



DEPARTURE NEWSLETTER

2019 Fall Semester International Studies Program at University of Seville (USEV) and Pablo de Olavide University (UPO)

We hope you are enjoying the anticipation of your upcoming program in Spain. This newsletter, which complements the Spanish Studies Handbook and Cultural Guide (www.spanishstudies.org/materials), contains important supplemental information. In addition, you will be provided with a separate list of students who have confirmed their attendance to the Spring Semester. *If your name does not appear on this list, please contact the U.S. office immediately at (413) 256-0011.* Be sure to review the Handbook and Cultural Guide and take them, and this newsletter, to Seville with you. You will receive an orientation packet upon arrival in Seville.

PASSPORT AND STUDENT VISA INFORMATION

Make sure that your passport is in order: signed and valid for six months beyond the end date of the program. If your passport is not in order, the airline will not allow you to board.

USEV semester students will not need a student visa, since the program duration is less than 90 days. If you are a USEV student, you can enter Spain with just your passport, and they will give you a stamp that signifies a tourist visa.

UPO semester students will be in Spain for longer than a three-month period. Therefore, you should have a student visa long before departing. The airport check-in agent may ask to see your student visa before allowing you to board the airplane.

FACEBOOK PAGES

By now you should have “liked” the Seville Spanish Studies Abroad Facebook page. Since this page is open to alumni of the program, feel free to ask for their advice. If you have not yet joined, please visit your Acceptance Packet and click on the corresponding link. You may also search for the group directly from Facebook: www.facebook.com/spanishstudiesseville.

You may also join the Fall 2019 Facebook Group open to students accepted to any Spanish Studies Abroad program in Seville. You can use the page to get to know your soon-to-be classmates, exchange travel information, and get excited for your upcoming adventure abroad! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2019SSASVQFall/>

TRAVEL TO SEVILLE

Please submit your arrival information to the U.S. office via your online account so that the staff in Seville will be advised as to when you will arrive. You may also email this information to the U.S. office at info@spanishstudies.org. **NOTE:** Flights from the U.S. to Spain are typically overnight. Please take this into consideration when booking your flight, so that you arrive in Seville in time for the welcome reception.

If you have any delays or last-minute changes in your itinerary, please be sure to let Spanish



Studies and your parents know by emailing info@spanishstudies.org. The U.S. office of Spanish Studies Abroad can be reached at (413)256-0011. You may also contact the Center in Seville at:

- From the U.S.: 011 34 954 224 107 or 011 34 699 306 451
- From within Spain: 954 224 107 or 699 306 451

When the Center in Seville and/or the U.S. Office are closed, there are answering machines connected to these numbers, which will record your messages and give you additional emergency contact numbers.

HEALTH INSURANCE ABROAD

A couple of weeks before the start of the program, you will be enrolled in the CISI Health Insurance. Once enrolled, you will receive an email from CISI letting you know of your enrollment, as well as providing you with log-in information to access your account and print your insurance card. It will be in your best interest to print out this card before your travels so that you will have documentation of this insurance in hand, if needed.

Once you receive this email, you can go to www.culturalinsurance.com to view/print/email your ID card, coverage brochure, or claim forms, and explore your online health insurance portal.

CHECKING YOUR BAGGAGE AND YOUR CARRY-ON BAG

Check your bags from your airport of departure all the way through to Seville. Since there is always the possibility of one of your suitcases not arriving on time, we suggest that in your carry-on bag you include your **medicines**, a change of clothes for the following two days and any important items you may need during your first days in Seville. Please contact your airline regarding up-to-date travel regulations and baggage weight information. **Make sure to include your name and the name, address, and telephone number of Spanish Studies in Seville on all your baggage.**

If you lose your luggage, you must file a claim at the "lost luggage" desk in the airport. If your baggage will be delayed, you should have them send your luggage to your host home address. In case you don't have your host home address with you, have them send your luggage to the address below:

Your Name
Centro Norteamericano
Calle Harinas, 16 y 18
41001 - Seville, SPAIN

ARRIVAL IN MADRID AND SEVILLE

Most students will enter Spain through the Madrid airport. If you are flying on Iberia, you will arrive at the new Terminal 4, and your connecting flight to Seville will depart from the same Terminal, though you will have to change gates. If you are flying on another international carrier, you will arrive in Terminal 1, and will have to transfer to Terminal 4 to connect with your internal flight. You will go through passport control in Terminal 1, but not customs, since your checked bags will be transferred to your final destination. Once through passport control, you will exit



the airport to board a shuttle which will take you to Terminal 4, which handles all internal flights, as well as Iberia international flights. You will see signs directing you to shuttle stops. There is no charge, but the shuttle transfer will take you from 25 to 40 minutes, so make sure that you have sufficient time between flights.

If your bags are checked through to Seville, you will not have to go through customs in Madrid. Upon arrival in the Seville Airport, collect your suitcases. Once you go through customs, you will pass through sliding glass doors. If you arrive during the established meet-up time, look for the **Spanish Studies Abroad staff with a black Spanish Studies Abroad t-shirt**. Otherwise, go straight to your home in one of the taxis in front of the airport.

As noted in the Spanish Studies Abroad Handbook, the group meeting time at the Seville airport is on the official arrival dates:

UPO students - Friday, September 6th between 9:00 am and 11:00 am

USEV students - Thursday, September 19th between 10:00am and 1:00 pm

Spanish Studies Abroad staff will be there to meet students who have gone through customs by that time (this includes students on flights arriving at 1:00 pm for USEV students) and to assist them in getting taxis to their homestays or residencia. If you don't meet up with the group let us know by emailing info@spanishstudies.org and take a taxi straight to your homestay from the taxi stand in front of the airport.

If you arrive before or after the program official start date, make sure you let us know by emailing info@spanishstudies.org. We do not arrange lodging prior to the official start date, therefore if you arrive at an earlier date you will be responsible for finding your own hotel. In this case, you may go directly to your home **between 12:00pm and 2:00pm** on the official program start date.

It should take you around 15 to 30 minutes to get to your home by taxi. **The cost for a taxi to and from the Seville airport is fixed at approximately 25 Euros (see prices on next page)**. There is no extra charge for your luggage. For the most up-to-date information on taxi fares, visit <http://www.sevitaxi.es>. Keep in mind that you will need cash to pay for the taxi so be sure to exchange at least \$100US for Euros before arriving to Spain. Please see the taxi instructions on the last page of this newsletter for more information.

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ORIENTATION

If you arrive in Seville on the start date of the program when the Spanish Studies Abroad staff is there to meet you, you will receive at the airport an Orientation packet with the Orientation Guide, orientation schedules, your Spanish cell phone, maps, etc. If you arrive outside the meeting time your host family will provide you with the items you were to receive at the airport. The Program Orientation will begin at **7pm at the Spanish Studies Abroad Center (the Center)** for a welcome meeting. Your host family will take you to the Center so that you can learn the way from your home.



The Program Orientation will continue during the days after you arrive in Seville with concise orientation sessions and activities at the Center to help you to settle into the program and become acquainted with one another.

Note: *When you first arrive in Seville you will be very busy with orientation, adjusting to the new culture and moving to your home. Please let your parents know that you will probably not be able to call immediately after you arrive due to important Orientation events. The U.S. office will have information on the safe arrival of students.*

UPDATES/ADDITIONS/REMINDERS

- Receiving packages in Spain is a very lengthy and costly process, and we do not recommend that students receive packages from home unless it is of the utmost importance. It can take approximately two months, a lot of paperwork, and an additional €25 fee to receive a package from the United States. There are American food stores and other stores in Seville where you can buy everything you need.
- You might live bus distance from the Center and/or your host university. Therefore, you should be prepared to buy a rechargeable bus pass through Tussam or a metro pass. Each ride costs between 0,60 Euros and 0,80 Euros, and we estimate that the average student will spend about \$80 monthly on bus transportation. For more information, see www.tussam.es or <http://www.metro-sevilla.es/en>. For a more economic alternative to bus transportation within Seville you can also rent a bike either short-term or long-term (see <http://en.sevici.es/Subscriptions> for details). It can take up to four weeks to get your rental bike card, so we suggest you request it weeks before arriving in Spain. You should also be prepared to pay for taxis if you plan to stay out after midnight.
- We suggest that you follow changes in the dollar/euro exchange rate in the business or financial section of your newspaper or online at <http://www.xe.com>.
- Plan to buy and drink bottled water during the first 10 days you are in Seville. There is nothing wrong with the water in Spain, but the change in water between one country and another often upsets the stomach. To avoid this, plan to buy and drink bottled water at the beginning of your stay. A 1.5 liter bottle costs about 1,50 Euros and is **NOT** supplied by your Seville family.
- Sheets, pillowcases, and blankets are supplied by the homes and student residences, so there is no need to take these items. Towels are also supplied by the homes, but you should bring your own washcloth or sponge. Students living in the Residences should pack one or two bath towels. We also suggest that you take along or plan to buy a beach towel.
- Keep your passport and money in a safe place. Make two photocopies of your passport, keep one with you, and leaving one with your luggage.
- There are a number of study tours throughout the program, which are included in the program costs. Additional optional trips are available throughout the semester at additional cost. You will receive further information about these optional trips shortly.



TAXI RECEIPT INSTRUCTIONS

Before getting a taxi, make sure you have the address of your homestay, which was sent to you via email. Tell the taxi driver the address or show it to him.

1. When you get in the cab, the taxi driver will start the meter. Note that taxi drivers are now required to run the meter when taking passengers from the airport.

2. At the end of the journey, ask the driver for a taxi receipt. The reason for requesting this receipt is to avoid possible fraud, and to facilitate recovery of anything you may leave inside the taxi. (See the next page of this newsletter for sample taxi receipts.)

“¿Me da un recibo por favor?”

a. Taxi number: This number is imprinted on the invoice’s right-hand corner and corresponds to the taxi license number. Make sure the taxi license number is imprinted; if it’s missing or written by hand we may not be able to track the taxi driver in case of fraud.

b. A trip from the airport to any point in Seville city and vice-versa costs approximately 23 €, from 7 am to 9 pm on weekdays. From 9 pm to 7 am, and on weekends and holidays the fee is approximately 25 €. There is no extra charge for your luggage. For the most up-to-date information on taxi rates, visit <http://www.sevitaxi.es>.

c. Normally, the charge within the city can vary from 5€ to 10€ depending upon the distance, traffic, etc.

Please see the next page for an image of a fake receipt compared to a real receipt.



Fake taxi receipt:

(Note that this receipt does not have the Seville logo in the top left-hand corner or the driver identification number, as the receipt below has.)

N.º de licencia

RECIBO OFICIAL

He recibido de D. [Signature] la cantidad de # 3320 # Euros , incluido I.V.A. y suplementos si corresponden, por el servicio siguiente:

Origen..... TARIFA APLICADA

Destino..... HORA.....

Sevilla, 26 6 2013
El Conductor del Autotaxi

Firmado: [Signature]

D.N.I. número

Real taxi receipt:

NO8DO
AYUNTAMIENTO DE SEVILLA
Seguridad y Movilidad
Instituto del taxi

N.º de licencia
de taxi

RECIBO OFICIAL

He recibido de D. [Signature] la cantidad de 5 euros. incluido I.V.A. y suplementos si corresponden, por el servicio de taxi siguiente:

Origen..... TARIFA APLICADA

Destino..... HORA.....

Sevilla a 1 de Julio de 2013
El Conductor del Autotaxi,

Firmado: [Signature]

D.N.I. número: 22923321A

