



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Spain Arrival Orientation FAQ Year Program September 2017

Who will meet me at the airport and where?

Volunteers will meet you at the airport's arrival lounge.

How will I recognize the people who will meet me at the airport?

They have an AFS sign and/or AFS T-shirt.

How will I get to the orientation site?

By bus.

Where will the orientation take place?

On the outskirts of Madrid.

Will there be a tour of the city during the orientation?

No, there won't be a city tour.

How long is the orientation?

One night.

In what language(s) will the orientation be conducted?

English.

Will there be language instructions at the orientation?

No, but we expect participants to already have a minimum preparation of Spanish. WE hope all have done the required Rosetta Stone course.

What type of activities will happen during orientation?

The very short survival orientation contains an explanation about the logistics of travel to host families. We also address topics like medical insurance, cultural awareness, safety tips and rules, and Spanish customs.

Should I prepare a cultural activity or bring a costume for the orientation?

It's not necessary.

What materials do I need bring with me to the orientation?

Bring a copy of the Welcome Booklet. AFS Spain will provide all other materials needed for the orientation.



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Will I have access to my luggage during the arrival orientation?

Yes.

Will I need to pack a separate bag for orientation? Do I need to pack a towel?

It's a good idea to have a separate bag including a towel, pajamas, and toiletries in case your luggage gets lost.

Will there be participants from other AFS countries attending the orientation? If so, from which countries and approximately how many participants?

There will be more than 140 students attending the orientation, coming from these countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Nederland, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and of course students from the U.S.

Will I need money during the orientation?

It's not necessary.

Will I have a chance to exchange money between the time of arrival and the end of orientation?

No.

Will I have access to a telephone which can accommodate long distance calls by using a phone card? Will there be Internet access?

There is internet access. There'll be public phones in the hotel, but we recommend you wait until you get to your host community to call your parents.

How will I travel to my host community and when will I meet my host family?

You'll travel by bus, train, or plane, the day after arrival.

If I am flying to my host community, what are the luggage restrictions (weight and size) on the airplane?

Students placed in the islands will travel by plane. 20kgs is the maximum weight allowed plus a cabin luggage not exceeding 7 Kg.

How soon after arrival does school begin?

It depends on the chapter you are placed. Normally school will start 11th September



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Will there be a second orientation?

Yes.

When and where will the second orientation take place?

It will be organized by the host chapter, so the locations will vary. It will take place during October

How will the participants get to the site?

You will take public transportation.

How long is the orientation?

1-2 days.

What will happen during this orientation?

The orientation will have intercultural contents regarding social life, family life, school issues and be an introduction to the realities of their hosting region.