

For answers to questions regarding application procedures, program information, responsibilities of participants, pre-departure orientation materials, departure and post-departure information, registration, financial matters, grades, credits, withdrawals, cancellations and expulsions, please read THE HANDBOOK FOR STUDY ABROAD.

General Program Overview:

Barcelona is a dynamic and progressive city. In sophistication and cultural diversity, Barcelona ranks with the major cities of Europe, which can be seen in its rich traditions in the fields of painting, music, and architecture. With a population of over 2 million, Barcelona is a charming city. It has a vibrant nightlife and café scene. Because it is the capital city of Catalunya, students on this program will experience distinctive Catalan culture and language, while improving their ability to read, write, and speak Spanish (Castilian).

Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain. The University of Barcelona (UB) was founded in 1450. Today the university has four campuses in different parts of the city. UB is the oldest and largest of the six universities in Barcelona, and of the ten in Catalunya. Participants on the SUNY Oswego/University of Barcelona program will take all of their course work at the same campus, which is situated in the heart of Barcelona's famous city center, near las Ramblas, the Gaudi houses, and the Picasso museum.

1) Can people with no language experience apply?

People without Spanish language experience cannot apply to this program. However, you may apply if you have had minimal Spanish language experience. This program requires at least a beginner's level in order to participate. Upon arrival to the University of Barcelona during orientation week, participants will take a placement exam. Based on the results of the exam, students will be placed at beginners, intermediate or advanced language level courses.

2) What college/University will I be studying at?

You will be studying at the University of Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain. Students take their courses in the Estudios Hispánicos Department. Some classes are not at the main university but in an academic building across the street and around the block, only about a five minute walk from the university.

3) What is the required GPA to apply?

Students are required to have at least a 2.5 GPA.

4) Does the University provide any trips?

The University does provide two excursions during the semester which are required for students to attend. The excursions are to different parts of Barcelona. Students will also be invited to a lunch or dinner once during the semester.

5) What are the exact dates of the program?

The departure date for fall is usually around the first week of September and the return date is usually about the third week of December. For the spring, the departure date is around the third week of January and the return date is about the third week of May.

6) Will there be a pre-departure orientation and/or an in-country orientation?

There will be an orientation at SUNY Oswego. For more details on the orientation go to your page on the Studio Abroad website. You will be able to sign up for the orientation and let us know who will come with you to orientation. You may invite your parents, family members, or significant other. Although orientation is not mandatory, we ask that you do your best to attend. If you are a SUNY Oswego student, I would definitely like to see you at orientation. If you are from very far away, I understand if you can't make it. All the students will receive a pre-departure packet at orientation and if you are not able to attend, a packet will be made available on studio abroad.

There will also be an orientation starting on the Monday after your arrival to Barcelona, at the University of Barcelona. Everything will be a learning experience, so you will need to relax and enjoy the ride :). The orientation in Barcelona is mandatory. This means that unless you are sick, you will attend all orientation meetings, activities, and educational excursion(s). We have been running this program successfully for over 15 years and the participation of all students is imperative for a successful program.

7) What if I arrive earlier than the group or stay on after the end of the program?

You may arrive earlier than the group and/or stay on after the end of the program, but you must make your own arrangements. OIEP is not responsible for student(s) who arrive early or stay longer in any country.

8) Is housing provided?

Students in this program have three housing options: 1) Host family, 2) Residence Hall, 3) Independent living. If you choose to live with a host family or in the residence hall, the Office of International Education and Programs will work with the Housing Coordinator in Barcelona, Dr. Ana Moya, to arrange your housing with a host family or the residence hall.

If you choose to live in independent housing you must make your own housing arrangements. All students will fill out the housing preference form and on that form you may request to live with another student, and you can state their name, or you can choose not to live with someone else. We do our best to make the appropriate accommodations, but we cannot guarantee every request.

Host families are spread out throughout Barcelona, but they are usually not more than 30-35 minutes walking distance from the university. The residence halls, *Residencia La Roca* and *Residencia Balmes* are about 35 minutes walking distance as well. However, you may take the metro or the bus which take about 10-20 minutes respectively. If you stay with a host family and you do end up having another student living there also, it will be a student from the

program. If you live in the residence hall you will be staying with other students from the program, but the residence hall itself will have other International Students. In the residence halls, there will be someone who comes in and cleans your room. There is no smoking, drinking, or the use of illegal drugs in the residence halls or host families. If you are caught doing so you could be expelled from the program.

Residencia Balmes (For Males):

<http://www.residencia-balmes.com/>

c/ Balmes 25, principal 2^a

08007 Barcelona

Tel.: 93 302 4192

Fax: 93 318 4671

Residencia La Roca (For Women):

www.residenciaroca.com

c/ Ciutat de Balaguer 65, principal

08022 Barcelona

Tel.: 93 417 3194

Fax: 93 434 0764

THE ADDRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY:

Universitat de Barcelona

Gran Via Corts Catalanes, 585

08007 Barcelona, Spain

THE PHONE # OF THE UNIVERSITY:

Phone: 011-34-93-403-5686

Fax: 011-34-93-317-1249

9) Who will I be living with?

Should you choose the host family or residence hall housing program, you will have a roommate from our SUNY Oswego group program. Americans as well as other international students stay in the residence halls. The residence has 24 hour security and there is always someone working the front desk.

10) Is the cost for housing included in the program fee?

The cost for housing and the meals per day are included in the program fee for students in the host family or residence hall program. Students who choose to reside independently will receive a reduction of \$2,000.00 on the program differential fee; see Program Budget Sheet online at www.oswego.edu/intled.

11) Are there phones in the residential facilities?

There are phones located in the residential facilities. Although you cannot call internationally, you can, however, receive international phone calls and you are able to make local phone calls.

12) Should I bring a cell phone, or buy one once I get there?

We advise students to purchase a cell phone upon the first week of arrival. Students usually get a cell phone from *Movistar* which they are able to put minutes on. The best way to communicate out of Barcelona is internet, via communication lines such as Skype. You are advised to bring your laptop.

13) Do I make my own flight arrangements?

Students make their own flight arrangements to Barcelona, and from the airport take a taxi to their housing accommodation. The airport that students would be flying into in Barcelona is Barcelona International Airport (also known as *El Prat de Llobregat* Aeropuerto or Aeroport de Barcelona). The airport abbreviation is (BCN).

Airport Address:

Aeropuerto de Barcelona
08820 El Prat de Llobregat
Barcelona, Espana

Students must submit their flight details to SUNY Oswego Office of International Education and Programs. Flight details will then be sent to the overseas coordinator.

14) Will I be met at the airport?

No, students will not be met at the airport. We will collect your flight details and provide them to the Housing and Orientation Coordinator in Barcelona, her name is Dr. Ana Moya. Dr. Moya will have a list of every ones date and time of arrival to Barcelona and she will inform the host families and residence hall front desk of your arrival so that you can be met at you housing accommodation. Students will only be able to move into their housing accommodations on the official date of arrival assigned by the program in Barcelona.

15) Where are the classes held and how often per week?

Students in this program take a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 15 credits. All of your courses will be in Spanish taken alongside other Americans or International students with professors from Spain. Your courses will take place in the Department of Estudios Hispánicos.

Please review the list of courses on the Studio Abroad website and choose six credits of language and six credits of culture. Meet with your academic advisor and get approval for all the courses. Final decision on the courses you will be taking will be done in Barcelona. During orientation week, you will meet with the Academic Coordinator (Dr. Maria Luz Celaya) and finalize the courses you will be taking. This can be a little stressful, but I ask that you go with flow, have *PACIENCIA*, and you will finalize the course selection process. You will also take a placement exam and will be placed in the level Spanish classes that best meets your language abilities.

16) Are the classes different than those in the United States?

Professors in Barcelona tend to have a lecture teaching method. Therefore, be prepared to listen intently and take notes. You will also do some readings, use workbooks and participate in different activities throughout the course. You will most likely be called on in class but don't let that make you anxious or stressed because everyone else will be asked to do the same and everyone is there to learn. Classes are usually small in size.

17) Will my credits be accepted at my home school?

Yes, but you will need to do your “homework.” This means that you will have to meet with your academic advisor and have him or her sign off on the classes you will be taking or plan to take abroad. Once accepted to study abroad in this program, one of the forms you will need to complete is the Overseas Course Approval Form which you will complete with your academic advisor. This form is mandatory for SUNY Oswego students.

18) How do I do my laundry?

If you are residing with a host family they will do your laundry. If you are staying in the residence hall, there will be washers for your use. If you choose to live independently you will have to make your own arrangements, but there will most likely be a washer, and you can hang your clothes to dry. Dryers are not very common in Barcelona; therefore, you will most likely have to hang your clothes to dry. Also, water is very expensive in Barcelona, so please be mindful and considerate when taking showers, etc.

19) How will I get to class?

Your primary mode of transportation to get to class will be your feet. However, you will also take the metro or a bus. If you take the metro, you will most likely get off at Placa Catalunya which is the main part of Barcelona and usually the busiest; it is located in Las Ramblas area. But, it is only five minutes from the university.

20) What are the public forms of transportation?

Public forms of transportation include Buses, Taxis, and the Metro. There are trains for long distance travel. You may buy a bus/metro pass inside the metro station for a month or longer, if you do not wish to purchase a ticket each time you plan on taking the bus or metro.

21) What form of currency should I bring?

Bring with you \$100 U.S. dollars in cash and 100 Euros in cash. The 100 Euros you can get at your bank in the U.S.

You will also need to bring with you a credit/debit card. Note: that you will be charged a fee every time you use your credit or debit card overseas. Make sure you notify your bank prior to going Spain and inform them that you may be using your credit/debit card overseas.

Another method you may want to consider is using a “cash passport.” Please go to your nearest AAA office, inform them you will be traveling to Spain and want information on the “cash passport.” With the cash passport, you will be able to put your U.S. dollars on it, and it will automatically be converted to Euros. Therefore, depending on the ATM you take money out of while in Spain, it will not charge you a fee.

The “cash passport” is like a credit/debit card that you can use at ATMs and when purchasing items in a store. Also, your family will be able to deposit more money on the “cash passport” from the U.S.

NOTE: the cash passport is only a suggestion for you to consider. You will need to do your homework and decide whether or not it is a good decision for you.

If you decide to use the cash passport, you should still bring a credit/debit card with you to Spain just for emergencies, but not to use unless absolutely necessary. Store it away in a safe place.

22) How much money should I bring?

That all depends on the type of lifestyle you plan on having while abroad. If you plan on traveling, going out to eat and shopping often then you will need to bring more than the suggested amount on the Program Budget Sheet of \$1,500.00. We have had students spend a lot more than \$1,500.00 per semester, up to \$4,000.00. This of course depends on your lifestyle and budgeting. Just keep in mind that once the U.S. dollar is converted into Euros it will be less than what you had converted because the dollar is not worth as much as a Euro.

23) Should I open a bank account?

Students are able to open a bank account if they wish to do so. Check with your bank in the U.S. because there may be a branch located in Barcelona. You should be able to use the following banks in Barcelona:

- 1) HSBC
- 2) Barclays ATMs which you can use if your bank is Bank of America
- 3) JPMorgan Chase Bank
- 4) Bank of America—Avinguda Diagonal 640
- 5) Chase-Manhattan—Passeig de Gràcia 60
- 6) City Bank—Carrer d' Aribau 162
- 7) Nat West—8-10
- 8) American Express—Passeig de Gràcia—93-217-00-70

24) Are there internet facilities? Should I bring my laptop?

We highly advise you to bring your laptop. The residence halls do have internet. Most host families do as well. If you choose independent living, you will have to check with your landlord.

25) What happens if I get sick?

If you get sick you will go to the hospital. Here are some listed. At orientation in Barcelona you will be provided with medical information.

Hospital Universitari Sagrat Cor
C. de Viladomat, 288
08029 Barcelona, Spain
933-221-111
hscor.com

Hospital de Barcelona
Avinguda Diagonal, 656-660
08034 Barcelona, Spain
932-542-400
scias.com

Hospital de nens de Barcelona
c/ Consell de Cent, 437
08009 Barcelona, Spain
932-310-512
hospitaldenens.com

Hospital de Sant Pau
c/ Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167
08025 Barcelona, Spain
932-919-000
santpau.es

Hospitals Vall d'Hebrón
Passeig Vall d'Hebrón, 119-129
08035 Barcelona, Spain
932-746-000
vhebron.net

Hospital del Mar
Pg. Marítim, 25
08003 Barcelona, Spain
932-483-000
parcdesalutmar.cat

We highly advise students that when they are sick or hurt to seek medical attention right away. Also, we request that you contact one of your primary contacts at the University of Barcelona to inform them that you are going to the hospital or to request their assistance.

26) How can my parents get a hold of me in case of an emergency?

- a) Call Lizette Alvarado, Program Specialist for Barcelona at (315)312-5697 or (315)312-2118. If Lizette is not available ask to speak to Dr. Joshua McKeown, Director of the Office of International Education and Programs at SUNY Oswego.
- b) Call Dr. Ana Moya, Dr. Maria Luz or Dr. Pedro Guardia at the University of Barcelona. Their contact details will be provided to students accepted into this program.

Please note that Dr. Ana Moya and Dr. Maria Luz Celaya are your primary contacts at the UB. Dr. Pedro Guardia Massó is the director of the program.

27) Will meals be provided for me? If so, how many per week?

There are three meals a day provided in the host family and residence hall programs (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). Students who choose to reside independently will take care of their own meals.

28) Will I need a passport and a visa?

All students will need a passport. If you are participating in the semester or academic year program then you will need a student visa.

You must make an appointment with the Spanish consulate (instructions are provided on the Studio Abroad website) and you will have to go to NYC to apply for your visa in person. Instructions on the application process for the student visa will be provided to student(s) upon acceptance into the program.

Spanish Consulate website:

<http://www.maec.es/subwebs/consulados/nuevayork/es/home/Paginas/Home.aspx>

29) Can I receive Financial Aid for Study Abroad?

Yes, you can receive Financial Aid for study abroad. If you're a student that receives financial assistance you are to meet with your financial aid advisor to discuss how much financial assistance is available to you for the program.

Start early! Once accepted for this program you will need to bring the Financial Arrangements Form, copy of the letter of acceptance, copy of program invoice, and Program Budget Sheet to the Financial Aid Office at your home campus.

30) What kinds of classes are offered during the semester in Barcelona?

There are classes offered in the following areas: Spanish language, Spanish history, phonetics, cinema, geography, literature, culture, Latin American literature, and history of Spanish art. See list of courses on the program brochure online at www.oswego.edu/intled.

31) Is there an application process in addition to the SUNY Overseas Study Abroad Application?

There is not another application process in addition to the SUNY Overseas Study Abroad Application for this program.

32) Are there University of Barcelona, Spain specific forms to complete?

There is one specific University of Barcelona form to complete:

1. Solicitud de Inscripción (Application form) – Course form

Apart from the above form, you will need to complete various forms to participate in the program. You will be informed of these forms upon acceptance to the program.

33) Receive mail?

Yes, you can receive mail at the host family, residence hall, or independent living accommodation.

List of useful websites for Barcelona:

Please begin to read about culture and history of Spain, specifically Barcelona. Try to have some background on the city, the people, the environment, and the culture. Although, you are not expected to know and understand Barcelona entirely, we would like that you have some general information and understanding of Barcelona, Spain. Below is a list of websites to begin reading on Barcelona, Spain.

<http://www.ub.edu/web/ub/en/>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/spain/barcelona>

<http://www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/en/transport/barcelona-metro.html>

<http://www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/en/maps/barcelona-metro-map.html>

Barcelona University Centre (BCU)
C/Calabria, 147- 08015 Barcelona
Tel. (34) 934- 838- 393
Fax. (34) 934- 838- 300
<http://www.bcu.cesca.es>

You can also contact Barcelona Housing Services for student, the BCU reservation center:

Barcelona Housing Services for Students
BCU Reservation Center
C/ Calabria, 147- 08015 Barcelona
Tel. : (34) 934- 838- 428
Fax: (34) 934- 838- 364
<http://www.bcn-housing-students.com>
E-mail: info@bcn-housing-students.com

Instituto de Estudios Hispánicos- <http://www.ub.es/ieh/>

Barcelona City - Barcelona Council- <http://www.bcn.es>

Turisme de Barcelona- <http://www.barcelonaturisme.com>

<http://www.okspain.org>

Public Transport in Barcelona- <http://www.tmb.net>

La Vanguardia Newspaper- <http://www.vanguardia>

Hotel Gravina

C/. Gravina, 12
08011 Barcelona
Email: Caledonian@hotel-caledonian.com
www.hotel-caledonian.com
Tel.: 93 3016868