



# Paxabroad Spain



**Duration:** 10 months (school year) or 5 months (semester)  
**Start dates:** August 2011 and January 2012 (spring semester)  
**Age level:** 15 to 18 years old  
**Terms of participation:** GPA of C+ or better and three years of Spanish  
**Cost:** \$ 8,500 (school year) - \$ 7,000 (semester)

**GEOGRAPHY** Most of Spain is bordered by water but it also shares its borders with France and Andorra along the Pyrenees in the northeast, with Portugal in the west, and with the small British overseas territory of Gibraltar near the southernmost tip. The affiliation of Gibraltar has continued to be a contentious issue between Spain and Britain and so is the sovereignty of the *plazas de soberanía*, claimed by Morocco.

**SPORTS** Popular sports in Spain include soccer, basketball, tennis, cycling, handball, motorcycling, Formula 1, water sports, golf and skiing. Spain has also hosted a number of international events such as the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona and the 1982 FIFA World Cup. With the likes of: Rafael Nadal, the world's number 1 tennis player; the Spanish soccer team, the Euro 2008 trophy winner; Alonzo, the youngest F1 World champion; and Carlos Sastre's Tour de France triumph... Spain is one of the most represented countries in top sports.

**ARTS & CULTURE** Spain has been the home to famous painters, sculptors and architects like Salvatore Dali, Antoni Gaudi, Joan Miro, Antoni Tapies and Pablo Picasso. Places like Gaudi's Park Guell, Alhambra Palace in Granada, the Bilbao Museum, Alcazar Palace in Seville and the Monastery at El Escorial, are just a few examples of the amazing Spanish architecture.

**FASHION** The Spanish fashion industry has taken the entire world by storm with stores like Zara, Mango, Inditex, Cortefiel, and fashion designers like Agatha Ruiz de la Prada, Cristobal Balenciaga, Paco Rabanne and Manolo Blahnik.

**EDUCATION** School attendance in Spain is compulsory until the age of 16. There are six years of primary school followed by four years of secondary school (E.S.O.). Subjects offered at E.S.O. include geography, history, mathematics, biology, English, physical education, chemistry, physics, arts and crafts, Spanish language and literature, religion, ethics, musical science technology and a second language. At the age of 16/17, students have the option of pursuing studies – levels 1 and 2 of the *bachillerato*. There are five specialty streams: *bachillerato científico-tecnológico* (science and technology); *bachillerato ciencias de la salud* (health sciences); *bachillerato ciencias sociales* (social studies); *bachillerato humanidades* (humanities); and *bachillerato artístico* (art studies).

Spanish education is considered to be challenging and only the top 50% of students are allowed to sit for the university entrance exam. In order to qualify, students are expected to work hard and show excellent results over all years of study. Instruction is traditional: lecture style with students listening and taking notes.

**POLITICS** Parliamentary democracy was implemented (restored, in fact) in Spain following the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975. Franco had ruled as dictator since the end of the Spanish Civil War in 1939 and his death sparked major political reformation! The greatest change in Spanish politics came in 1978 when a new constitution was created, establishing Spain as a parliamentary monarchy.

“ These past months have been the most amazing of my life. Although, inevitably, I miss my family and friends, I would not trade this experience for anything. The friends I have made here in Spain, without any doubt, will be the most precious of diamonds in my memory forever. ”

Elisabeth Perry



## What's Included ?

- ▶ Guaranteed country of choice
- ▶ Selection and preparation of a host family
- ▶ Coordinator assistance and progress reports
- ▶ 24-hour emergency support overseas and in the US
- ▶ Selection interview — in your home, where possible
- ▶ Full and comprehensive insurance
- ▶ Supporting documents for visa application
- ▶ Material to prepare you for your exchange
- ▶ Pre-departure orientation

## What's Not Included ?

- ▶ International and local airfares
- ▶ Visa application fees
- ▶ School fees (text books, lunch, etc.)
- ▶ Personal expenses, souvenirs, incidentals
- ▶ Transportation to and from school
- ▶ Phone cards, cell phones

## How Does It Work ?

- ▶ First, review the program materials on our website ([www.pax.org/paxabroad.html](http://www.pax.org/paxabroad.html))
- ▶ Choose your desired country and confirm that you meet any pre-requisites.
- ▶ Complete the full application for PAX and your country of choice, and ask your school and doctor to complete their sections. Attach color photographs of you and your family, as well as 8 passport photos. Ensure that all sections of application are signed and dated.
- ▶ Read and sign the "Terms of Participation" form
- ▶ Send the completed application with your application fee to the PAX office for review.

## Then What ?

- ▶ Once your application packet has been reviewed, a home interview will be arranged.
- ▶ Your application packet will then be sent overseas for final acceptance by the receiving organization.
- ▶ You will be matched with a family and school.
- ▶ You will receive information on your country of choice to assist you in your preparation and PAX will guide you through the visa process.
- ▶ You will receive information on your host family, school and community and begin correspondence with your new family.
- ▶ You will attend a pre-departure orientation session.
- ▶ You will fly out of the US to begin your adventure.

## Application Deadlines

- ▶ April 1 - Fall Semester or Academic Year
- ▶ September 15 - Spring Semester

## Deposits, Cancellations & Refunds

- ▶ \$500 deposit - with completed application
- ▶ Full program fee balance due upon notice of acceptance. Payment by check or wire transfer only.  
**Note:** If the full program fee is not received within one week of acceptance, PAX reserves the right to cancel your program.
- ▶ If you cancel prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> (or October 15<sup>th</sup> for spring semester), but before being placed with a host family - full refund, minus the \$500.00 application fee.
- ▶ If you cancel after host family placement is confirmed, but more than two weeks prior to departure, program fee refunded, minus \$1,000.00 cancellation fee.
- ▶ If you cancel within two weeks of departure, program fee refunded, minus \$2,000.00 cancellation fee.

## FAQ

### Q. CAN I CHOOSE A LOCATION WITHIN MY COUNTRY OF CHOICE?

**A.** In some countries it is possible to select a geographic area, but this will not be guaranteed. Your flexibility and sense of humor, along with a supportive host family, contribute most significantly to making your exchange a success.

### Q. WHAT IF I ALREADY KNOW A FAMILY I WANT TO LIVE WITH?

**A.** It may be possible to live with a family that you already know. However, the family will have to be approved, prepared and supported by our partner organization in the same manner as any host family, and school enrollment must be available. Relatives, however, cannot host you.

### Q. CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR MY STUDIES ABROAD?

**A.** You will be enrolled in a high school. Documentation of work done overseas will be provided. You are responsible for coordinating any transfer of credits from your high school abroad to your high school in the US. Please note that we cannot guarantee that your American school will accept your foreign studies for credit. Once you decide to participate in PAX Abroad, see your guidance counselor to determine what you may need to take outside of your foreign studies, to make sure that you can graduate on time.

### Q. WHAT IF I HAVE GRADUATED?

**A.** Depending on your age, some destinations are still available. Contact us for more info.

### Q. WILL MY FAMILY HAVE TO HOST IN THE US?

**A.** No, your family will not be required to host an exchange student in return. However, hosting an exchange student while you are overseas allows your family to have a better understanding of what you will go through. PAX host families are eligible for a 10% discount on PAX Abroad academic program fees.

### Q. WILL I NEED A STUDENT VISA AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

**A.** A student visa is required. Participants must be prepared to go to an embassy or consulate for their jurisdiction in person. Up to date information about obtaining a visa can be found at: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/32122.htm>. Upon acceptance to the program, PAX will provide all program related documentation necessary for obtaining a visa. However, it is the responsibility of the participant to obtain the visa and of course, a passport.

*Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do... Explore! Dream! Discover!*

Mark Twain