

BARCELONA



Study Spanish in Barcelona – an extraordinary city

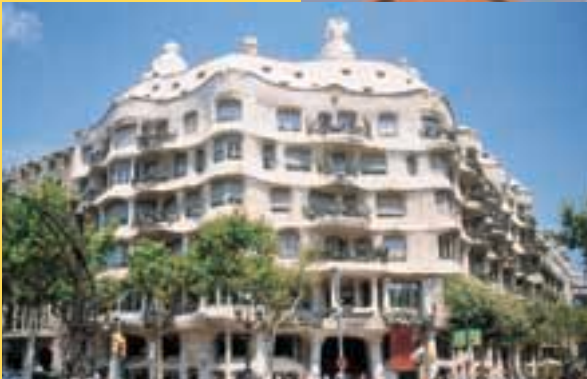
Located in the northeast of Spain, just a step away from the rest of Europe, Barcelona is one of the most interesting and attractive cities in the world. Cosmopolitan and avant-garde, Barcelona presents visitors with countless artistic, cultural and historical attractions, not to mention a very special atmosphere that makes a visit to the city an unforgettable experience. The Gothic Quarter, the Roman ruins, the Ramblas, the Picasso and Dalí museums, the Miró Foundation, the architecture of Gaudí and of the modernist period, the Olympic Port, four kilometres of beach – this is a city you can't help falling in love with.

The Mediterranean climate means that you can count on good weather for your stay whenever you choose to come, and the enticing beaches of Costa Brava or the ski slopes of the Pyrenees are both within easy reach of the city.



Sculpture by Joan Miró >

On the beach v



La Pedrera (Gaudí) ^



C o n t e n t s

BARCELONA	2
THE SCHOOL	3
COURSES	4
SPECIAL COURSES	5
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS	7
ACCOMMODATION	8
SOCIAL PROGRAMME	9
WHY STUDY AT IH BARCELONA?	10

How to get to Barcelona

By plane

The "El Prat" airport is just 20 minutes away from the city centre and there are direct flights from all the major international airports.

By train

There are direct connections with all the major Spanish and European train stations.

By coach

There are direct connections with all the major Spanish and European bus terminals.



La Rambla v



International House

International House is a world-wide organisation whose basic aim has always been to improve the standard of language teaching by emphasising the need for research and on-going teacher training.

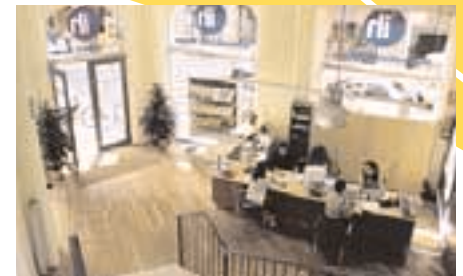
International House Barcelona was established in 1972 and has since become a recognised leader both for language instruction and for teacher training.



The school ^



The terrace ^



The reception area ^

The school

International House Barcelona

The **International House Barcelona** school building is located in the centre of the city, just a five-minute walk away from *Plaza Catalunya*, the city's main square. It occupies five floors of an elegant Barcelona town house which dates from the beginning of the last century. Apart from the reception area and administrative offices, there are 35 spacious classrooms, a classroom equipped with computers linked to the Internet, a library and self-study centre, a conference room that can also be used to show films, a cafeteria that is open all day and a terrace where students can relax and practise their Spanish in the sunshine.

Spanish students living in Barcelona also attend IH Barcelona to learn other languages. So there are plenty of opportunities to make contact with native Spanish speakers and this can lead to valuable linguistic and cultural exchanges.



The library ^

How to get to the school

By underground

Red line (1): Urquinaona, Catalunya, Arc de Triomf.

Yellow line (4): Urquinaona.

Green line (3): Catalunya.

Regional *Generalitat* trains: Catalunya.

By train

Catalunya, Arc de Triomf, Passeig de Gràcia.

By bus

Any bus that stops at Plaza Catalunya, Plaza Urquinaona and Arc de Triomf.



Courses

International House Barcelona offers the following basic course programmes:



1. Intensive Courses

9 levels from beginners to proficiency

These courses consist of 4 hours of class per day. Classes are usually held from 09:30 to 13:30, Monday to Friday.

Intensive courses are offered all year round and begin every two weeks. Students who are not beginners have the option of starting a course on any Monday. Students can study for as many weeks as they wish. The average group size is 7-8 students and there is an absolute maximum of 12.



2. Preparation courses for the Cervantes Institute official examinations (D.E.L.E.)

The Cervantes Institute, in collaboration with the University of Salamanca, organises official examinations in which students can obtain diplomas recognising their level of achievement in Spanish. These exams are accredited by Spain's Ministry of Education and Culture, and held twice a year, in May and November. There are exams corresponding to three levels of linguistic competence: the Initial Certificate, the Basic Diploma and the Advanced Diploma.

Our exam preparation courses combine general Spanish classes in the morning with afternoon classes which focus on developing the skills required to pass the exams.

3. Business Spanish courses

Minimum level required: intermediate

These Business courses offer a combination of general Spanish classes, which take place in the mornings, and Business Spanish classes which are held each afternoon. The afternoon sessions focus on developing the language skills that are needed by people who use Spanish in the workplace.

IH Barcelona is recognised by the Madrid Chamber of Commerce. This means we can offer the official exams arranged by this organisation and Alcalá de Henares University. Students can take one of these official exams at the end of their course of study.



4. Complementary conversation and Spanish culture courses

Minimum level required: intermediate

These courses consist of four 90-minute classes held from 14:30 to 16:00 from Tuesday to Friday, giving a total of 6 hours a week. The scheduling of these classes means that they can easily be combined with an intensive course. Each course lasts one week and deals with various aspects of Spanish culture: Spanish literature, cinema, bullfighting, Spanish politics, flamenco... The emphasis in these classes is on providing opportunities to develop speaking skills.

5. Summer course for teenagers [13 to 16-year-olds]

All levels

This course takes place in Tarragona, a city on the Mediterranean coast about 100 km south of Barcelona. Students can enrol for 2, 3 or 4 weeks during the month of July. The programme includes 3 hours a day of Spanish classes; accommodation in families or student residences, with full board; a range of activities and excursions; and transfers to and from the airport, train station or coach terminal.



Tarragona ^

6. Courses for the over 50s

All levels

These 2-week courses designed for students over the age of 50, consist of 3 hours a day of Spanish classes, a special programme of visits to places of interest inside the city, a lunch or dinner in one of the city's typical restaurants, and an excursion outside Barcelona on Saturday.

7. Individual tuition

All levels

International House offers individual classes of 1-8 hours per day. Students can either study entirely in this way, or, if they prefer, combine an intensive course in the mornings with 1 or more hours of individual tuition in the afternoons. The contents, times and starting dates of these private classes can be arranged to suit the individual student's needs.

8. Executive plus course

All levels

This super intensive immersion programme is designed to meet the needs of those who want to learn as much as possible in a short period of time. The basic course consists of 30 hours of individual tuition per week, guided project work, and optional visits to Spanish companies. Participants also have lunch with a teacher, and two dinners or evenings out per week.



Other courses

International House Barcelona also offers the following Spanish courses:

1. Extensive group courses

All levels

These courses consist of 4 or 6 hours of class per week over a 10-week period (a term). Courses begin in January, April and October, and there are a maximum of 12 students per group.



2. Courses for special groups

All levels

For groups of students with special language needs, International House Barcelona can design “made-to-measure” courses at any time of the year.

3. Spanish teacher training courses

Since it was established in 1985, our Spanish teacher training department has gained an excellent reputation, and IH Barcelona has become a major centre for training in the skills needed to teach Spanish as a Foreign Language in a professional and effective manner.

A number of different courses are offered including courses for participants who are native speakers of Spanish or who have a near-native level of proficiency in the language, and other courses for participants who are not native speakers.

The initial training course for native speakers is offered either as a 3-week intensive course, or as an extensive course that lasts six months. These courses are recognised and certified by “UB Virtual –University of Barcelona”.

Courses for participants who are not native speakers are usually two weeks in length and focus on methodology, language and culture.

We can also organise special “made-to-measure” courses for groups of teachers.



4. Internet Spanish courses

These courses are ideal for students who want to improve their Spanish either before taking a course abroad or after they come home. Each course contains exercises designed to develop all the different aspects of the language including vocabulary, grammar, listening, reading and writing skills, pronunciation, etc. Each student is assigned a personal tutor who acts as a guide in the learning process. Tutors also provide feedback on the student’s assignments for each unit as well as real-time conversation practice.

Materials

At the beginning of their course students are given:

- a folder with information to help them get their bearings in the city.
- a “student’s manual” that helps them get to know the school and explains how it is organised. The manual also provides useful information about activities in Barcelona.
- a student card that can be used to obtain discounts and special offers at various establishments in the city.
- IH Spain’s pocket grammar guide.

At the end of the course:

- a certificate of attendance indicating the level reached and the number of hours studied.

All these materials are included in the price of the course.

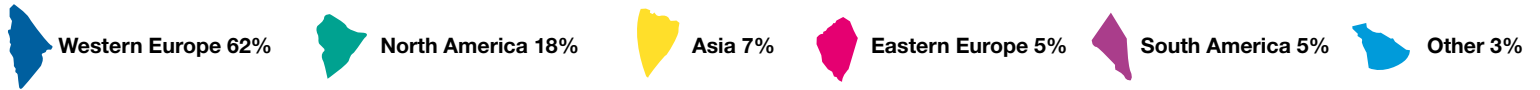


Methodology

The main goal of our courses is to develop our students’ communicative skills. Our many years of experience in language teaching have proven to us that the best way to accomplish this is to conduct our classes in Spanish and to provide students with plenty of opportunities to practise using the language. We don’t just want you to *know* Spanish; we want you to be able to use it!

In class, the emphasis is on development of speaking and listening skills, but this does not mean that other key areas are not dealt with: students also work on reading and writing skills, grammar and vocabulary.

Our students

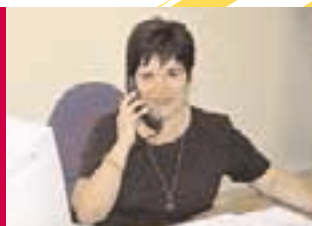


Our students come from all over the world and there is always a mixture of many different nationalities in the school. The minimum age for our Intensive Group Courses is 16, and the majority of students are between 20 and 30, but students of all ages take part in our programmes. We also organise special courses for groups of younger students (aged 13 to 16) and for students over 50.

Back in their own countries, most of our students are students themselves, or young professionals who need Spanish for their work. Thanks to the growing popularity of Spanish, there are also more and more students whose studies are motivated simply by their own love of the language.



Spanish department ^



Director of studies for Spanish ^

Our teachers



Spanish department staff ^

Our teachers are all university graduates with extensive teaching experience. They have also been specifically trained to teach Spanish as a foreign language, which makes them highly effective when it comes to helping students maximise learning. Many of our teachers also work in our Spanish teacher training department.

Our teaching staff can count on academic support and on-going training under the supervision of the director of studies and with the cooperation of the teacher training department. The optimal quality of teaching that IH offers is constantly reinforced through teachers' meetings, classroom observations and teachers' workshops.

Accommodation

International House Barcelona can arrange accommodation for students with Spanish families, in student residences, in apartments or in hotels.

In each case the accommodation is normally reserved from the Sunday before the beginning of a course until the Saturday after the course ends. Extra nights can usually be arranged on request.



Host families

Single rooms are available in the homes of Spanish host families throughout the year. Students can choose to have bed and breakfast or half board, which includes dinner. In either case, corresponding weekend meals are also included. All of the host families have been carefully selected by our accommodation department, and many of them have been working with us for years. We always try to avoid placing students of the same nationality in the same family (unless this arrangement is requested by the students themselves).

Executive families

Some families can offer students extra services such as a bathroom for the student's own private use, an ironing service, etc. These executive families also offer either bed and breakfast or half board.

Rooms in shared apartments

International House can provide rooms in completely furnished student apartments. Meals are not included, but the price does cover weekly cleaning, and change of bed linen and towels.

Student residences

Available in July, August and September only, residence accommodation can be in single, double or triple rooms. There is an extra charge for single rooms. Students can choose bed and breakfast or half board.

Apartments with one, two or three bedrooms

Students can request an apartment for their own exclusive use for stays of at least 4 weeks.

Hotels

Barcelona has a wide range of hotels and hostels, many of which are just a 10 to 15-minute walk away from the school. Hotels are rated from 1 to 5 stars and prices vary accordingly.

International House can provide prices and help students make reservations.



Family ^



Shared apartment ^

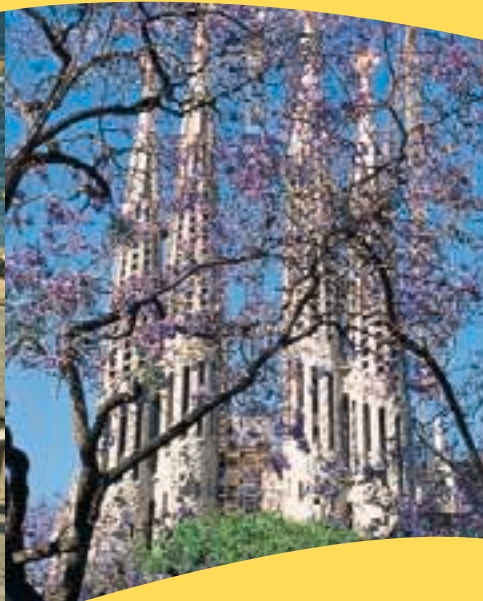


Residence ^

The exact location of family homes and apartments varies. Some are very near the school; in other cases it is necessary to take public transport, but the travelling time by bus or underground is never more than 20-25 minutes.

Social programme

The school offers a varied programme of activities for our students at no extra charge. Activities regularly include:



Welcome and farewell cocktails

Guided visits to places of interest in Barcelona

Spanish films with discussion

Ventures into the city's nightlife

Throughout much of the year, we also arrange day trips to places of interest outside Barcelona, such as the Salvador Dali museum in Figueras, the provincial capitals of Gerona and Tarragona, the beaches of the Costa Brava, the sacred mountain of Montserrat... For these trips, students are asked to pay a small amount to help cover the cost of transport.

We also make it easy for our students to set up language exchanges with local Spanish students studying English, French or German at the school.



Why study at IH Barcelona?



What our students say about us

We always ask our students what they think about our services. Here is a small selection of their answers:

"It's going to be difficult to leave. Thanks to everyone for everything".

T. Nilsson. Sweden

"The teachers and the rest of the staff made us feel at home".

M. Larkin. The Netherlands.

"I've had a very productive stay in Barcelona – and it's been a lot of fun".

G. Benari. Great Britain

"A friend recommended your school to me. I'm going to recommend it too".

R. Parker. Canada

"Excellent teaching and a very warm atmosphere". K. Toyoda. Japan

- We offer a wide range of courses and accommodation options, as well as an entertaining and varied social programme.
- The location of the school is ideal, and the building is well-equipped and comfortable.
- We have many years of experience – the school was founded in 1972.
- Our students can meet Spanish people without even leaving the school.
- We belong to the International House World Organisation, which since 1953 has been dedicated to the goal of raising the standard of foreign language teaching.
- IH Barcelona has obtained the CEELE seal of quality, granted by Alcalá de Henares University.
- Our teachers are trained by IH and carefully selected. Our teacher training courses are certified by "UB Virtual – University of Barcelona".
- We are officially recognised as a centre collaborating with the Madrid Chamber of Commerce.
- We are authorised to accept students under the terms of official study programmes – the Swedish National Board of Student Aid (CSN) and the German "Bildungsurlaub" – and US students who wish to obtain credits for our courses can do so.
- And last but not least – we're in Barcelona!



Do you need more reasons?

We hope to see you soon in Barcelona.

IH Spain

You can experience the cultural diversity Spain has to offer by studying Spanish in two or more cities. IH Spain is made up of four schools located in four of the cities that best capture the spirit of Spain: Barcelona, Madrid, San Sebastián and Seville. See IH Spain's web page for more information: www.ihspain.com

I n t e r n a t i o n a l H o u s e B a r c e l o n a

