

SPAIN 2012



ECI Spain Programs 2012

Salamanca 1 - \$6625 (dorm)

June 27 - July 26

- Two weeks of classes in Salamanca
- One week of host family immersion
- One week of travel

Nerja - \$4450 (homestay)

July 28 - August 13

- Two weeks of classes in Nerja
- Four days of travel
(Malaga, Sevilla, Granada)

Salamanca 2 - \$6525 (homestay)

July 4 - August 2

- Two weeks of classes in Salamanca
- One week of host family immersion
- One week of travel

Customized Total Immersion - \$955 per week

- Flexible dates. You choose the time frame between July 1 and August 15
- Live in the Andalusia region of Spain
- Speak only Spanish with your Immersion Host Family
- No group activities and no classes

ECI Spain Programs 2012

Spain provides a unique variety of language and cultural experiences. Fun and festivals, relaxed and warm people, and a multitude of architectural and artistic treasures make Spain a perfect destination for Spanish language learners. Take classes at a leading language school as you fully immerse yourself in Spanish culture. Travel to vibrant cities and soak up the exciting European atmosphere. Join us for a life-changing adventure!

Spain Program Guide

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Dear Parents and Students,

Edu-Culture International's primary goal is a true language and cultural immersion experience for each participant. Immersion provides the student with a unique intercultural perspective, as well as the absolute best possible way to strengthen their language skills.

We take great professional and personal pride in making ECI programs the best of their kind. From our global coordinators to our local leaders, you will find ECI staff to be experienced, dedicated, and qualified educational professionals who provide guidance and support throughout the program.

Our Spain programs are based in Salamanca and Nerja. We also offer a Customized Total Immersion (CTI) program. Each of our trips includes a different combination of the following components:

- Spanish Classes
- Activities / Excursions
- Language School Homestay OR Dorm Housing
- True Host Family Immersion
- Travel within Spain
- University Credit Option

All groups are limited to thirty students with three full-time adults: one trip leader and two additional chaperones. Our adult / student ratio is ideal in terms of personal attention, cultural education, organization, and safety.

All students are able to take advantage of varied housing opportunities that include: **Dorm or Residence Housing**, **Language School Homestay** (two students per Spanish family), and **Host Family Immersion** (almost always one student per Spanish family). For additional information on

housing options for each trip, please see *Accommodations Options*.

We also incorporate **Language Partners** into our programs. Usually European university students, Language Partners work to enrich the Immersion Experience by providing ECI students additional practice in conversational Spanish. Small groups of our students explore the town with their Language Partners, participating in various activities while discussing (in Spanish) an assortment of topics such as: entertainment, school, politics, travel, vacations, and sports.

Designed to be fun as well as challenging, ECI's programs provide students with an unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime experience. Participants gain a global perspective, strengthen their college applications, and create lasting global friendships through this individualized and unique international adventure.

We encourage you to explore our programs and discover the best match for you. In the following pages, you will find descriptions of various components of our programs. For more information, FAQs, photos, and video, please visit us at <http://educulture.com>. Also feel free to contact us at any time.



Marie Forrest
Co-Founder and Director



OVERVIEW

During our Spain programs you will:

- **Participate** in an enriching homestay, dorm (residence), and/or immersion experience in an exciting, youthful city in Spain as you absorb the culture and practice the language.
- **Study** at prestigious schools dedicated exclusively to teaching Spanish in Spain, with the opportunity to earn three units of college credit during most sessions.
- **Choose** from a variety of afternoon and evening activities such as swimming, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, salsa or flamenco dance lessons, tapas tasting, cooking, and horseback riding.
- **Interact** with local university students during Language Partner sessions.
- **Enjoy** the food and cultural ambiance of the Spanish café scene.
- **Experience** the exuberance, originality, and passion of a Spanish flamenco show.
- **Meet** other students from around the country.
- **Be encouraged** by your chaperones to exceed your language goals.
- **Immerse** yourself in the language, culture, and daily life of the Spanish.
- **Travel** for up to one week to some of the most amazing destinations in Spain!

ECI Chaperones

ECI carefully selects chaperones on the basis of language ability, maturity, patience, judgment, professionalism, and their ability to earn the respect and trust of our teenage participants. Most chaperones are high-school language teachers with extensive travel abroad experience; and all are enthusiastic leaders, fully trained by ECI, and highly dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding on the global level.

Price includes:

- All accommodations
- All language classes, group activities, excursions, and admissions
- All transportation abroad
- All meals during Homestays, Dorm (Residence) Stays & Host Family Immersion Week; Two meals per day during full day weekend excursions and during days of travel
- Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance
- Three full-time adult chaperones per group of 30 students

Price does not include:

- Application fee of \$135
- Airline tickets: Students can purchase airline tickets on the designated chaperoned flights from San Francisco or JFK via our travel partner STA Travel <http://statravel.com> or 1.877.777.8717. Students may also purchase their own tickets independently.
- Spending money
- Optional activities
- Some lunches
- Optional Cancellation/Interruption and/or Cancel For Any Reason Travel Insurance Plan
- University Credit Fees (should you choose this option)



Student Eligibility for Spain Trips

Participants must:

- Complete coursework equivalent to two years of high school Spanish by June 2012.
(Possible exceptions are considered only with a teacher recommendation detailing the student's exceptional language skills)
- Be between the ages of 15 and 18
- Complete all sections of ECI's Individualized Application Form
(Application includes: basic contact information for students & families, student interests, student introduction letter for Host Family with pictures (as applicable), and any pertinent medical information)
- Have a valid passport, and provide ECI with a copy no later than 1 month prior to departure
- Receive a positive teacher recommendation *(ECI provides the form)*
- Be committed to speaking and improving their Spanish
- Be open to new experiences and unfamiliar cultures
- Sign and abide by ECI's Personal Responsibility Contract
- Be able to make responsible choices and act in a mature manner

ECI leaders chaperone conscientiously. However, participants cannot be supervised 24 hours a day, and we therefore request that any student needing constant supervision refrain from applying for our life-changing programs.

ECI Scholarships

ECI will offer two \$3000 scholarships to applicants for summer 2012. For scholarship application details, please see the Scholarship page on our website.

For additional information, please contact our main office:

510.845.2230 or 866.343.8990 (toll free)
 info@educulture.com
 Or visit our website at:

<http://educulture.com>



Spanish Classes

ECI's commitment to high standards also extends to our choice of language schools. Spanish language classes are a major component of the majority of our summer programs. All of our partner language school are highly regarded and internationally recognized. All language teachers are native speakers, have degrees in modern languages, and have had wide-ranging and solid professional experience teaching Spanish as a foreign language.

Classes are limited to usually 10-12 students to enhance the learning environment and encourage as much Spanish conversation as possible. Students are grouped into levels based upon a placement test completed before leaving the US. Classes are in the morning, Monday through Friday. Generally the classes are divided between two sessions: conversation and

grammar. In the grammar section, students study different grammatical structures and their practical applications. In the conversation section, students analyze vocabulary and colloquial expressions.

In Salamanca, students take classes at Academia Mester. In Nerja ECI students attend classes at the Escuela de Idiomas.

University Credit Option

ECI's University Credit Option, available on all programs (except Nerja Summer Study and Customized Total Immersion), is an invaluable asset in today's competitive realm of higher education.

- ECI's University Credit Option provides students the option to earn 3 semester units in Spanish through the University of Southern Mississippi.
- These credits are transferable to other universities & accepted by most accredited universities in the U.S.

The university credit option is a great asset on a college application because it demonstrates the student's ability to complete university level course work as a high school student. (Please note: the University Credit Option requires additional fees and some additional work on the part of the student.)

For more information, FAQs, photos, testimonials & to apply, please visit us at:

<http://educulture.com>



ECI's Program Towns in Spain



Salamanca

Named a World Heritage City by UNESCO, lively and fun Salamanca is a youthful Castilian town of 180,000 people, 30,000 of whom are university students. Filled with ambience and charm, the people speak the "purest Spanish in Spain," making it an extremely popular place for learning Spanish. Salamanca's center, Plaza Mayor, is a beautiful 18th century baroque square surrounded by wonderful shops, outdoor cafés, and honey-colored buildings. Salamanca is located in the southwest corner of the Castilla-León region, about 150 miles from Madrid, in the western part of Spain near Portugal. Its turreted palaces, Romanesque cathedrals, and historic colleges continue to attract students from all over the world.

Nerja

Thirty miles east of Malaga on the Costa del Sol, Nerja sits directly on the Mediterranean coast. Surrounded by mountains on one side and gorgeous beaches and sandy coves on the other, Nerja is a summer paradise. The old town is filled with narrow winding streets, whitewashed houses and untouched Andalusian charm. Once a sleepy fishing village, Nerja is now a vibrant community with a population of over 20,000 people. With an average summer temperature of eighty-five degrees and close proximity to some of Spain's most historic cities, Nerja is an ideal place to study the Spanish language and culture.

Accommodation Options:

Available Options	Sal1	Sal 2	Nerja
Language School Homestay	No	Yes	Yes
Dorm (Residence) Housing	Yes	No	No
Host Family Immersion	Yes	Yes	No

Language School Homestay

The Language School Homestay portion of the programs refers to accommodation with locals in the program town during the weeks that classes take place. Most of these homestay households are within a fifteen-minute walk of the center of the program town and language school in Salamanca and Nerja.

Some homes are made up of a father, a mother and (occasionally) children, but many are single-parent households. These Spanish-speaking families provide room and board and are carefully chosen for ECI by the language school to provide a safe environment for our students. Students from other countries often share a family with our ECI participants, adding to the international flavor of the homestay experience. Generally, we place two ECI students per home.

Dorm (Residence) Housing

Centrally located, the dorms (residences) in Salamanca are within easy reach of each town's language school. Because ECI chaperones live in the dorms and eat with the students, they are able to form close bonds and relationships of trust and mutual respect with the students. For many students, spending two weeks here with the rest of the group is a perfect introduction to Spanish language and culture prior to the one-week True Host Family Immersion, which occurs during the third week of the trip.

True Host Family Immersion Week

After two weeks of practicing their conversation skills during classes and enjoying a fantastic variety of hands-on activities with the ECI group, students are prepared for the opportunity to become immersed in language and culture during the **Host Family Immersion Week**.

ECI Coordinators personally select immersion host families. Students live with these families during the third week of the following programs: Salamanca 1 and 2.

Please note: we currently have no Host Family Immersion Week option on the Nerja program.

Immersion host families are excited about sharing their homes and lives 24/7 with an American teenager and often (but not always) have a son or daughter of a similar age. ECI participants spend their time during that week interacting with the family, the family's children, and friends of the family. As a hallmark of ECI's Immersion Experience, students are generally placed one per home during the **Host Family Immersion Week**. This is an excellent opportunity to become truly immersed in Spanish daily life and language and to form lifelong friendships. The chaperone team is on-call twenty-four hours a day to assist students should they have a problem or concern.

These warm and friendly families open their homes to American teens because of their genuine desire to share their language and culture. They make every effort to incorporate our students into their lives, many times arranging day trips and excursions which only locals are otherwise able to experience.

ECI students write a personal letter in Spanish during their application process with information

about themselves and their families as well as their ambitions, hobbies, and interests. From these details, our Host Family Coordinators carefully match each student with an appropriate host family. They take into account any specific requests and try to match each student's interests with those of the family.

Throughout this week, there are no organized ECI activities or classes. This enables participants to immerse themselves completely in the Spanish way of life. **For many students, true host family immersion is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding parts of the trip!**



Activities / Excursions

ECI chaperones supervise a variety of afternoon and evening activities...

Some of our student's favorite activities include:

- Tapas Tasting Nights
- Exploring the town with Language Partners
- Kayaking & Fútbol
- Spanish Movie Nights
- Salsa or Flamenco Dance Lessons
- Cooking Classes
- Excursions to Nearby Villages & Towns
- People-watching at outdoor Spanish cafés
- Optional Sports activities such as: swimming, volleyball, basketball, horseback riding

Please Note: Activities are almost always included at no extra charge. Occasionally, we offer optional activities / excursions, most of which are included or are nominally priced.

Each day also includes free time for students to get together with friends and explore their own interests and hobbies.

All students take part in chaperoned nighttime activities.



Travel within Spain

ECI's programs include between 3 – 8 days & nights of group travel to some of the most beautiful and culturally enriching places in Spain. We always choose high quality, centrally located hotels. Examples of our destinations include:

- **Madrid**, the grand capital city of Spain. Highlights include: Gran Vía, Plaza de España, Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol (a busy square marking the geographical center of Spain), the Royal Palace, the world-renowned Prado museum, the Reina Sofia Art Museum, and the Parque de Retiro.
- **Granada**, in the foothills of the snowcapped Sierra Nevada mountain range. Highlights include: the richly ornamented open-air rooms of the Alhambra, the Generalife Palace's spectacular gardens, and free time to explore this old city of romance and folklore.
- **Sevilla**, the beautiful capital of Andalucía. Highlights include: the impressive Plaza de España, Sevilla's imposing Gothic cathedral, La Giralda, the Alcázar, the colorful Barrio de Santa Cruz, and experiencing a flamenco show.
- **Costa del Sol**, on the Mediterranean. Highlights include: free time relaxing on the beach, journeying to the Nerja caves, and enjoying the sea breezes.



ECI Customized Total Immersion

July 1 – August 15 / Independent airfare / \$955 per week

Two to three weeks living with an Immersion Host Family (No group activities, no classes)

During ECI's Customized Total Immersion Program (CTI), students will:

- Participate in the daily life of a Spanish family.
- Speak Spanish with the family.
- Take part in home-life including meals and family events.
- Enjoy excursions with the Host Family, many times to places only locals know about.
- See sights, meet friends, and enjoy Spanish culture all from the local perspective.
- Immerse themselves on an everyday basis in the Spanish language and culture.

ECI custom-designed the CTI Program for high school students who:

- Are at least 16 years old.
- Have completed a minimum of three years of high school Spanish by June 2012. (Two years of middle school Spanish is generally equivalent to one year of high school Spanish.)
- Are motivated, adventurous, and have an independent nature.
- Are serious about speaking only Spanish while in Spain.
- Are excited about the opportunity to be completely immersed as the only student in their host family for two to three weeks – without a formal study program and without formal contact with other American students.
- Are committed to the belief that total immersion is the most effective way to develop foreign language proficiency.

"Evan had a wonderful time in Spain. He loved his total immersion family, he had great experiences and he made good friends. He also improved his Spanish vastly. It was everything we wanted it to be. Thanks a lot."

*Guy Owen, CTI parent 2009,
 guyeowen@gmail.com*



Who are the Immersion Host Families?

ECI has developed an extensive network of coordinators in Spain who are committed to finding families and who look forward to sharing their lives with our students during the summer. ECI Host Family Coordinators work directly for us rather than for a language school. Host Families are usually comprised of a mother, a father, and children who are often of the same age as the visiting ECI teenager. Immersion Host Families host ECI students with the intention of sharing their daily lives, culture, homes and food. Families often take their ECI student on excursions, involve them in family events, and introduce them to friends and relatives. Many times, ECI students and Immersion Families create lifetime friendships.

Customized Total Immersion (CTI) Program Price Includes:

1. ECI arranged transportation to/from host family from airport in Malaga, Spain
2. In-country orientation
3. Accommodation and meals with Immersion Host Family
4. Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance
5. A full-time on-call ECI representative

Price does not include:

1. Application fee of \$135
2. Airfare
3. Spending money
4. Optional activities
5. Optional Cancellation / Interruption or Cancel For Any Reason Travel Insurance Plan

Customized Total Immersion (CTI) participants arrange their own flights. Flight itineraries must be emailed to ECI no later than 6 weeks prior to departure.



An ECI representative or the host family will meet your son or daughter at the designated arrival location. Prior to your child's departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time.

At every step of the way, **Customized Total Immersion (CTI) Program** Participants will find guidance and support available from ECI's global and local professional staff. Please contact us to see if the **Customized Total Immersion (CTI) Program** might be right for you!

Meet and Greet Service

ECI program participants have the choice of traveling roundtrip on one of our chaperoned flights (organized via our travel partner STA Travel) or making their own separate flight plans.

Participants who make their own separate flight plans are also responsible for making their own arrangements to meet up with the chaperones and group, unless they choose our **Meet and Greet Service**, which carries an **additional fee of \$175 minimum per direction**.

With the Meet and Greet service, an ECI representative will meet your son or daughter at the airport or any other designated arrival place. Prior to your child's departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. Once we have met your child, we will

take him/her to meet the main group. The Meet and Greet is also available for the return trip, and we highly recommend it in either direction if your child is not traveling with the group. Remember that airline schedules are always subject to change. Please contact ECI to discuss this option.

crossing continents - connecting cultures

For more details, information, FAQs, pictures, testimonials and to apply, please visit us at:

<http://educulture.com>



Visit our website for information on any of our study abroad programs. If you're ready to sign up, follow the instructions on our How to Apply page.

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