



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

## Spain Host School FAQ

### **When does the school year begin and end?**

The school year goes from September to May/June, with a two and a half week vacation in December (Christmas season), and one week vacation around Easter.

### **What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?**

Students attend school Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 2:30pm or 3:00pm, depending on the school. In some schools, the students have classes in the afternoon, from 3:30pm to 5:45pm; in that case, students usually go home for lunch.

The classes last about 50 minutes with a 10 minutes break in between. There is a 20 - 30 minute break at 11:00 or 11:30.

### **In what type of school will I be enrolled?**

AFS students are usually placed in public schools unless a private school is available. Students are responsible for the additional cost of a private school if they choose a private school over a public school.

### **In what grade level will I be enrolled?**

AFS students are normally placed in 4º ESO (10<sup>th</sup> grade/ age 15 - 16), 1º Bachillerato (11<sup>th</sup> grade / age 16 - 17) or 2º Bachillerato (12<sup>th</sup> grade / age 17 -18). Placement will depend on age and the students' studies at their home school.

### **Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?**

Students in Spain do not have many choices in courses. Below are the required courses for each grade level:

4º ESO (grade 10): Compulsory subjects include Spanish Language and Literature, Social Sciences (Geography and History), Mathematics, Physical Education and Foreign Language. Student will have to choose another four subjects offered by the school. These choices vary and might include subjects such as Natural Resources, Art, Technology, Music, Ethics, Religion, etc.

1º Bachillerato (grade 11): This grade is divided in four different options or groups, but not all schools may offer all four options. There are five compulsory subjects (Spanish Language and Literature, Philosophy, Physical Education, Foreign Language, Ethics or Religion) that are common to all four options. Students will also take three courses related to their chosen option (technology, sciences, humanities, or social sciences)

2º Bachillerato (grade 12): As in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, this grade is also divided into options. There are four compulsory subjects (Spanish Language and Literature, History, Foreign Language, Ethics or Religion) that are common to all options, and another three specific to each option. Possible



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option choices in grade 12 are industrial technology, technology/engineering, engineering, sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

### **In what language will the classes be taught?**

Depending on the region in which the student is placed, classes will be taught in Castillian Spanish, Catalan (in Catalonia), Galician (in Galicia), or Euskera (in Basque country). In Catalonia all the classes are in Catalan except the Spanish Literature and Spanish Language. In the Basque Country there are public schools where all the classes are in Basque and some others where all the classes are in Spanish. In Galicia most of the classes are taught in Spanish having two or three in Galician

### **Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?**

Students will need to purchase textbooks, but AFS Spain will reimburse the expenses. Once students receive their list of required textbooks, they should purchase them as soon as possible and inform AFS Spain. Students may also be able to borrow books through host siblings or friends. Uniforms are not required in public schools.

### **Are extra-curricular activities available?**

In some schools you can find sports teams like soccer or basketball, or clubs and activities like drama, music, or mountain hiking groups.

### **Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?**

Students should be able to receive a certificate of attendance and a transcript of grades, but it cannot be guaranteed.

### **Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?**

The amount and type of credit you receive is determined by your high school in the U.S. so it's important that you talk with your teachers and guidance counselor before you depart. Be sure to keep a copy of any formal grades or transcripts you receive from your host school. It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS does not have any influence over obtaining academic credit for your studies abroad and cannot assist you with course or grade information for your time on program.