

FALL 2018 - HANDBOOK

CONSORTIUM FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ABROAD*
BARCELONA

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Cover Picture: *Pierre Sassone, 2017*

Animus non caelum mutant qui trans mare currunt

Barcelona.casa.education

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad in Barcelona 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 **CASA*** academic program. Dedicated staff at each of the **CASA*** 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.

The Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad in Barcelona, a collaborative initiative involving ten high caliber international universities —Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth College, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Northwestern, University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt and Trinity College Dublin and University of Melbourne— provides students with a unique opportunity to have direct access to four distinguished Spanish universities. The program capitalizes on the already strong academic linkages existing between the departments from each of the 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 US partners observed that, despite growing interest in Barcelona as a destination, students with advanced language skills were limited in their options to island 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 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. **CASA*** 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.

The selection of Barcelona as the host city is by design. The **CASA*** 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.



Does this mean your opportunities for perfecting your Spanish (Castellano) proficiency skills are limited? On the contrary! Both Castellano and Catalan are official languages in Spain (as are Galician common in Galicia and Basque in Euskadi), and throughout Catalonia both are spoken everywhere and interchangeably. Look at Catalan as an important value added when it comes to your experience in Spain.

SUGGESTED READING

Walking the City: Barcelona as an Urban Experience. 2015, by Estanislau Roca (Ed.)

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 Xavier Güell

La escuela de Barcelona : Barral, Gil de Biedma, Goytisolo : el núcleo poético de la generación de los 50. 1988, by Carme Riera

Red city, Blue Period : social movements in Picasso's Barcelona, 1992, by Temma Kaplan

A City in War: American views on Barcelona and the Spanish Civil War. 1936-39. 1997, by James W. Cortada

Modern Architecture in Barcelona. 1854-1939. 1989, by David Mackay

Ghosts of Spain. 2007, by Giles Tremlett

Barcelona: The City that Re-invented itself. 2004, by Michael Eade

The **CASA*** program center is at Gran Vía 582 street, a facility managed by the Universitat de Barcelona (UB) in the heart of Barcelona downtown. The Universitat and Catalunya metro and train stops are located near the center, providing students with excellent connections to the partner university campuses and beyond.

The program center is located on the second floor of a Modernist building designed in 1902 by Jeroni Granell, a contemporary of Gaudi's. Its facilities include a student computer and lounge area, a small library and study room as well as offices for the resident director, student and academic support services coordinator, and special activities coordinator. Additionally, **CASA*** has access to classroom and seminar space equipped with audiovisual and technical equipment. It is at Gran Vía where the sponsored courses throughout the academic year, and occasional guest lectures will primarily take place.

CASA* center have computers, printers and 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 **CASA*** Center will be provided to students on site. Additionally, students have access to internet services at the local universities as well as at the residence hall.

Program Staff in Barcelona

Resident Director:

Dr. Juan José (**Juanjo**) **Romero Marín** is charged with overall responsibility for administering the **CASA*** Center, including day-to-day management, student advising, liaison with the Barcelona universities and supervision of local faculty and staff. Dr. Romero 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 **CASA*** program.

Academic Support Services Coordination: **Libby Turner**

The Student/Academic Support Services Coordinator works to assure the smooth operation of the program and the center on a day-to-day basis.

Special Activities Coordination: **Patricia Campo**

The Special Activities Coordinator organizes cultural activities as well as the Spanish Language portfolio, internships and volunteering.

Contact Information

Office hours: Monday -Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm and 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Tels: (011 34) **608 25 18 93** (Director, Juanjo Romero)

(011 34) **608 25 18 94** (Student & Academic Support Services Coordinator, Libby Turner)

(011 34) **608 25 18 92** (Special Activities Coordinator, Patricia Campo)

e-mail: info@barcelona.casa.education

The Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad partners with four distinguished universities whose combined course offerings provide students with a vast array of opportunities in the humanities, social, physical and natural sciences, and architecture and business.

Universitat de Barcelona (UB)
www.ub.edu

Founded in 1455, it 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.

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
www.uab.cat

Established in 1968, it 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. 78 degree programs are available, covering a wide range of fields, including the humanities and arts, social sciences, health sciences, experimental and technological sciences.

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)
www.upf.edu

A dynamic institution, 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 disciplines - from health and life sciences to human and social sciences and technical studies- and an expanding campus.

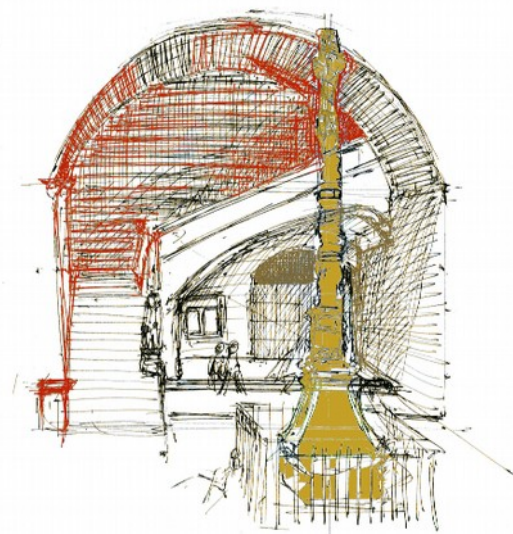
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)
www.upc.edu

Founded in March 1971, it is a public university that specializes in the fields of architecture, all types of engineering, economics, health sciences and applied mathematics. It offers 68 official undergraduate degrees within its 11 campuses and centers, 23 schools and 42 departments. It has around 30,000 undergraduate students, 6,000 master's degree students and doctoral students.

Fall 2018 Academic Calendar

August 24	Arrival Day
August 25	Orientation and Pro-Seminar begins
September 3	UPC courses begin
September 12	UB & UAB courses begin
September 15 & 17	UPF courses begin
December 22*	End of Program**

- * Dates shown are the end of the exam periods, so students may have final exams earlier than the dates stipulated.
- ** The official end date of the program is Dec. 22, however, students are expected to stay until their last final exam. The UPF final exam dates are not published before so students will not know the date of their last exam until well into the semester. UAB and UB schools usually offer a retake exam option for those student who fail a course (it is called *reevaluación*). In this case, retake exams dates are later, usually in January and June.



caner hospital
 carrer del caner
 de la univ.
 hospital creus
 d'august 12130

desembre 27
 12:50
 Barcelona

Biblioteca de Catalunya
 Pam Lee, 2011

Image: Pam Lee. 2011

Students will take the majority of their courses at the Consortium's partner universities in Barcelona (UB, UAB, UPC 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 via the **CASA*** Barcelona website. It is important that students work closely with on-site staff as well as their study abroad and academic advisers during this pre-selection period.

All four 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 and course professors, the UAB, UPC or UB**. Full year students will choose courses offered through any of the four partner universities. Spring term students will choose courses offered through the UB, UPC and the UAB.

Information on courses offered in Spanish at the four Barcelona partner universities can be found on the **CASA*** Barcelona website: barcelona.casa.education

COURSE LOAD

The regular 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 course (60 contact hours) delivered to **CASA*** students. The first 35 contact hours take place during the first 2 - 3 weeks of the program prior to the start of university courses. The remaining contact hours include a research project, educational activities and excursions that take place throughout the semester.

Content: The course is made up of four 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 previous knowledge of Catalan.

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 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 become a part of their everyday lives.

Research Project: An individual, semester-long component which aims to increase the student's immersion in the local context by exploring any topic related to *Historical Memory*. This could be based on an internship or volunteering position.

Excursions & Activities: The Pro seminar is complemented by program delivered activities throughout the semester. These activities, such as conferences, seminars and excursions, will focus on a specific topic. Attendance and active participation is not only mandatory but also represents part of the Pro Seminar final grade. These semester activities include two field visits, two weekend excursions and conferences (dates will be available in the **CASA*** "final mailing" document and **CASA***-Barcelona website).

One Course offered through the CASA* Center (6 ECTS credits)

Students will choose one of the **CASA*** Center courses delivered each term by the resident director and the visiting professor, respectively. Both courses will be conducted in Spanish and use Barcelona/Catalonia/Spain as a focus for their respective explorations of issues and relevant topics. The U.S. system will govern the delivery of the pro seminar and all other classes at the **CASA*** 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.

Three regular university courses (15-18 ECTS credits)

Students will have access to the full range of courses offered at all the partner universities. Together, they offer an abundance of courses —some taught in Spanish and others in Catalan— in virtually all subject areas. 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 **CASA*** 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.

University courses can be consulted at **CASA***-Barcelona website, section “Programas académicos /Preselección de cursos/Oferta de cursos” (<http://barcelona.casa.education/programas-academicos/preselección-de-cursos/>)

The Consortium director will obtain official grade reports from each of the four Barcelona universities and will forward these and the grades for **CASA***-delivered courses to each consortium member institution with a cover letter summarizing the courses taken and Spanish-system grades obtained by each student. Each **CASA*** member university will then process these grade reports according to its own study abroad transfer policy. In most cases, UB, UAB, UPC and UPF will use a 1-10 grading scale, with 10 being the highest and 0 the lowest. Each **CASA*** member university will determine its own system of equivalency but the following (**see page 9**) may serve as a general guide.

All **CASA*** 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 home institution abroad office.

- 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 an additional regular university courses in its place.

In Spanish university classes the role of the instructor is not necessarily to introduce a given subject to a student, but rather to reinterpret and synthesize the topic at hand. Course topics are covered by the teachers' explanations given in class and students are expected to cover texts included in the reading list independently. The key to successfully completing your course load is to attend class regularly, take good class notes, and keep up with the readings. In addition **CASA*** offers discipline-related tutorials to help you with the demands of studying in another country.

Learning at local universities

The **4** basic concepts for understanding local courses are:

1. Learning effort

Teachers do not tend to provide students with feedback about their performance. You will need to request feedback during the professors' office hours. Courses have practical sessions and seminars but their weighting in the final grade is small. A course syllabus contains basic information about the topics covered and the essential reading list. The teacher provides the relevant information about course expectations and outcomes in the first class session. Regular communication with the teacher is the best way to succeed.

2. Workload

Courses usually have many different tests and assignments, particularly during practical sessions and seminars. In addition, students must submit papers and essays. However, the delivery of all this work is taken for granted and does not increase the final grade. It is the quality of the work, not the quantity which determines the final grade. Take advantage of professors' office hours to request feedback, address doubts related to course content and/or to determine what kind of work s/he expects.

3. Grades

There is a marked difference between what is considered a "good" grade in the Spanish and US university grading schemes. Grade inflation does not exist in the Spanish system and, generally speaking, students are happy to simply pass a course.

4. Language, papers and course different approaches

A significant number of courses are taught in Catalan, but there are courses of all kind of disciplines taught in Spanish. Even if the course is delivered in Catalan, exams and papers can be written in Spanish and often, most of the bibliography is available in Spanish or English. Teachers do not usually assign a reading for every class, students are expected to read regularly from the readings contained in the bibliography of the course. It is important to talk with the teacher in order to know which readings s/he recommends.

There are some differences in the approach to disciplines; for instance, Literature and Philosophy courses are, in fact, history of Literature or Philosophy courses. While for courses in Economics and Law it is very important to have previous knowledge in the field. For instance, Economics and Finance courses are not generally recommended if the student has not previously taken advanced math courses.

ORIENTATIVE GRADING SCALE		
A (10%)	9.0 - 10	Excelente
B+ (20%)	8.0 - 8.99	Notable
B (10%)	7.5 - 7.99	
B- (10%)	7.0 - 7.49	
C+ (10%)	6.5 - 6.99	Aprobado
C (10%)	6.0 - 6.49	
C- (15%)	5.0 - 5.00	
D/F (15%)*	0 - 4.99	Suspendido

* This is an *orientative* scale. Each university has its own scales. (ie. UPenn: **A** 9-10; **A-** 8-8.99; **B+** 7.6-7.99; **B** 7.0-7.59; **B-** 6.6-6.99; **C+** 6.0-6.59; **C** 5.6-5.99; **C-** 5.0-5.59; **D+** 4.5-4.99; **D** 4.0-4.49; **F** 3.99 and below).

Apart from having direct access to four distinguished Spanish universities, students can also participate in the Internship & Service Learning program. These non-remunerated and non-credit bearing placements are a perfect component for students looking to achieve a meaningful study abroad experience with full immersion in local society.

Some of the opportunities include **educational internships*** through the *Consorci d'Educació de Barcelona* (CEB), the local Department of Education, where **CASA*** students can participate as language assistants in primary and secondary schools as well as in other public educational centers. The educational internships also include the opportunity of collaborating with the *Serveis Lingüístics* of the *Universitat de Barcelona*, the department responsible for providing the UB community with multilingual language services. In this case, the students lead English conversational classes for UB undergrad and grad students and staff, and also design some of the materials and activities that they will be carrying out in class.

Students can also participate in **academic internships**, which must be closely related to their field of studies. These include placements in the disciplines of art and culture, marketing and communication, business, political sciences, NGOs, science and technology and language, edition and translation.

Service learning placements are available through both local NGOs and the *Fundació Autònoma Solidària* of the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*, which offers **CASA*** students the possibilities of carrying out service learning activities in local institutions* such as hospitals, prisons and retirement homes.

In general, internship and service learning opportunities last throughout the semester and students need to devote between 5-15 hours/week, on top of their academic workload (the exact number of hours/week and the required student profile vary between institutions). It is also very important that students apply by the stated deadline to help staff carefully select the placement that best suits each student's individual profile and needs.



Image: Pam Lee. 2011

* Students whose internship involves working with minors must, prior to arrival in Barcelona, obtain an FBI background check duly legalized. The document takes up to three months, so please apply well in advance. More information can be found on the **CASA*** website:
barcelona.casa.education/actividades/practicas

Passport

If you do not currently have a valid passport you should start the application/renewal process **as soon as possible**. The process can take two weeks to a month. You are now able to download printable passport applications from the internet as well as consult general Passport Services information at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>

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.*

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 or FBI 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, or entry into Spain, should be directed to the Spanish consulate from which you obtained your visa .

Applying for a Student Visa

The Spanish government requires 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 to renew or request a passport.

Students must have the required Spanish visa in order to participate in the **CASA*** program. Immediately check your window of opportunity for visa application and for the consulate that corresponds to your permanent home address at the following link:

<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.

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 students should plan to arrive on Friday, August 24th, before 5 p.m. in order to attend to a welcome dinner. 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 both your Study Abroad Office and the **CASA*** program with your flight details. Log on the **CASA*** intranet portal and complete the "Flight Info" form as soon as you have your travel itinerary. Upon arrival in Spain, you will proceed to passport control, after which you will pick up your luggage. **Please, make sure an official stamps your passport with your date of entry.** 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 student dorm, where the program staff will meet you. A month before your departure, the Resident Director will send you a letter of welcome with the student dorm name and street address, how to take a taxi to the dorm, 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 two terminals; T-1 & T-2. Most U.S. airlines operate out of terminal T-1.

A cheap option to getting to the downtown area is the *Aerobus* (airport bus), which leaves the airport every 5 minutes and drops you in Plaça Catalunya. A one-way journey costs approximately 6 euros (including luggage) and takes about half an hour to reach its final destination. The buses run until midnight. Another cheap alternative is to take the Metro Line L-9, which connects you with the city's metro network. A one-way ticket costs approximately 4.6 euros.

The final option is by train, which takes 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 4.5 euros.

NOTE: On arrival in Barcelona you will have four options for getting into the city: taxi, metro, bus or train. The most comfortable option is definitively the taxi, which generally costs between 25 and 30 euros. 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 in to the city, it is now!

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 nine metro lines.

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 January 1, 2018 (zone 1 covers all of the Barcelona city), a one-way ticket currently cost 2.20 euros, but you can choose to purchase a T-10, which is a ten-ride pass that can be used by multiple passengers for 10.20 euros.

By far the most convenient pass, however, is either the one zone T-Mes, which provides unlimited use of the metro, trains and buses 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. The fares are set every year on January 1st. (January 1, 2018, the T-Mes 1 zone pass cost 54.00 euros and the T-Jove 1 zone cost 105.00 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).

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

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 January, 2014, 2.10 euros, 3.10 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.

FGC (Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat)

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

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. Its Talgo system also provides convenient national railway service to and from Barcelona. If you wish to travel by train, you should also enquire about other discount promotions, such as Tarjeta Joven and Tarjeta Turística. Information on Interail and Eurotren passes is also available.

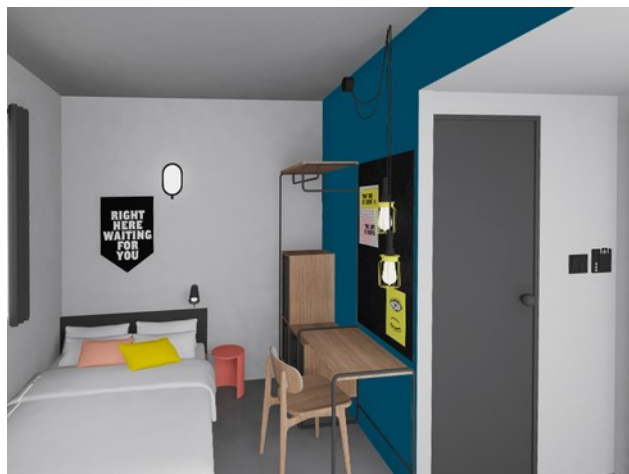
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08018 Barcelona (Spain)
Tel.: (from US: 01134) 932 178 812

Residencia TSH Campus (see <https://www.thestudenthotel.com/marina/es>) has 427 individual rooms that cater to a mixed population. **CASA*** students have an individual room with a private bath. The single rooms open up to a common living room and kitchens that **CASA*** students share with 9 flatmates (Spanish or other international students), creating an apartment-like atmosphere. Amenities include internet access, television, closet space, shelf space, a desk, a double bed and bed linens. The facility also provides a swimming pool and a cafeteria with optional meal plan at additional cost. The residence is beside the “Marina” metro station and tramway line, 10 minutes from the UPF and the city downtown.

Housing costs include weekly cleaning and a change of the bed-linen. TSH will provide every student with a kitchen pack of essential utensils on arrival.

Each student will be required to sign a housing contract in order to secure his/her housing space for the duration of the period of study. Students will be billed for housing directly by their respective **CASA*** institutions. Please note, all semester-only students are required to live in the **CASA*** assigned housing.



The program fee you pay your home university covers tuition and related academic and programming activities, the Language and Culture Pro seminar, program excursions, housing, and other program-related events. It does not cover mandatory health insurance (see Health Related Issues, below), airfare, meals, books, local public transportation and related personal expenses. Refund policies are governed by each **CASA*** 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 (see **CASA***-Barcelona website, *Vida en Barcelona* section for an estimated weekly budget). The Spanish banking system can be cumbersome, and there can be long delays in transferring money to a local account in Barcelona. The most convenient way to access funds is by using the abundance of ATMs located throughout the city. Checks—even in local Spanish banks—are generally **not** accepted for purchases.

ATM Cards and Debit Card

It is 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 in your U.S. account rather than try to 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 be operative in Barcelona. You may also want to consider having your parent's name on your account. Finally, make sure you will have a PIN that functions internationally (most ATMs in Europe have number rather than letter keys).

Credit Cards

Credit cards, particularly Mastercard and Visa, have become commonplace throughout Europe and can be invaluable in a financial emergency. Ask your bank for 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 card, and draw cash immediately. 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. 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 the cardholder's request, most major lenders will issue an additional card in the name of a son/daughter. If you plan to use your parent's 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.

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, UPC, UAB and UPF allows ample opportunities for breaks and long weekends, some of which are included in the calendar on the right side. 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.



Holidays in Barcelona

September 11	<i>La Diada</i> (C)
September 24	<i>La Mercè</i> (B)
October 12	<i>El Pilar</i> (S)
November 1	All Saints (S)
December 6	Constitution Day (S)
December 8	Inmaculate (S)

(B) Local holiday in Barcelona
 (C) Holiday in Catalonia
 (S) Holiday throughout Spain

When are Things Open in Barcelona?

Shops open 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. They reopen at 5.00 pm and stay open until between 9.00 pm. Larger shops do not close at midday. At lunch time, **restaurants** tend to open between 1.00 and 1.30 pm until 3.30 or 4.00 pm. At night, they open between 8.00 and 8.30 pm and close at 12.00 midnight.

Cafés and bars are open all day from between 7.00 and 8.00 am until 11.00 pm or 12.00 midnight.

Movie theaters used to run shows at 4.00, 6.00, 8.00 and 10.00 pm. Some theaters have late-night sessions on the weekends that can start as late as midnight. Classical theater opening hours are variable. **Theaters** are 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 are included in the cost of the set menu. Only in cases where "IVA no inclòs" is indicated mean that VAT be added to the final check. Tipping is not obligatory, but is frequent when clients are satisfied with the service provided.

Electricity

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. You'll find that most electrical appliances (hair dryers, shavers, etc.) can be purchased in Barcelona for reasonable cost.

Postal Services

Stamps may be bought at post offices or tabacconist. Packages must be sent from the post office. Letter drops are found throughout the city, and they cannot be missed with their bright yellow coloring. We highly recommend **do not use** postal services for parcels because they used to be stopped at customs.

Prescription Medications

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 Europe. Cell phones (*móviles*) are everywhere in Spain, 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 advice during your first days in Barcelona.

Making a phone call

To make an international call, you must first dial 00 (or "+"), followed by the country code and finally the regional code and number you are calling.

To receive a call

Callers phoning you from abroad must first dial 34 (Spain), and then your nine-digit number.

Laptops

It is becoming more and more common for students to bring laptops with them when studying abroad. Both the **CASA*** Center and the student dorm have internet connection; 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. We strongly recommend you the **eduroam** service at your home university at your home university before leaving the US. If you do, you will have wi-fi internet access for any device at all European universities, including those in Barcelona. Contact your home institution's IT service for instructions on how to set up the **eduroam** access.

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 the U.S. 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.

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 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*.

Contraception, STD's & 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.

Birth control is widely available in Spain (in clinics and family planning services, usually). 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. Anyone worried that they may have become exposed to HIV, 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 the addresses and telephone numbers for the latter when you first arrive.

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

Questions to consider when acquiring health insurance of study abroad

- Will the plan cover hospitalization for accidents and illnesses for the entire period while I'm abroad?
- Will the plan cover doctor visits and medication prescribed abroad?
- Is there a deductible? If so, 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 the treatment so students should have access to a minimum of \$400 in reserve for emergencies. Be sure to obtain a receipt to submit with your insurance claim.
- When does the plan begin and end?
- Will this insurance cover me in the U.S. 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 U.S. for further care; it is therefore important that the student carry coverage that applies not only abroad, but in the U.S. during the study abroad period as well).
- Does the plan cover pre-existing medical conditions?

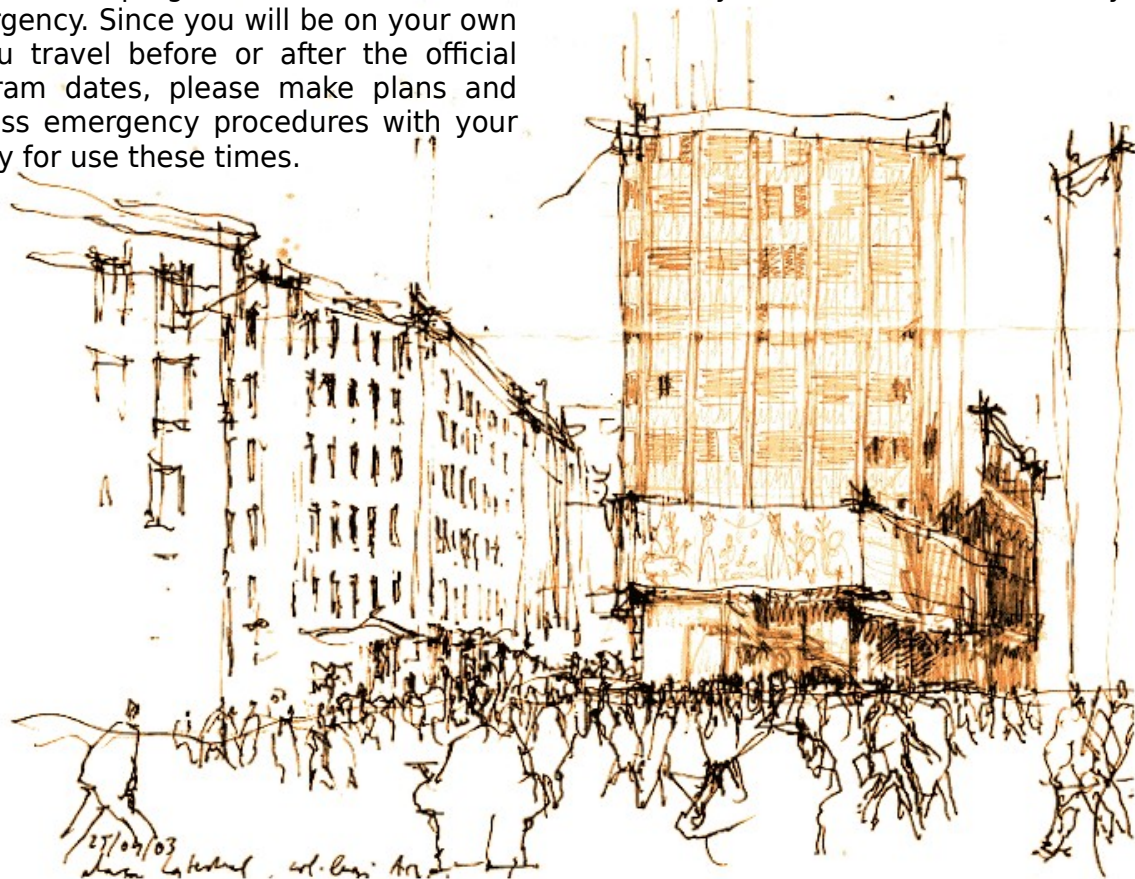
Spain is generally as safe as the U.S., and in some cases safer. As is true of any large city, however, there are problems with petty thievery in Barcelona. You can avoid many problems by being cautious and remembering the important points about staying safe listed below. While crime, most certainly 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 your arrival, 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 these times.

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

- Do not leave luggage unguarded
- Pack lightly so that you do not need help with your things when traveling place to place
- 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
- Do not accept drinks from strangers or leave your drink unattended at any time



Brown University students

Office of International Programs

Tel. (401) 863-3555

Fax (401) 863-3311

Office hours: Monday through Friday,
8:30am – 5:00pm

www.brown.edu/OIP/

OIP@brown.edu

For health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, call the Brown Campus Police at (401) 863-4111. For administrative and academic questions, contact OIP Study Abroad Coordinator, Macala Lamour, at (401) 863-3555.

Columbia University students

Office of Global Programs

Tel: 212-854-2559

Fax: 212-854-5164

ogp@columbia.edu

For health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, call Columbia Public Safety at (212) 854-2797.

For administrative, academic and financial questions, contact the Office of Global Programs at (212) 854-2559

Cornell University students

Office of Global Learning

Tel. (607) 255-6224

Office hours: M-F 9:00am – 4:00 pm;

www.cuabroad.cornell.edu

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

For academic and administrative questions, contact Education Abroad Advisor, Stephen Capobianco, slc328@cornell.edu, at (607) 255-6224.

Dartmouth College students

Guarini Institute of International Education

Tel: 603-646-1202

Executive Director John Tansey:

john.g.tansey@dartmouth.edu

Safety & Security at (603) 646-3333

Johns Hopkins University students

Office of Study Abroad

Tel: 410-516-4423

Assistant Director Jessica Mervis:

jmervis1@jhu.edu

Emergencies at (410) 516-7856

Harvard University students

Harvard College Office of International Education

Tel. (617) 496-2722

Fax (617) 496-2563

Office hours: Monday through Friday,
9:00am – 5:00pm

oie.fas.harvard.edu

For health-related and/or safety emergency outside of business hours, call the Harvard Travel Assist; at (617) 998-0000.

All administrative, academic and financial questions should be directed to OIE Assistant Director, Nicole Garcia, at 617-495-4587 or ngarcia@fas.harvard.edu.

Northwestern University students

Study Abroad Office

Tel: (847) 467-6400

Office hours: M-F: 9:00am – 5:00pm;

www.northwestern.edu/studyabroad

For health-related and/or safety/emergency outside of business hours, call the Northwestern University Police at (847) 491-3456.

For administrative and academic questions contact Jessica Fetridge at jessica.fetridge@northwestern.edu or (847) 467-6400

For program payment and financial matters, contact to Krista Bethel, Assistant Director of Study Abroad Financial Services, 847-491-7400,

University of Pennsylvania students

Penn Global

Contact: Greta Kazenski, Penn Abroad (215) 898-9073,

kazenski@upenn.edu

For health-related and safety/emergency outside of business hours, call Penn Police at (215) 573-3333

Vanderbilt University students

Global Education Office

Study Abroad Advisor Erin Miller Baker

geoalerts@vanderbilt.edu

Emergencies at (615) 421-1911