is illegal and is sanctioned only in cases of rape, incest, fetus malformation, and threat of serious physical or psychological harm to the mother.

Unprotected sexual activity risks exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. The rate of infection has increased more rapidly in Spain than in any other country in Europe in recent years. If you worry that you may have become exposed to HIV, you can be tested in hospitals in Spain; the results are confidential.

There is a range of counseling services in Barcelona. Family planning services comparable to Planned Parenthood are available, as is counseling in the event of sexual assault. The program will provide you with addresses and telephone numbers for the latter when you first arrive.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND STAYING SAFE

Spain is generally as safe as the U.S., and in some cases safer. As is true of any large city, however, there are problems with petty thievery in Barcelona. You can avoid many problems by being cautious and remembering the important points about staying safe listed below. While crime, most certainly violent crime, is less prevalent in Spain than in similar-sized cities in the U.S., tourists are always a favorite target of criminals, so please be mindful of your surroundings and belongings at all times.

If an emergency situation related to your health or safety occurs during the program, it is important to contact the Resident Director and your family at home immediately. This includes the unlikely event of a natural disaster (earthquake) or large-scale emergency (terrorist attack, large building fire) in Barcelona, or in an area where you are traveling during the program. If you imagine people may be worried about you, they probably are.

Soon after you arrive, your program will give you instructions for how to contact program staff in case of an emergency. Since you will be on your own if you travel before or after the official program dates, please make plans and discuss emergency procedures with your family for use at these times.

The following is a list of some precautions you can take to ensure your safety:

- Pack lightly so that you do not need help with your things when traveling place to place.
- Do not leave luggage unguarded.
- Do not take anything of real or sentimental value with you; it is not necessary to wear expensive jewelry or watches.
- Do not carry your passport, plane tickets, or large sums of money with you unless these items are necessary for a specific purpose.
- Keep a photocopy of your passport, including the validity page with your picture and signature, in a safe place both in the U.S. and in Spain. Should you lose your passport, it will help to have these copies.
- If you go out at night, do not walk home alone. Men and women should observe this precaution. Stay with a friend and take a cab home, all the way to the door.
- Do not take a purse with you to a club unless it is one you can keep with you at all times.

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

When are Things Open in Barcelona?

Shops open at 10.00 am and close for lunch at around 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. They reopen at between 4.30 and 5.00 p.m. and stay open until between 8.00 and 9.00 p.m. Certain shops, especially the larger ones, do not close at midday.

At lunchtime, restaurants tend to open between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. At night, they open between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m and close between 12:00 midnight and 1:00 in the morning.

Cafés and bars are open all day from between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. or 12:00 midnight, although some stay open even later until 1:00 or 1:30 a.m.

Movie theaters tend to run shows at 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 p.m., approximately. Some theaters have late-night sessions on the weekends that can start as late as midnight.



Classical theater opening hours are variable. In general, from Tuesday to Saturdays performances tend to begin between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. and on Sunday between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.. Theaters are generally closed on Mondays.

Museum opening hours also tend to be variable. In general they are open morning and afternoon from Tuesday to Saturday; they open on Sunday morning and are closed on Monday.

Services and Tips

In restaurants, all services must be included in the cost of the set menu. Only in cases where "IVA no inclòs" is indicated may VAT be charged as extra. Tipping is not obligatory, but is frequent when clients are satisfied with the service provided.

Electricity

Compared to the U.S., where the standard electric current is 110 volts/60 cycles, the most widespread electric current is 220 volts and 50 cycles. Electrical items brought from home will need to be adapted for European current and electrical outlets by use of both a transformer and a converter plug, which allows you to plug an American item into a European wall socket. You'll find that most electrical appliances (hair dryers, shavers, etc.) can be purchased in Barcelona for reasonable cost at any appliance store ("electrodomésticos").

Postal Services

Stamps may be bought at tobacconists (look for the Tabac or Tabaco sign) or post offices. Packages must be sent from the post office. Letter drops are found throughout the city, and they can't be missed with their bright yellow (ordinary post) and red (urgent) coloring.

The Central Post Office

Via Laietana 1

Barcelona

Tel.: (34) 93 310 04 04.

Opening hours: from Monday to Saturday, from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. Sunday closed.

Stamps, packages, telegrams, telephone, telexes and faxes.

The Eixample Post Office

Consell de Cent, 445 (near Residencia ONIX).

Barcelona

Tel.: (34) 93 232 7257

Opening hours: from Monday to Friday, from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.; Saturdays, from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 a.m. Sundays closed.

Postal services only.

Cell Phones

For safety and convenience, the program highly recommends that students have cellular phones in Barcelona. Unless your current cell phone is specifically made for worldwide coverage, it will not operate in Spain. Cell phones (“moviles”) are everywhere in Spain, however, and although prices and calling plans will vary, there are some affordable options that you can look into upon your arrival. The program staff can offer advise during your first days in Barcelona. Check out Movistar for pay as you go plans and inexpensive phones.

Making a phone call

To make an international call, you must first dial 00, followed by the country code and finally the regional code and number you are calling. For local and inter-provincial calls, you dial the province code, and then the number you are calling, although the provincial is no longer quoted separately.

To receive a call

Callers telephoning you from abroad must first dial 34 (Spain), and then your nine-digit number, which now incorporates the digits "93," which used to be separate provincial code.

Fax

Faxes may be sent and received from the Central Post Office, from Sants train station, and from the many copy and book shops offering this service.

Estació de Sants

Opening hours: from Monday to Saturday, from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Telephone and fax service

CASB Fax use: Please note that the CASB fax machine is intended for necessary communication between the CASB Center and CASB member institutions in the U.S. It is used for the program’s administrative business and to clarify academic issues for the participants. It is not intended as a means of communication for your family and friends in the U.S., except in the case of an emergency.

Laptops

It is becoming more and more common for students to bring laptops with them when studying abroad. Both the CASB Center and the Residencia Onix are wired for laptop use; however, you will want to make certain that your laptop has an internal transformer. Before bringing it with you, check with your manufacturer and take the proper measures

to protect this valuable piece of equipment. Low quality power transformers can damage your laptop.

Internet

Many places throughout Barcelona, especially in the city center, offer public Internet access.

Further information: 010 (from Spain) and <http://easyeverything.com>

Holidays in Barcelona

1 January: New year's day (S)

6 January: The Three Kings (S)

Good Friday: the exact date varies according to the year (S)

Easter Monday: the exact date varies according to the year (C)

1 May: May Day (S)

Pentecost Monday: the exact date varies according to the year (L)

24 June: St. John's Day (C)

15 August: The Assumption (S)

11 September: Catalonia's National Day or "Diada" (C)

24 September: the Festa de la Mercè (L)

12 October: Día de la Hispanidad (S)

1 November: Todos los Santos (S)

6 December: Día de la Constitución (S)

8 December: La Inmaculada (S)

25 December: Christmas (S)

26 December: Saint Stephen's Day (C)

(L) Local holiday in Barcelona

(C) Holiday in Catalonia

(S) Holiday throughout Spain

The newspaper kiosks sell the weekly, *Guía del Ocio*, which offers details of what's going on in the cities cinemas, theatres and museums as well as information on exhibitions, restaurants and other leisure activities taking place during the week.



Suggested Reading

Barcelona: the Great Enchantress, 2004, by Robert Hughes

Barcelona, 1992, by Robert Hughes

Homage to Barcelona, 2001, by Colm Tóibín

El Catalán: una lengua de Europa para compartir, 2002, by Vicent de Melchor, Albert Brancadell,

Barcelonas. 1993, by M. Vázquez Montalbán

Gaudi guide. 1991, by Güell, Xavier

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