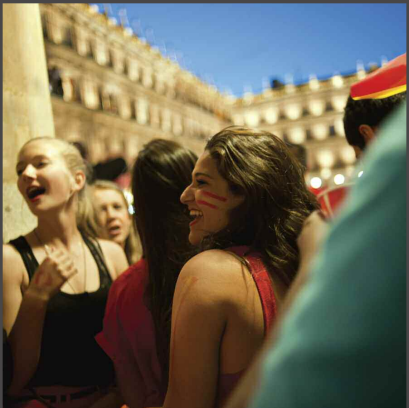




EDU-CULTURE
IMMERSION

Southern Spain & Barcelona 2015



Group Immersion Program in Spain
Summer Study Abroad opportunity for High School Students

Southern Spain & Barcelona 2015

Group immersion program in Spain



Summer Study Abroad opportunity for high school students

Choosing a Study Abroad program is a big decision. We completely understand that you have to feel absolutely comfortable and confident that this is the best program for you. We understand that the program must include at an absolute minimum:

- Spanish classes taught by native speakers in a quality language school
- A great program city location
- Cultural excursions and activities to support your learning
- An experienced and dedicated team of leaders
- Visits to the Spanish highlights – Barcelona, Madrid, Granada and Seville
- Lots of opportunities to speak Spanish

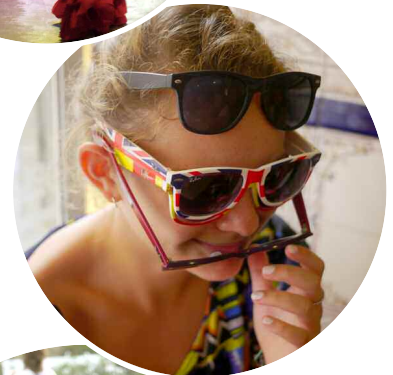
Southern Spain & Barcelona will fulfill all your Study Abroad needs, and in addition, it will offer you the unique opportunity to live with a Spanish family Seville for one week and experience total immersion.

This is what sets our programs apart – an individual learning experience in an authentic Spanish cultural setting.

Detailed program information

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1. Program structure

Four program components

Like all ECI group programs in Spain, Southern Spain & Barcelona 2015 is made up of four distinct program components - each designed to improve your language skills in different ways and provide you with a sound cultural and historical knowledge of Spain.



1. Madrid - Your introduction to Spain

Your adventure begins with three fantastic days in Madrid, visiting the major sites and staying in a high quality hotel in the heart of the city.

This is a great introduction to your program. You will be met at the airport by your Local Leader and taken to your hotel in central Madrid. Over the next three days you will visit the major sites of the Madrid, including the Prado Museum and the Royal Palace. There will be free time to explore the bustling, busy center of this modern city. You will sample Spanish cuisine at its best with group restaurant dinners during your stay in the capital.

2. Nerja - two weeks of study and cultural activities

You will spend two weeks in a centrally located residencia. There will be daily morning classes and afternoon hands-on and cultural activities, ranging from learning to cook Spanish food, to visiting the traditional Spanish whitewashed village of Frigiliana, to salsa dancing and kayaking. You will also have an overnight excursion to the amazing city of Granada.

Your daily conversation and grammar classes with native speakers take place at one of Andalusia's most reputable language schools. This will prepare you for your week of Spanish-speaking total immersion.



3. One week of immersion - a unique opportunity to live with a volunteer Spanish family

You will experience one week of living with a carefully chosen family in Seville. There is no better way to improve your Spanish.

This part of the program is individual, and is a wonderful opportunity for you to put your Spanish skills to the test. You will travel to the world famous and historic city of Seville, and for one week you will be fully immersed in Spanish family life. There are no group activities, but your chaperones will be on hand throughout.

4. Barcelona - enjoy four days in one of Europe's must-see cities

Your Southern Spain & Barcelona program culminates in a four-day sightseeing and cultural trip to magnificent Barcelona. After your Immersion Week in Seville, ECI provides you with a fantastic finale to your program.

You will take in all the major sites, including shopping on Las Ramblas, visits to the Olympic port & city beach, Gaudí's church - the Sagrada Familia, and the famous Barcelona football stadium, Camp Nou. You will also get a great overview of all the city highlights with an open-top double-decker bus tour. Other activities will include a picnic in Gaudí's amazing Parque Güell, and attending a fabulous live sound & light show at the Royal Palace.

2. Your program town - Nerja

Improve your Spanish and enjoy all that this wonderful Costa del Sol beach town has to offer. Nerja, once a quiet fishing village, is small, friendly and safe, and in summer, the atmosphere is vibrant and lively with locals and students alike, all enjoying the fantastic climate and vacation atmosphere of the town.



The school, residence, town center and beach, are all within an easy walk of each other, contributing a sense of relaxation and low-stress. The focus of the town is of course the beach, and most students enjoy spending their free time taking part in beach activities including volleyball and swimming.

The hub of the town is the striking Balcon de Europa - a tree lined plaza perched on a headland with stunning views out to sea. This is a humming hive of activity all day long, with ice cream parlors, street entertainment and plenty of people-watching opportunities.

If you are looking for a Study Abroad program that combines improving your Spanish, immersing yourself in Spanish culture, and having fun at the beach - this is it.



3. Classes & activities

During your two weeks in the program town of Nerja you will spend weekday mornings taking Spanish classes, and afternoons & weekends taking part in fun and cultural activities and excursions.



Classes

ECI works with a highly reputable school in Nerja, established in 1980 and specializing in teaching Spanish to foreigners. All language teachers are native speakers and have had solid professional experience teaching Spanish as a foreign language. The school has a range of educational resources, including a bookstore, library, multimedia room, & internet terminals. There is also an on-site café with a lounge & beautiful Andalusian patio. This, together with the library, is located at the school's cultural activity & communications center – just a two-minute walk from the main part of the school.

Important information about classes:

- You will be assigned to a particular class level based on a placement test you complete before leaving the US.
- There are four fifty-minute classes each morning, Monday through Friday.
- The maximum number of students per class is ten.
- You will have conversation classes, oral and written exercises, structured grammar, audio & video practice drills, and, depending on your level, conversation on cultural topics.

Language Partners

To complement classes we have our unique Language Partner program - structured conversational sessions with Spanish teens and university students. In groups of two to three, you will spend a few hours visiting a local sight or café together - a great opportunity to ask questions about what it is like to be a young person living in Nerja. Many of our students report back to us that this was one of their favorite activities!

University credit - build your college application

ECI's university credit option gives you the opportunity to earn up to three Spanish semester units through the University of Southern Mississippi. These credits are transferable and are accepted by most accredited universities in the United States.

Important Information about Earning Credit

1. If you opt to earn credit for this program you will be given a course number and description by the university, which will be based on a placement test. The course will be worth up to three semester units of credit.
2. Transcripts remain on file for you to use when you apply for and ultimately attend a university after high school. Three units of credit are equal to one semester-long course at a university.
3. You must sign up for credit in the spring prior to your summer program.
4. All enrollment paperwork for university credit is sent directly to you by ECI.
5. You will take a placement test online prior to departure, usually in April/May.
6. You will be required to do some additional work. Specific details of these requirements will be given to you prior to the time you must make your decision to enroll for the credit (usually in the spring).
7. Following the completion of the program, USM will assign you a letter grade that goes on an official transcript.
8. You can include the completion of this course on your college applications and send out copies of your official transcript to your prospective universities/colleges. You can also choose NOT to send out the transcript, based on your satisfaction with your letter grade.
9. A fee of \$560 (subject to change) is paid to the University of Southern Mississippi, plus a \$175 administrative fee paid to ECI.

Cultural activities

Nerja is an ideal place for a Spanish language & culture program - we are able to offer you a wealth of hands-on cultural activities and local excursions. You will try your hand at cooking Spanish cuisine, you will have a salsa class, a fun visit to a water park and a kayaking adventure. You will also enjoy tapas tasting with Language Partners, beach sports, and a scavenger hunt. Also included are excursions to the whitewashed Andalusian village of Frigiliana and a day trip to the incredible city of Granada, where you will visit the Alhambra and experience an authentic flamenco dance show in the Sacromonte caves.

4. Immersion Week

We are enormously proud of this unique program component. It continues to be one of the main highlights of the trip and is proven time and again to be the most beneficial aspect of the program.



You will travel by bus from Nerja to Seville, where you will be met by your volunteer host family. After brief introductions, your family will take you to their home, where you will be warmly welcomed. The majority of our families have teenagers of a similar age to you, and one of the goals for the Immersion Week is that you develop a strong bond with the children in the family, and even form the beginnings of a life-long friendship. But as this an immersion experience with the entire family, we encourage you to also spend as much time as possible building a relationship and talking Spanish with everyone, including the grandmother or the toddler in the family.

You will either have your own room or share with a host family sibling. During the week you will speak only Spanish and there will be no group activities. You will simply fit in with the routine of your Spanish family. This is your genuine and unique opportunity to live the life of a Spanish teenager. During this week your family may take you on local sightseeing excursions, including the major highlights of Seville itself, or to visit friends, or may simply spend a lot of quality time with you at home, going about their daily lives. Regardless, all of this is immensely valuable in helping you to improve your spoken Spanish and knowledge of Spanish culture.

Your US leaders will be in Seville with you and will be on call 24/7 in case you have any issues or concerns. They will also check in with you regularly by phone to make sure you are settling in and comfortable in your family.



5. Where will you stay?



In Madrid

You will stay in a centrally located hotel, within walking distance of all the major highlights, including the Puerto del Sol and the Plaza Mayor. We always choose high quality hotels, and usually 4*. You will be in a twin room (two beds) with en suite facilities. Breakfasts will be at the hotel and evening meals in city center restaurants.

In Nerja

You will spend your two weeks in Nerja living in a residencia (dorm-like accommodation) in the heart of the old city, just a short walk to the language school and all the major sites and amenities Nerja has to offer. You will stay in a twin room, occasionally a triple. All bedding and towels are provided. The residencia has a common area for relaxing, and laundry facilities are available close to the residence. Evening meals are mostly served at the residencia, but there is also the opportunity to sample local Spanish cuisine by including at least two evening restaurant meals during your stay in Nerja.

In Seville

During your Immersion Week, you will live in a family home in the incredibly beautiful and world famous city of Seville. This could mean living in an apartment in the heart of the city or in a beautiful and large house in one of the surrounding small towns or villages, but still within the Seville region.

In Barcelona

During your four nights in Barcelona, you will stay in a city-center, high quality, comfortable hotel in twin rooms. Breakfasts will be at the hotel and evening meals in quality city center restaurants.

6. The ECI team

We have a team of ECI staff who create the Southern Spain & Barcelona program. member is highly trained and is expected to meet exacting ECI standards.



US leaders

Are responsible for your welfare from the moment you board the plane together in the US until the return journey. Most chaperones are high-school language teachers with extensive travel abroad experience, and all are enthusiastic leaders, fully trained by ECI. Many are Spanish teachers who take the opportunity to spend their summer in Spain as a way of maintaining their Spanish links and enhancing their classroom teaching skills. ECI carefully selects chaperones on the basis of language ability, maturity, patience, judgment and professionalism.

Local Leader

We always have at least one native Spanish speaker as part of the chaperone team. This Local Leader has expert local knowledge which is vital to the smooth running of the trip. A constant source of local information and guidance throughout the trip, these leaders are instructed to speak **ONLY** Spanish for the duration of the trip.

Program Coordinator

Our Program Coordinator is based in Spain and, together with our European team, coordinates the activities, excursions and all the other pieces that make up the program, including arranging accommodations, the language classes and Meet & Greet personnel. All planning takes place well in advance of your arrival in order to ensure a smoothly run and successful program.

Host Family Coordinator

Our HF coordinator is based in Seville and arranges the families for each of our students. The ECI Immersion program is well established in the area, and our coordinator is able to recruit volunteer families to host through her connections in the region. Our program is highly regarded among the local community, and Spanish families look forward to welcoming a US student into their homes each year. The family/student matching process starts with you writing a letter to your prospective family, giving details about your interests and hobbies. Our Coordinator will arrange a family best suited to you based on this information.

US team

From the moment you enroll, you will be in communication with our US team who will provide you with all the information you need during the application process. It is their role to guide you through this, including giving advice about writing your letter, uploading photographs, university credit, and making payments. They will also make sure you have all the necessary pre-departure information, including an itinerary and Study Abroad student handbook, giving you practical advice about your program. They will also arrange an online pre-departure meeting in preparation for your travel to Spain.

7. A day in Nerja

Every day of your trip will of course vary, but during the program town portion in Nerja, each day will follow a specific pattern:



- 8-9AM:** Breakfast
- 9AM-1PM:** Attend morning classes
- 1PM-1:30PM:** Daily meeting with chaperones & other students
- 1:30PM-4PM:** Lunch at the dorm. Free time for relaxation
- 4PM-7PM:** Join ECI leaders for afternoon activities
- 7PM-9PM:** Enjoy free time with friends
- 9PM-10PM:** Dinner
- 10PM- 11:30PM:** Enjoy group cultural & social activities with chaperones and/or Language Partners
- 11:30PM:** Groups meet up for check-in
- Midnight:** Back at the dorm in time for curfew

On weekends (Friday & Saturday) check-in is 1:30 AM, curfew 2AM

After dark, students are always in chaperoned groups for activities.

8. In their own words

Some of the many great comments we've had from parents and students about last year's Nerja program.



Parents

"Our son increased his confidence in communicating in a different language along with his travel and social skills thanks to interacting with lots of new people in various situations."

- **Mary Highland, parent**

"The camaraderie among the participants. In-country staff was excellent. Itinerary was chock full so that there was little down time. The staff at Berkeley was accesible and helpful."

- **Len Kaminow, parent**

"My daughter loved the program and her Spanish is much improved."

- **Rosemary Regis, parent**

"Our son chose this program himself because it featured the right timing and length, immersion homestay along with language learning, cultural experiences, and other American teenagers."

- **Mary Highland, parent**

Students

"The language school teachers were a blast and were creative, helping us to learn better. I really enjoyed the activities our language partners because they were fun and easy to relate to. The chaperones were enthusiastic, fun, and easy to talk to."

- **Rebecca Golub**

"I really loved the trips to Seville and Granada, kayaking, and the Nerja Caves. It was a great experience and I am glad I partook in it. Be open and willing to try new things. Have a good attitude!"

- **Zachary Goldblatt**

"I felt welcomed by my host family. They always cooked homemade meals for us. I feel like I gained a better understanding of the culture by staying with a family."

- **Alisha Rajendran**

"Living with a homestay family is where I improved my Spanish the most."

- **Delilah Davis**

9. Am I eligible?

To take part in this program you must:

- Have completed coursework equivalent to one year of high school Spanish (equal to two years of middle school Spanish) by June 2015. Exceptions can sometimes be made with a teacher recommendation.
- Be between the ages of 14 and 18.
- Receive a positive teacher recommendation. ECI provides the form.
- Be committed to speaking and improving your Spanish.
- Be open to new experiences and unfamiliar cultures.
- Be able to make responsible choices and act in a mature manner. ECI leaders chaperone conscientiously, but cannot be with you 24 hours per day.
- Be in good physical health, able to walk distances, climb stairs & carry luggage.
- Have a valid passport.

10. Meet and Greet service

You have the choice of traveling round trip on one of our chaperoned flights (organized via our travel partner STA Travel) or making your own separate flight plans.

If you make your own separate flight plans, you are also responsible for making your own arrangements to meet up with the chaperones and group, unless you choose our Meet & Greet Service, which carries an additional fee of \$185 minimum per direction. With the Meet & Greet service, an ECI representative will meet you at the airport or any other designated arrival place. Shortly before your departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. You will then be taken to join up with rest of the group.

The Meet & Greet service is also available for the return trip, and we highly recommend it in either direction if you are not traveling with the group.

Remember that airline schedules are always subject to change. Please contact ECI to discuss the Meet & Greet option.

11. Dates and fees

When?

July 1st to July 29th 2015

Fees?

\$7995 + airfare

Program price includes:

- All accommodations
- All language classes, group activities, excursions and admissions
- All transportation abroad
- All meals during Homestays, Dorm (Residencia) stays & Host Family Immersion Week
- Two meals per day during full-day weekend excursions and during days of travel
- Chaperone/student ratio of 1/8

Program price does not include:

- Airline tickets (*Students can purchase airline tickets on the designated chaperoned flights from San Francisco or JFK via our travel partner STA Travel www.statravel.com or 1.877.777.8717. Students may also purchase their own tickets independently.*)
- Spending money
- Optional activities
- Some lunches
- Insurance
- University Credit Fees (should you choose this option)

12. What next?

Based on our years of feedback, we can safely say that, as a student, you will have the time of your life, make new friends, experience authentic Spanish culture, and gain a sense of independence and new-found confidence. As a parent, you will feel secure in the knowledge that ECI's programs are carefully planned and executed, that every detail is taken care of, both before and during the trip, and that a committed and experienced team of US and local leaders will ensure each program matches/exceeds your expectations.

Need more information?

- Please email our main office: info@educulture.com
- Check out our FAQs on the website - educulture.com
- Watch our informative videos - available on the website: educulture.com/about/video-gallery/
- Read our blog posts on a wide variety of Study Abroad-related topics - educulture.com/blog/
- Take a look at our Facebook page and Twitter feed - facebook.com/Edu.Culture.Immersion
- Take a look at our Twitter feed - twitter.com/educulture

Want to talk to someone at ECI?

Call our main office at: **510-261-8182**

Ready to sign up?

Complete our online application - educulture.com/sign-up/

Application Procedure 2015 Summer Programs

1. The fastest way to reserve a space on your chosen program is to use our online option for application and payment. Go to <http://educulture.com> and click the the **Apply Now** link.
2. Select your program, then Book Now. Complete the online Booking Form and make a \$500 credit card deposit payment to reserve your spot. This deposit will be credited towards the total summer Program Fee.
3. Alternatively, you may complete the application page found at the end of this packet and mail it with a \$500 check made payable to ECI.
4. You will receive an automatic receipt invoice, and shortly after other pre-departure information, including details about submitting a teacher recommendation form, medical authorization, and writing a letter to your host family.
5. The balance of payment is due by **April 1, 2015**.

Please note: this is our general payment plan. To arrange a customized option or for any additional information, contact us at 510-261-8182 or at info@educulture.com.

Additional Payment Information – 2015 Summer Programs

- All deposits will be deducted from the Total Program Fee.
- It is your responsibility to make sure all payments arrive at ECI's office by their due dates. You must assume responsibility for late payments due to mail delays or other unlikely circumstances. Students whose payments are not received on time may lose their place in the program or be subject to a late payment charge.
- Applications made 60 or fewer days prior to departure will be treated on an individual space-available basis. Full payment will be due at the time of application, and completed application materials will be due within one week.

Edu-Culture International (ECI) Refund Policy

Prior to December 3, 2014: **All Program Fee payments less \$150**

Between December 3, 2014, and March 4, 2015: **All Program Fee payments less \$500**

Between March 4, 2015, and June 3, 2015: **All Program Fee payments less \$1200**

After June 3, 2015: **No refund**

Cancellations must be received by ECI in writing by the above dates for refunds.

Any student who is unwilling to abide by ECI guidelines or who is believed to jeopardize the welfare of others will be dismissed without refund of program fees and sent home at the expense of his/her parents. ECI reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient enrollment. In this case, all program fees would be refunded.

ECI **does not** provide medical, travel or cancellation/interruption insurance. Please ensure you arrange medical and travel insurance prior to departure. We also strongly advise the purchase of cancellation/interruption insurance.

Preliminary Mail-In Application Form

Please mail this page with a \$500 check to ECI:

ECI
P.O Box 27470
Oakland, CA 94602

Check the program to which you are applying:

SPAIN:

- Salamanca North and South
- Southern Spain and Barcelona
- Individual program in Spain (Costa del Sol)

FRANCE:

- Nice, Beaches and Paris
- Individual program in France (French Alps)

Please print the **student and parent email addresses** clearly on the form below, as future correspondence will be sent to you via those email addresses.

Parent Name(s) _____

Best Day Phone(s) _____ Best Evening Phone(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Parent Email _____

Student Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Student Email _____

Student's School _____

Foreign Language Teacher _____

Years of foreign language completed as of June 2015 _____

(2 yrs. of middle school count as one year of high school)