

GRANADA ESSENTIAL PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION

1. Planning Your Arrival to Granada

DATES:

Arrival (Program Start Date) – August 25th

Departure (Program End Date) – December 18th

Passport and Visa

If you have not applied for a passport by the time you receive this packet, you must apply for an expedited passport. Start this process TODAY!

A Long-Stay Student Visa is required for all U.S. citizens studying in Spain. If you are not a U.S. Citizen you may also require a visa. You must submit your visa materials to Willamette University by the visa deadline **May 1st**. See the *Visa Checklist* located within this packet.

Arrival Info

Plan to arrive in Granada between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for the convenience of your host family on the arrival date listed above. You will make your own way directly to your host family's home. Your host family's address will be included in the pre-departure packet which you will receive 3-4 weeks prior to the start of your program. Further arrival information will be sent to you in your pre-departure packet.

Early Arrivals

It is not necessary to arrive early. The first day of the program is the arrival. Classes do not begin until after a period of orientation, allowing you time to acclimate. Students who arrive early are responsible for finding and paying for their own accommodations and food, and to navigate their way to these accommodations without the help of Willamette University or Granada site staff.

Flights, Tickets, and Travel Partners

Plan to be on-site no later than the first day of your program (August 25th) through the last day of your program (December 18th). **You must plan to leave Spain no later than 15 days after your program ends because of visa regulations (no longer applicable).** For arrival, some students find that traveling in groups alleviates some stress and makes the experiences of long flights and airport transfers more enjoyable. Willamette University will provide you with a list of students enrolled in your program when it is available. On-campus orientations are also a good place to meet fellow students and discuss travel plans prior to your departure.

Transportation

If you choose to fly into Madrid, you can get to Granada by air or bus. If you choose to take the bus from Madrid, please note that it is a five and a half hour bus ride to Granada. Experienced travelers are encouraged to catch the 11:00 a.m. bus to Granada, which is much cheaper than flying, and arrives at the Granada bus station around 4:30 p.m. From the bus station you will need to take a taxi to your host family's residence. If you depart on a bus from Madrid to Granada any later than 11:00 a.m., you will need to contact your host family directly to let them know your approximate arrival time. If you choose to fly into Granada, you will also be expected to arrive at your host family's residence without their assistance.

Medical

If you are taking medication, please ensure that you bring sufficient supplies for the duration of your stay. U.S. refill medical prescriptions are not valid in Spain. Travelers who have pre-existing medical conditions should carry a letter from the attending physician, describing the medical condition and any prescription medications, including the generic name of prescribed drugs. Any medications being carried overseas should be left in their original containers and be clearly labeled. Travelers should check with the

foreign embassy of each country they are visiting to make sure medications, including over-the-counter medications, are not considered illegal narcotics.

2. Planning Your Life in Granada

Housing

The site director in Granada will place you (usually with another student) in a homestay in Granada. The homestay may be a family, a widow, or a couple. Three meals a day, seven days a week, are included in the program cost. If you are a vegetarian you may have limited meal options and you should not expect your host family to be familiar with, or accommodate your dietary preferences. In general, homestay placements are within a 20 to 30 minute walk from CLM and generally the hosts are of an economic level that provides a relatively comfortable standard of living and modern home facilities. Take into account, however, that amenities such as internet, water, and electricity are extremely expensive and, thus, are used conservatively outside of the United States. Be aware that smoking is common in Spain and non-smoking households are rare. As a guest, you are the one who is expected to adapt to local customs and abide by household rules and expectations. Within the first few days of your arrival, try to reach an early understanding with your host regarding rules and customs in the household, especially with regard to such things as the use of hot water, use of phones, helping with meals, and having guests. Students will depart their homestays on the last day of the program.

Phone Calls

Unlike in the U.S., local calls are not free in Spain. Because phone service is extremely expensive, do not make any phone calls from your homestay without the permission of your host before each call. You may receive phone calls at your homestay, but please limit them in length as a courtesy to your host. A popular option for many students is to purchase a cell phone, which allows them to pay for their calls independent of their host. Former students who chose to buy a cell phone were content to have done so. You may be able to purchase a phone for less by finding a former student interested in selling theirs. U.S. cell phones will not work in Spain unless a new SIM card is purchased in Spain.

Computers and Email

You will have access to email through various local internet cafes as well as limited access at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas (CLM) computer lab. The CLM also has wireless internet, so you might consider bringing a laptop, although we would not advise you do so without first either purchasing insurance that will cover any loss or checking whether your parents' homeowner insurance will cover theft or damage while traveling. Please remember that email access from your homestay is not normally an option.

Mail

Your friends and family should send mail to you at your host family's address. You will receive your homestay mailing address in your pre-departure packet.

Budget

It is extremely important that you consider the amount of money you will spend while you are abroad so you can plan your time abroad efficiently and economically. Below is a rough estimate of costs for which you should budget outside of the program fees. Keep in mind that program fees include tuition, housing, meals, some course materials, excursions, medical insurance, and on-site orientation. For more information about exact program fees contact your study abroad office.

You may need to make purchases in addition to those listed below, for example: luggage, other travel accessories, copies of essential documents, additional insurance to cover your belongings from loss, and other incidentals. Some of the below might not apply to you. For instance, if you already have your passport, you do not need to budget for that item. If you can use frequent flier miles for your airfare, that

will decrease your airfare estimate. If you bring your laptop, you may not need to pay anything for internet use, etc.

Expenses	Per Semester	
Passport Visa fee	\$100 + any expedite fees \$100	
Airfare to Granada Transportation: airport to homestay	\$800-\$3,000 \$15-\$30	Flying to Madrid and taking a bus to Granada may be less expensive.
Homestay gift Cell phone purchase/rental Internet usage	\$10-\$25 \$50-\$70 \$10-\$50	
Cell phone usage Personal travel expenses Personal expenses	\$75-\$200 \$250-\$2,200 \$200-\$2,200	These expenses have been noted in ranges because there is such a variance in the amount students have spent.
Estimated total budget	\$2,335-\$7,975	This is only an estimate. Plan to make your own budget.

Spending Money

Current students estimate that you will need approximately \$20 per day to cover personal expenses such as toiletries, entertainment, and any personal weekend travel during the program. This amount constitutes only an approximate figure as there are clearly no limits to the amount of money a student with sufficient funds can spend. On the other hand, if you are on a limited budget you can certainly get by on less with careful planning.

Banking

The majority of students access their U.S. accounts in Granada via ATM and debit cards. If your card is due to expire during the course of the program contact your bank before you leave to have a new card issued. Inform your bank that you will be traveling overseas so that they do not flag international transactions and shut down your account.

3. Planning Your Academic Experience in Granada

Withdrawal and Refund Policy

All withdrawals must be made by the student in writing to Willamette University's Office of International Education at Willamette University. Applicants canceling fewer than 60 days prior to the start date of the program will forfeit \$300 of the program fee as well as any unrecoverable costs. Cancellations made fewer than 30 days prior to the start of the program will forfeit \$500 of the program fee as well as any unrecoverable costs. No refunds will be made after the start date of the program.

Class Registration

All classes are taught in Spanish at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas (CLM), where both Spanish and international students study languages. Your CLM courses will include other foreign students studying Spanish, not Spaniards. The last week is exam week and no rescheduling can be made to accommodate an early departure. Please plan accordingly. Classes are generally scheduled between Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Monday-Thursday 3:30p.m. -8:30 p.m. You will not be in class this entire time; individual schedules will vary depending on course preferences.

You will pre-register for your courses online through the Willamette University website (see your Acceptance Packet Checklist for more information.) You will finalize the registration for your classes after you arrive in Granada.

Placement Test

You will take a language placement test after you arrive in Granada and before beginning your intensive language courses at CLM. Preparation for this test is very important as it will determine your level of language study in the program. We strongly recommend that you review your Spanish texts prior to your arrival in Granada.

DELE

Along with regular courses and exams, you will also participate in the DELE (Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera) exam. The Ministry of Education administers this exam in Granada at the end of each semester. Those who receive high marks on the DELE will be officially certified as having a level of Spanish sufficient to complete any professional or academic activity in Spain. This exam is recognized internationally and could be compared to the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam in the U.S. Studying for this exam is gradual and continuous throughout the semester and it is recommended that you start reviewing your texts before arriving in Spain. More information regarding this exam will be given to you in your pre-departure packet and during the on-site orientation in Granada.

Onsite Administration

Mark Bennett is the site director for the Granada program. He is responsible for the academic and administrative program planning, as well as providing invaluable support to students throughout the semester.

Pre-departure Orientation

Your study abroad office is responsible for preparing an on-campus orientation prior to your departure. Please consult your advisor for more information on specific dates and times. An on-site orientation and walking tour will take place during your first days in Granada. You will be able to ask questions about the program and receive advice on making a successful transition to Spanish life and being a good homestay guest.

Excursions

You will receive an excursion schedule for the term at the beginning of your program. During the semester you visit Madrid for 4 nights. You will also visit other places of interest in and around Andalucía and Granada. Participation in excursions is required and there are no refunds for missed trips. Guests, including family members, are not allowed on these academic excursions.

Personal Travel and Travel Guides

While most weekends are free time for students, independent travel on weekends should not interfere with regular class attendance or program excursions. Rather than taking long trips to far away places, we strongly recommend that you focus your travel during the program to nearby sites where there is plenty to see and do. Save your more distant sightseeing for before or after the program. Friends and family who are visiting will not be allowed to participate in program activities or excursions and should be discouraged from coming during the program.

It is highly recommended that before you travel abroad you consider visiting your local bookstore to pick up a copy of a student travel guide on the country where you will be studying. Travel guides will be an invaluable resource to you for useful, up-to-date advice on transportation, economical lodging, and cultural information. They will also provide current information on items such as estimated costs of living, safety issues, weather information, and local customs. *The Lonely Planet, Let's Go, Rough Guide* and *Footprints* guides are recommended travel books for students. Often, used guides can be found at a used-book rate (be cautious that the book is not too out-dated). If not, the full price version is well worth the investment.