

CONNECT WITH SPAIN: LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The course is intended to provide students a first impression on Spain, its language, its culture as well as practicing communication and soft skills needed to develop themselves in a global world.

It includes intensive language lectures and language practice, as well as specialized culture seminars complemented with culture visits, aimed at giving the students a holistic experience about Spain.

During the weekend, students can use their free time to explore Barcelona (only one hour away) and other attractions in the region, such as the sandy beaches or natural parks.

Students	Duration	Period
10 to 25	2 weeks	Spring-Summer-Fall

STAFF

The teaching staff will be provided by the [Center for Hispanic Studies](#), which has a vast experience in organizing language immersion programs such as START.

The Center for Hispanic Studies is made up of a specialist team of professionals with a solid background in the training of education professionals in Spanish as a Foreign Language. Employing their many years of experience in education and academic research, the team have created a broad catalog of modern, top-quality educational programs to satisfy the increasing demand for Spanish language studies around the world.

Teaching language

Spanish lectures will be taught in Spanish, although no previous knowledge of Spanish language is needed. Culture Seminars and Soft skills sessions will be taught in English. A B1 level according to the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is the minimum advised to follow the lectures and visits.



COURSE CONTENT

- Language module (12 hours)
- Soft skills module (6 hours)
- Culture module
 - Specialized culture seminars (6 hours)
 - Cultural visits

Spanish Language lectures

Language lectures will be taught by URV teachers specialized in teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language. The course will be divided in groups of maximum 10 students to ensure personalized attention to the students learning process.

Soft skills sessions

Besides language, students need to acquire a series of soft skills to be competitive in a global world.

Specialized culture seminars

Culture seminars on different topics that will help to understand the Spanish Language in the context of Spanish culture. Topics as history, religion or art will be discussed by specialized URV professors.

- History and politics:
 - Role of Spain in the contemporary world
 - Relationship between Spain and Catalonia in European context
- Art and heritage:
 - Roman civil architecture, influence in modern infrastructures
 - Modernism and Gaudí introduction

Cultural visits

Cultural visits will be directly linked with the contents of the culture seminars, so students can see on site and experience the lessons learned.



CULTURE VISITS

Tarragona city cultural visit



The students will be introduced to the history of Tarragona by means of the main monuments that survive from the ancient Roman era, when the city was at the peak of its splendor. The city of Tarragona conserves also several major monuments from its mediaeval past. Its abundant Roman ruins are thus supplemented by a rich mediaeval artistic heritage best epitomized by the city's cathedral, which offers outstanding examples of art and architecture from the Middle Ages.

Reus Modernist Route

Modernism (Art Nouveau) was an international movement which originated in Europe in the late 19th century. Its foundations, essentially aesthetic, have their common link in the renewal of the arts and the constant inspiration from nature, from which they took their most distinctive symbols. In Catalonia the movement was not only based on aesthetics, but extended to all areas, being one of the regions with the strongest political and intellectual influences attached to Modernism.



In this visit the students will know the most interesting modernist facades of the city of Reus, especially the works of Lluís Domènech i Montaner (Institut Pere Mata, Navas House, Casa Rull and Casa Gasull) and access the interior of some buildings normally closed to the public.



Castells activity (Human towers)



Castells, or human towers, are one of Europe's most genuine and unique cultural displays. Under the traditional motto of "strength, balance, courage and seny" (a Catalan expression encompassing virtues such as good sense and calmness), castells are an excellent way of showcasing Catalonia to the world. Watching, or even better, taking part in a castells display is a thrilling experience that really highlights under a single project the individual and collective struggle for improvement, the effort involved in achieving a goal, the solidarity and spirit of cooperation between people of all ages, conditions and abilities.

Students will visit a rehearsal of this activity in Tarragona.

Tarragona Roman sites

Roman civilization is key to understand the development of our city and region, in this visit students will visit different sites around Tarragona:

Roman Quarry of Mèdol:

The main quarries of Tarragona were aimed primarily at the exploitation of limestone, very common around the city. Currently, this is the most spectacular because of its size and state of conservation.



Aqueduct of les Ferreres:

Tarraco had in the Roman period two aqueducts. These hydraulic pipes had the mission to lead the water to the tanks located in the city.

Ebre Delta day outing



The Ebre Delta covers an area of 320 km² and is the largest wetland in Catalonia and the second largest in the Iberian Peninsula. Its geographical features and the high natural value of its flora and fauna (over 350 species of birds have been observed in the Delta), make it a place of special interest for discovering nature.

Some delta areas have been drained for agricultural use over the centuries. The modern delta is in intensive agricultural use for rice, fruit (in particular citrus), and vegetables. A network of canals and irrigation ditches constructed by both agricultural and conservation groups are helping to maintain the ecologic and economic resources of the Ebre Delta.



Poblet Monastery

Religion has played a major role in shaping the history and culture of our country. To understand its relevance, students will visit the Poblet Monastery, which host still an active Monastic community.

This Cistercian abbey in Catalonia is one of the



largest in Spain. At its center is a 12th-century church. The austere, majestic monastery, which has a fortified royal residence and contains the pantheon of the kings of Catalonia and Aragon, is an impressive sight.

CALENDAR

Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:30-11:00	Spanish language	Spanish language	Culture visit Reus Modernism	Spanish language	Spanish language
11:30-13:00	Culture seminar	Soft skills: Effective teamwork		Culture seminar	Soft skills: How to speak in public
16:00	Visit to Tarragona Old Town				Castells rehearsal visit

Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:30-11:00	Spanish language	Spanish language	Culture visit Delta day outing	Spanish language	Spanish language
11:30-13:00	Culture seminar	Soft skills: Debate		Culture seminar	Soft skills: Global awareness
16:00	Visit to Tarragona Roman Sites			Visit to Poblet Monastery	Farewell lunch

