2021 BARCELONA FALL DEPARTURE NEWSLETTER

SPANISH STUDIES ABROAD
THE CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY

We hope you are excited for 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 program. **If your name does not appear on this list, please contact the U.S. office immediately at (413) 256-0011**. You will receive an orientation packet upon arrival in Barcelona.

PASSPORT & STUDENT VISA INFORMATION

Make sure that your passport is in order. If your passport is not in order, the airline will not allow you to board. Since you will be in Spain for less than 90 days, you will not need a Spanish student visa. All students are required to bring a photocopy of their passport. You should always **carry a copy of your passport on you**, and once you are in Alicante keep your original passport in a safe place at your homestay except for when traveling outside of Spain.

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FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

By now you should be following the Spanish Studies Abroad Facebook and Instagram accounts. You can use our social media outlets to get to know alumni of the program, ask for advice, and get excited for your upcoming adventure abroad!

COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR ENTERING SPAIN

Spanish Studies Abroad is committed to providing the best and safest experience for our students while they are abroad. As such, we have made the decision to require that all students participating in our programs be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to arrival in Spain. This will be the most effective step to protect your fellow students, our host families and staff, and may facilitate your entry to other European countries. If you have not, please upload an image of your vaccination card to your Spanish Studies Account before traveling abroad

It is important to note that while the rollout of vaccines in Spain has been picking up momentum in recent weeks, half of the population is still unvaccinated (particularly those under the age of 30) and our students will need to adhere to local protocols and policies in place as mandated by Spain, the Community of Valencia, the city of Alicante, and the University of Alicante in addition to any Spanish Studies Abroad specific policies. Please visit our COVID FAQ page on our website to update yourself on all of the protocols that will be in place for this fall in Alicante.

US citizens can travel from the United States to Spain if they present upon arrival in Spain a QR code generated through the Spain Travel Health portal, obtained through the website or by downloading the “SpTH app” on Google Play Store or the App Store.

To obtain your QR code, follow these instructions and complete this process **48 hours prior to your arrival in Spain.** You can do this process online or on the SpTH app.

1. Go to www.spth.gob.es.
2. Click on Continue here
3. Under New Form, click on Individual FCS Form
4. Read information carefully, complete all fields, and click Send. Review the information you entered carefully as any errors may cause delays.
5. You will receive an automated email with your FCS Form Code.
6. Go to https://spth.gob.es/recover/06f42bfa-9cca-404e-b051-ac20a226d4ee and enter your passport number and the FCS Form Code you received.
7. Complete all required steps. After completion you will get a QR code emailed to you. You will need this code to board your flight and to enter Spain.
8. For a step-by-step video tutorial, go to https://youtu.be/yPuA7AAnPFI.

Important Items you will need when travelling to Spain:

- Vaccine Card (bring a scan of vaccine card as well)
- University of Alicante acceptance letter
- Spanish Studies Abroad acceptance letter
- CISI Health Insurance Form

MEDICATION

If you have a chronic disease or illness that requires medication, please be sure to bring your medical history/report and prescription with you to Spain. Please bring enough medication with you to last the entire program. While on-site, your Resident Director can assist you with setting up any doctor's appointments if necessary.

TRAVEL TO BARCELONA

Please submit your arrival information to the U.S. office via your online account so that the staff in Barcelona 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 usually overnight.** Please take this into consideration when booking your flight so that you arrive in Barcelona on the program start date.

If you have any delays or last-minute changes in your itinerary, please be sure to let Spanish Studies and your parents know. The U.S. office of Spanish Studies Abroad can be reached at **1 (413) 256-0011** or **info@spanishstudies.org**. When the U.S. office is closed, there is an answering machine, which will record your message and give you additional emergency contact numbers.

In the event of an emergency, you may also contact your Resident Director, Anna Sánchez, in Barcelona at:

89 766 723 from within Spain
011 34 689 766 723 from the U.S.
info@spanishstudies.org

CHECKED BAGGAGE AND YOUR CARRY-ON BAG

Check your bags from your departure airport all the way through to Barcelona. 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**, clothes you will need for your first night in your host home, a change of clothes for the following two days, and any important items you may need during your first days in Alicante. Please contact your airline regarding up-to-date travel regulations and baggage weight information. **Make sure the name, address, and telephone number of your host family in Barcelona are on all of your suitcases.**

If you lose your luggage, you must file a claim at the "lost luggage" desk in the airport. You should have them send your luggage to your home in Barcelona. You will be provided with your address 1 week prior to your departure for Spain.

ARRIVAL IN MADRID AND BARCELONA

Some students will enter Spain through the Madrid airport. If you are flying on Iberia Airlines, you will arrive at the new Terminal 4, and your connecting flight to Barcelona 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 domestic 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 domestic flights, as well as Iberia Airlines international flights. You will see signs directing you to shuttle stops. There is no charge, but the shuttle transfer will take you from 15 to 40 minutes, so make sure that you have sufficient time between flights.

Your study abroad program begins on Saturday, September 18th. **The Resident Director, Anna Sánchez, will plan to meet students at the airport on the start date of the program from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.** From there, you will take a taxi directly to your homestay.

When getting a taxi, we recommend using the detailed instructions at the end of this newsletter. A taxi from the airport to the center of Barcelona will likely cost around 35 euros minimum. We recommend that you ask the taxi driver for a receipt. **Keep in mind that you will need cash to pay for the taxi, so be sure to exchange at least $100 for Euros before arriving in Barcelona to have handy for the first couple days.**

Out of respect for your host family, we suggest that you do not arrive at the airport in Barcelona between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am. However, should you decide to buy a ticket that will get you to Barcelona in the early hours of the morning, let us know by emailing info@spanishstudies.org so that we can provide you with the necessary recommendations on how to get to your homestay.

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It is not permitted to go to your host family before the start date of the program. If you plan on arriving in Barcelona before the start date of the program, you will be responsible for your own accommodations in a local hostel or hotel. Then, on the start date of the program you will want to communicate with your host family and arrive at your homestay before 5pm.

ORIENTATION

A group dinner will be held on Saturday, September 18th, to which your host family will give you directions. Orientation will take place on Sunday, September 19th, followed by a group lunch.

Note: When you first arrive in Barcelona, you will be very busy with orientation, adjusting to the new culture, and moving into your home. You may not be able to contact parents or relatives back home immediately after arrival due to orientation events. **Please let your parents know the U.S. office will have information on the safe arrival of students.**

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, as well as explore your online health insurance portal.

UPDATES/ADDITIONS/REMINDERS

- Keep your passport and money in a safe place. Make two photocopies of your passport, keeping one with you, and leaving one with your luggage.
- We suggest that you follow changes in the dollar/euro exchange rate at www.xe.com.
- Sheets, pillowcases, and blankets are supplied by your homestay, so there is no need to take these items. Towels are also supplied by the homes, but you should take your own washcloth or sponge. We also suggest that you take along or plan to buy a beach towel.
- 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 €35 fee (or more) to receive a package from the United States. There are American food stores and other stores in Alicante where you can buy everything you need.

TAXI RECEIPT INSTRUCTIONS

Before getting a taxi, make sure you have the address of your host family which you will receive Before getting a taxi, make sure you have the address of your homestay. Tell the taxi driver the address or show it to him. Make sure you have cash for the ride beforehand.

- When you get in the cab, the taxi driver will start the meter.
- A trip from the airport to any point in Barcelona city and vice-versa costs approximately 35€, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays. From 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., weekends and holidays the fee is 40€. There may be an extra charge for your luggage. The meter should start around 3€.
- Normally, the charge in the city can vary from 5€ to 10€ depending upon the distance, traffic, etc.

FALL SEMESTER PROGRAMS - STUDENT LIST

Yazdan Basir
basiry@lafayette.edu
Lafayette College
2021 Barcelona ICT (STEM) Abroad at Universitat Pompeu Fabra Fall Semester

Maxwell Gjertson
maxwelltgjertson@gmail.com
Carleton College
2021 Barcelona International Studies at Universitat Pompeu Fabra Fall Semester

Zoe Miller
zm1@wellesley.edu
Wellesley College
2021 Barcelona ICT(STEM) Abroad at Universitat Pompeu Fabra Fall Semester

¡BUEN VIAJE!
ENJOY YOUR
SEMESTER WITH
SPANISH STUDIES
ABROAD!