



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

BC in Granada at GRIIS
2012-2013
Program Guide

Granada Institute of International Studies

www.griis.es

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Students should know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.theolivepress.es/>, <http://www.ideal.es/granada/#>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions students may want to visit the following website: www.hthstudents.com
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the experience abroad.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study-abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

- Amalia Pulgarín, the Boston College on-site coordinator, is available in case of an emergency on a 24-hour-basis. Students should make a note of Amalia's contact information before they go abroad, and we encourage students to share this information with their family.

Dr. Amalia Pulgarín, BC in Granada On-Site Coordinator

Director of Granada Institute of International Studies

Office phone: +34-958520162 **

24 Hour Mobile phone: +34-651490379 **

Fax: +34 958 520162

Email: apulgarin@griis.es

**When dialing from the U.S., students must dial 011 first (and there is a 6-hour time difference).

- The address of GRIIS:
Granada Institute of International Studies
Acera del Darro, 12, 8-B
18005 Granada, España

Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Students will be met at the Granada airport and picked up, provided they supply the necessary travel information one month prior to departure to the on-site coordinator, Amalia Pulgarín.
- Passport/Visa information:
Students will need to obtain the following travel documents in order to study in Spain:
A passport (valid at least six months beyond the estimated return date)
A student visa (students should visit the Consulate of Spain's website for information regarding student visa requirements and procedures.) Their website is:
<http://www.maec.es/subwebs/Consulados/Boston/es/home/Paginas/Home.aspx>
- Students will receive visa workshop and pre-departure orientation information via e-mail. All workshops and orientations are mandatory. Drop-in hours for visas are Fridays from 2-4pm.
- Students may have an individual Skype session with the on-site coordinator to answer other questions.

Academics

Program Dates and Academic Calendar

Fall 2012	Spring 2013
September 3rd : Arrival date (leave on September 2 nd)	January 7th : Arrival date (leave on January 6 th)
September 4th-5th : Orientation	January 8th – 9th : Orientation
September 5th : Intensive Spanish course begins	January 9th : Intensive Spanish course begins
September 24th-25th : Placement exam for Centro de Lenguas Modernas (CLM)	January 28th : Placement exam for Centro de Lenguas Modernas (CLM)
October 2nd : CLM classes begin	February 4th : CLM classes begin
October 12th : Holiday	February 28th : Holiday
November 1st : Holiday	March 22nd - 31st : Holiday: Semana Santa
December 6th : Holiday	May 1st : Holiday
December 6th : Last day of GRIIS classes	May 17th : Last day of classes
	May 20th -23rd : Final exams
December 17-20th : Final exams	May 25th – May 31st : Trip to Melilla
December 21st : Departure date	June 1st : Departure date

***For Fall 2013, Fall 2012 dates are posted for approximate reference. Students should not purchase airline tickets until dates are posted.**

- Activities:
 - Visit to the Albaicín
 - Visit to Cathedral and Royal Chapel
 - Flamenco classes
 - Two-day excursion to Madrid and Toledo
 - Science Park Museum
 - Excursion to the Alhambra and the Generalife
 - Museo de la Memoria Histórica
 - Tapas Night
 - Visit to the Zaidín Market

Ethnological Museum of the Caves of Sacromonte.
Granada's Baroque Monasteries
Federico García Lorca House and Museum
Archeological Museum
Royal Hospital and Monestary of the Jerónimos.
Excursion to Córdoba
Museo de Bellas Artes
Flamenco show in the Sacromonte.
Excursion to Sevilla
Farewell dinner

- For course selection information, please refer to OIP Program Description Course Catalog.
- Course approval information will be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>
- As a BC student, you are required to take a full load of courses at your host institution abroad. BC program participants can refer to the [course load requirement table](#).
- If you have a learning disability, you should discuss with your ISA whether your host university is able to make appropriate accommodations; if so, bring documentation from your doctor or the BC Disabilities Office to support any request for accommodations at your host university.

Housing

- Students will live with a local family in Granada. Families may be a married couple with children, a couple, or a single person. GRIIS will assign a family according to the student's preferences expressed in a family questionnaire. Students may also consult with student returnees. The program cost covers housing plus three meals a day. It will not be necessary to bring sheets, pillows, blankets, etc. with students since these will be provided by the host family. Students will be notified at least two weeks in advance to their departure from Boston of their assigned families and their characteristics (family members, type of housing, etc), and will be given the mailing address and telephone numbers. The Office of International Programs encourages students to get in touch with their host families prior to leaving Boston.
- Cell phones are supplied at orientation. Costs are separate from the program.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- Transportation expenses are not covered by the program.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by OIP's blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>. You are encouraged to consult HTH on-line services for health and safety information about all world destinations, travel illnesses, and as a resource for international medical providers.
- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov

- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be aware that the manner in which medical help is obtained, the way patients are treated, the conditions of medical facilities, and how health care is afforded may be quite different from U.S. practices. U.S. health care values, assumptions, and methods are not universally practiced; even notions regarding the onset of an illness or the timing of expert attention may be considered culturally based.
- Refer to your Study Abroad Handbook for further information about health and safety issues including women, LGBT, disabled people and others.
- In the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a natural disaster, you should first text your onsite coordinator; follow the emergency procedures discussed in the onsite orientation; and call or text your parents to let them know where you are and that you are safe.
- The emergency number in Spain is 112.
- Students are required to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
 BC emergency contact information:
 OIP (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
 BCPD (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs
 In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country. If students choose to drink alcohol abroad, they should always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country's laws by visiting:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:
<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- Banking information: Students are encouraged to use ATM machines. Please contact on-site coordinator.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

Returning to BC

- Students should complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Students may mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting oiexchange@bc.edu
- Students may volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Elizabeth Goizueta at e-mail address Goizuede@bc.edu.
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock.

References

- Suggested readings:
The New Spaniards by John Hooper
Spain is Different by Helen Wattle-AMES
Lonely Planet Spain or *Let's Go! Spain* travel guidebooks
APUNE (Asociación de Programas Universitarios Norteamericanos en España):
<http://www.apune.org/>
<http://www.maec.es/subwebs/consulados/boston/es/home/Paginas/Home.aspx>
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>