



COLEGIO
INTER~
NACIONAL
ALICANTE

**Student's
manual
Alicante**



With C.I. Alicante
you will speak Spanish
from the very first day.

Immerse
yourself in
the local
culture.

All year
round, all
levels.



Alicante

is a typical Mediterranean city: majestic palm trees, crystal-blue sea, white beaches, two historic 16th centuries' castles, various shopping centres and its never-ending nightlife. Your days will be too short in Alicante.



Accreditations: INSTITUTO CERVANTES has recognized our School with the Quality Certificate of E/LE Centre by the named **CENTRO ACREDITADO**.



It is a system involving an array of conditions, requirements and indicators related to the academic activity and to the faculty, a Centre's equipment and facilities, the administrative organisation and the information and publicity pertaining to a Centre devoted to ELE teaching.

<http://goo.gl/tmPsQv>

Air tickets: Students can print the air tickets in the School.

Arriving to Alicante: Students can arrive to Alicante International Airport, which has flights from many important cities in Europe. You can also can fly to

Madrid , Barcelona or Valencia and then fly or take a train/bus to Alicante.

You can reach your accommodation **from Alicante Airport** by the C6 bus www.subus.es . The bus will take you to Alicante centre and from there you can take a taxi or go walking to your accommodation. You also can go directly by taxi from the Airport to your lodging. Taxis in Alicante are white with a blue stripe and a licence number on the door. The price should be around 25 €. More information: www.radiotaxielche.es

From Madrid Barajas Airport take the metro to the Atocha Train Station. The trains take 2hours for arriving to Alicante and cost around 60 €. More information: www.renfe.es

From Barcelona Airport take the train to the Barcelona Central Station. The train takes approximately 5 hours for arriving to Alicante and it should cost around 60 €

From Valencia Airport you can take a direct bus from Valencia airport to Alicante bus station. There are everyday buses. The bus takes around 3h and the price is around 25€. www.alsa.es Or take the metro from Valencia airport to "Joaquin Sorolla's stop". Valencia Train Station is 300m away. You can take a train to Alicante. It will take around 2h and the price around 30€. <http://www.renfe.com/EN/viajeros/index.html>

Alicante Train Station is located in the centre of the city and a taxi from there to your lodging it should cost you around 10€

Business hours: The School will be open Monday to Thursday from 9:00 to 18:00 and Friday from 9:00 to 16:00.

Cancellations: Cancellation must be notified in writing to the school at least 15 days before the start of the course. For cancellations received less than that time 200 € will be charged. Acceptance of an enrolment is made on the understanding that the student will remain for the duration of the course as specified. In the event of a student leaving dismissed before the end of the agreed course, the remaining amount will be due at the discretion of the director.

Certificates and Diplomas: **Colegio Internacional Alicante** will issue a free certificate of your level (after passing a final exam) or a diploma of assistance with valid indefinitely, to those students who have completed an 80% of the course booked.

Change of group or schedule: Changes of groups are possible with the agreement of the teacher and the director of the school. All the students should do a placement test on line or at arrival the first day of the course. The school will place students in the morning or afternoon sessions according to the needs and possibilities. Students cannot change from morning to

afternoon and vice-versa unless they have an important reason.

Please note lessons will normally take in the mornings.

Climate: There are a total of 2.730 sun-hours per year on the coast and the water temperature varies from 13º C minimum in winter to 29º C maximum in summer.



Credits & grants: Colegio Internacional Alicante will send transcript to **Easter Connecticut State University** (USA) and **College du Masonneuve** (Canada). We can also send credits from both to the student's Universities with extra cost. It is recognized as well by the **Swedish & Norwegian Government** with **CSN & Lånekassen** grants and by the German Government with the **Bildungsurlaub** (please check if we have your Land) and **OÖ Bildungskonto**.



Copyright: The management reserves the right to use all possible photos taken during the student's stay unless the student declares otherwise on his arrival at the school.

Cultural shock: It may comfort you to know that no individual is immune to "culture shock". Culture shock, simply, is an uneasy feeling of disorientation brought on by the inability to respond appropriately to the social cues of another country which you may be introduced to in daily life situations. How to act? There are many things you can do in order to adapt yourself into the new culture. But remember you are not

alone, there are many people who can help you: Family and friends, teachers, new friends. Having not newcomer friends will help you to understand a little better the new culture and to have someone you can talk with when you feel sad.

Be open to new ways of thinking and doing things.

Identify the things that are equal and which ones are different, and keep on mind that variety is what makes people so interesting.

DELE: The **Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera** is the exam organized by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science and the Instituto Cervantes. There are 6 levels A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. Exams take place in different dates during the year. For more information about our preparatory course or the exam please contact our staff or visit: <http://dele.cervantes.es/en>



Levels

- **Diploma de Español Nivel A1 (Starter level):** This qualification attests to sufficient linguistic ability for a very basic range of the most commonly simple expressions used in the Spanish-speaking world and in order to satisfy immediate needs of a concrete type.
- **Diploma de Español Nivel A2 (Waystage or Elementary level):** This qualification attests to sufficient linguistic ability for understanding a basic range of the commonly simple and immediate relevance of expressions used in the Spanish-speaking world (basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).
- **Diploma de Español Nivel B1 (Intermediate Level):** This qualification attests to sufficient linguistic ability for understanding and responding appropriately in most normal day-to-day situations and for expressing desires and needs in a basic way.
- **Diploma de Español Nivel B2 (Upper Intermediate level):** This qualification validates sufficient linguistic ability to get by in average

day-to-day situations in normal communication circumstances, which do not require specialized use of the language.

- Diploma de español Nivel C1 (Advanced level): At this level, users are expected to be able to use the structures of a language with ease and fluency. Users are able to adapt their language use to a variety of social situations, and express opinions and take part in discussions and arguments in a culturally acceptable way.
- Diploma de Español Nivel C2 (Proficiency level): This qualification accredits the necessary linguistic competence to integrate in situations requiring an advanced use of the language and knowledge of the cultural customs embedded within it.



Registration

Registration for the examinations should be applied for through an accredited Examination Centre within the dates established for each set of examinations. In order to register, candidates must provide the following documents:

- A Registration Form available from Examination Centres or the Internet <http://goo.gl/X4Ozd2> properly completed.
- Original and photocopy of an identification document with photograph showing the following details: identity, nationality, place and date of birth. The details presented by candidates on the registration form must be the same as those on the identification document.
- Documentation showing they have paid the registration fee.
- Signed declaration, where applicable, that they comply with at least two of the conditions described under Section 2 of the "General Conditions".

If you wish to look up the accredited Examination Centres, please click on Examination centres and select the country you are interested in applying for the examinations. <http://goo.gl/ISVVxN>

Once registered, candidates will receive a stamped copy of the registration form showing the code they have been given and will be sent the official examination information by mail, with the place, date and time of the examination.

Necessary requirements

Candidates wishing to sit Diplomas in Spanish examinations must meet the following requirements:

1. When registering, they must be able to provide documented proof that they are nationals of a country in which Spanish is not an official language.
2. Nationals of Spanish-speaking countries resident in countries where Spanish is not an official language may apply to register if they fulfill at least two of the following conditions:
 - Spanish is not the native language of either of their parents.
 - Spanish is not the first language that they learned.
 - Spanish is not the language they use in normal everyday communication.
 - They did not receive their primary or secondary education (partially or completely) in Spanish.

The candidates referred to in Section 2 above must declare in writing that they meet at least two of the aforementioned requirements.

Dates

Instituto Cervantes establishes the examination dates for the Diplomas in Spanish. Examinations will be held on April, May, July, October and November. Please check the dates of exam and the courses and levels in our calendar. <http://goo.gl/3gvvLK>

Colegio Internacional Alicante is official DELE A2 and CCSE Examiner Center:



DIE: **Colegio Internacional Alicante** is the only school in Alicante recognized by FIDESCU for taken this oral exam of Spanish. Contact our staff for more information about preparatory courses and DIE oral exam or visit: www.fidescu.org

Emergencies: In case of real emergency do not hesitate to call

+34 649 26 31 83.

Excursions: On Saturday the school organizes excursions and visits of half a day to picturesque nearby

villages: Altea, Elche, Orihuela, Villena... for up to 30 Euro depending on the duration and distance of the trip. The excursions are not included in the price of the course.



Extra Curricular Activities: The school will organize free guided tours to Museums and Monuments and other sportive or cultural activities. Students are expected to pay for the tickets or entrances. Information about other activities like golf, trekking, diving, flamenco, salsa lessons, and painting are also available on the school.

You are welcome to join us. Even a beginner in Spanish will be able to follow the very simple explanations our teachers will give to you.

Families: Host families treat the students as one of the family. Students can participate in the everyday life of a Spanish family. In exchange for these benefits you have to fit in with your host family's way of life and habits. The families are carefully selected. The director of the School, always at the student's disposal, can change a student's accommodation if the need arises (max. 2 changes).

Home stay families are not required to pick up the students at the airport, and students should not ask the host family to do so.



Fiesta: Depending on the season in which you happen to be staying with us, you will fall in love with Alicante and its FIESTAS



January: The Three Wise Men.

February: Carnival.

March / April: Easter. Processions

May: Flower Festival.

June: "Moors and Christians" and The Bonfires of San Juan.

July / August: Summer Festival and "Moors and Christians".

September- November: Alicante Amateur Theatre Festival, Modern Theatre Festival and Modern Music Festival.

December: International Festival of Puppet Show. Christmas Market and Nativities' exhibition.

The most important of these is undoubtedly The Bonfires of San Juan, **Las Hogueras de San Juan (June 20th - 24th)** These days nobody sleeps. Dozens of monuments made of wood and papier-mâché are assembled in the streets; there is music everywhere, fireworks and people dancing in the streets. The 24th of June, after an amazing fireworks display, all monuments are ignited and Alicante explodes in a blaze of colour, which is when the real FIESTA begins!

Guarantees: Following "European frame of reference" we establish 6 levels of language (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 & C2) **Colegio Internacional Alicante** guarantees 4 levels even in the case we have only 1 participant in the group: A1, A2, B1 & C1

Insurance: All students should obtain medical insurance in their own country. All European Union Citizens are included in the Spanish Social Security (form E-111 or European Union Health Card). Citizens from other countries should check in the Spanish Embassy. Please note, students are not covered for any illness, accident, robbery or loss of personal property (neither at their accommodation nor in or out of the classrooms)

because of that we always recommend you the use of an optional insurance.

The School has made arrangements with ASTES for a travel and medical insurance policy, which will give coverage to all students who requires.

Internet: Our School offers WI-FI service and free access to Internet. Anyway, access to Internet is very easy in Alicante. There are many WI-FI areas around the city. All the red mark In the map is wifi area.



Homework: Students are expected to do and to fulfil some homework every day. A minimum of 30 minutes of personal work is requested per day.

Laundry: Laundry is included in home stay. It is understood that the family will wash one machine load per week.

Leisure & entertainment: Alicante offers an interesting range of activities: sports, libraries, art-galleries, cultural halls, museums, open-air concerts, and a 19th century theatre with an extensive programme. The diversity of the landscape, a marvellous climate and superb facilities make sport one of the main attractions. Our pleasure harbour and beach provides you with all the opportunities the sea offers: swimming, water skiing, sailing, windsurfing, fishing, diving, regattas and competitions. On the other hand, golf or adventure sports such as mountaineering, cycling, riding, piloting, trekking etc. are available all over the year.



Levels: Our levels are based in: Council of Europe: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEF)



A1 BEGINNER:

- You can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type.
- You can introduce yourself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where you live, people you know and things you have.
- You can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

A2 ELEMENTARY:

- You can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).
- You can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
- You can describe in simple terms aspects of your background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

B1 INTERMEDIATE:

- You can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.
- You can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken.
- You can produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest.
- You can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

B2 UPPER-INTERMEDIATE:

- You can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in your field of specialisation.
- You can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
- You can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

C1 ADVANCED:

- You can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning.
- You can express ideas fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions.
- You can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes.
- You can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

C2 MASTERY:

- You can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read.
- You can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation.
- You can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations



COUNCIL
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

EUROPEAN LEVELS –
SELF ASSESSMENT GRID

http://www.langcen.cam.ac.uk/culp/CEF_sa_grid.pdf

European Language Portfolio, Council of Europe:
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/elp/elp-reg/cefr_EN.asp

Living in a Spanish Host Family:

The students who live in a host family must take into account the following:

1. Please respect the timetable that the family has set for meals. If eventually you want to change it, agree it first with your host family.
2. Try to keep the host family informed if you will not have meals at home, if you will stay out on a specific day, when you have plans to travel during weekends or go on an excursion.
3. Half board includes breakfast and dinner, full board also includes a midday lunch.
4. Special diet should have been informed in advance to the School while your application is in process. Also, it is advisable for you to inform in advance about any kind of allergy or medical need.
5. Take care of your host family home as you would take care of your own home.
6. Students are responsible for any damage caused inside the house. If you loose the keys you will have to pay for a new copy.
7. Friends' visits are permitted but under family supervision. Please inform the family in advance about occasional visits from friends. They should respect the house rules. Visitors are not allowed to stay over night.
8. Students have no access to the telephone, washing machine, kitchen supplies (fridge, stove etc) unless the family allows it. You are not allowed to prepare your own meals. Please agree it with your host family.
9. You can only use the telephone for receiving calls. Ask the family when would be a good time for receiving your phone calls.
10. Please respect the set rules and each family customs, for example: do not make noise after 22.00h, do not disturb the neighbours (slam the door, shout, etc) If you come home late at night, try to be as quiet as possible.
11. The student must be aware to ecological issues, so please do not waste water, gas or electricity. Taking showers should not take longer than 10 min. You may take ONE shower a day, but it could be two if the family allows it (occasionally in summer time). Do not keep the lights on when you are not using it.
12. It is advisable to keep your room and the bathroom tidy in order to allow the family to regularly clean and change the bed linen.
13. Do not use family belongings without their permission.
14. Living in a foreign country might make you feel homesick, in this case you may contact the School, we will try to help you. Please consider that Colegio Internacional Alicante does not contemplate accommodation cancellations neither refunds for this reason.
15. Host families welcome the students and will treat them like another family member to make them feel at home, but at the same time you should not forget that every country is different with different customs and

languages so please try to integrate yourself, accept and respect the new habits in order to enjoy your stay as much as possible.

16. If you have any suggestions, comments or request please direct to the school administration. Thank you!

Location: How to find your lodging or the School?
www.maps.google.com



Lodging Rules: Please read carefully.

Lodging: Accommodation is available prior to 12:00 midnight on the Sunday before the beginning of classes until 12:00 noon on the Saturday which follows them. Under special circumstances, and only if it is available, we may be able to arrange for student to arrive or stay beyond the allowed dates. There will be a charge for the additional night. The request for such circumstances should be made to the school in advance. Sorry but double bedrooms are only available for 2 people coming together.

Arrival information is required for all students to ensure that someone will be at home waiting for them when he or she arrives. Students must contact the School at least 1 week in advance in order to confirm the exact hour of arrival so we can organize a meeting time with the person in charge of the keys of the lodging. **Colegio**

Internacional Alicante will not be held responsible for any expenses due to late arrivals, change of plans or if the student did not contact the School with enough time. Accommodation is paid for the booked period.

As we are sending accommodation addresses well in advance of the student's arrival, unforeseeable changes may occur resulting in the last minute change of address. Should this happen, you will be informed.

More of the families and shared apartments are within walking distance, as is almost everything in Alicante. Some students will have to use the bus 10 or 15 min. Distance to the school will not be a reason to change your lodging.

1. Students will receive the keys of the apartment and the gate of the building upon arrival, which have to be returned upon departure, in case of losing the keys, the student has to pay for them.
2. The bedroom and the common areas of the apartment have been found in perfect conditions: clean and tidy.
3. Students who have booked accommodation by the school may change to another if he/she has valid reason. The distance between the lodging and the school will not be considered as a reason for requesting a change. Students can change the lodging not the type of it. The school reserves the right to expel any student who does not respect certain rules in the diary coexistence.
4. All students have the right to ONE hot shower daily. Students in shared flats have to bring their own towels (we also recommend you to bring your own sheets. Inappropriate use of water will incur extra charges.
5. Students in shared apartments are responsible for keeping them clean, the student must leave a clean apartment before he/ she departures, otherwise he/she must pay 50 € for the cleaning.
6. It is absolutely forbidden to entertain other people in the apartment (friends, colleagues, etc., or let others use the installations (shower, washing machine, etc.) The stay overnight is absolutely forbidden to any person that is not registered in the apartment.
7. The celebration of parties in the apartment is not allowed.
8. Please note that neither Colegio Internacional Alicante nor the landlord/landlady can be held responsible in any case of injury, accidents or robbery.
9. Any damage in the accommodation caused by the student has to be reported immediately to the School. If at his/her arrival the student finds any damage produced by former occupants and doesn't communicate it to the school the first day, he/she will be held responsible for the damage.

10. In case that none of the occupants takes responsibility for damage, the cost will be divided between all them.
11. Every week the owner of the apartment will visit the flat in order to check everything and resolve any problem. The date and hour will agree with the students in the apartment and they should be there.
12. A deposit of 100 € is required at arrival. The total deposit will be reimburse at the departure under the following conditions:
 - Leaving the room and the respective communal area in a clean and tidy condition.
 - If the student is not in the apartment at the settled time for the handing over, the deposit will not be refunded.

FOR YOUR ATTENTION you have a maximum consume in water, electric and gas, so an abnormal or inappropriate use of these services in the apartments will incur excess charges for: GAS, WATER ,ELECTRICITY.

To avoid excess charges please take care to:

1. Turn off lights and any electric items.
2. All water used is metered and heated by GAS or ELECTRICITY. Don't leave taps running or use shower in excess. Turn off gas cooker ring.
3. Use full washing machine.

Booking an apartment through **the Colegio Internacional Alicante** means accept the above rules.

Material: Material is not included in the price of the course.

Mail: Students are welcome to receive mail at the school.

Methodology: Do you know what the Fun Theory is? We do not need a specialist to know that if we like something we will learn faster and easier. It is clear that motivation is crucial to making anything that is difficult easy. Anything that requires dedication and perseverance such a learning a language can be transformed into fun and games to make it interesting not a chore.

Positive reinforcement motivates us to go ahead hence in **Colegio Internacional Alicante** we have used it as the basis of our methodology.

If you add to all together plus the experience of our teachers in the communicative methodology, objectives and most important teamwork that we use in teaching Spanish and also a deep knowledge of the Spanish grammar, you will understand why our students enjoy all of our lessons, and why laughter and smiles are fundamentals that define us, even in our logo. Always, of course, with a clear goal: you will live, feel and speak Spanish from the very first day.



Furthermore, our methodology would not make sense if we did not put the student at the centre of the teaching-learning process. We must find, reach and capture each of the multiple intelligences that characterize us as individuals. In our school, all ways of learning are happening during our lessons. This way, none of the intelligences of our students will be lost. You will find exercises which have: movement (for the bodily students), songs (for musical once), individual work (for intrapersonal students), interactive groups (for verbal and social once); where we will deduce and analyse rationally (for logical); we will imagine from pictures and even leap out of the classroom to be in contact with the natural environment (for naturalistic learners)



According to experts, we all have 8 types of intelligences, but each of us tends to have a more developed one than others, which naturally influences the way we learn.

National holidays: Classes will not be held on National Holidays. National Holidays will not be replaced (exception: one to one).and financial compensation will not be given as a result
For more information please check our calendar.

Payment: Fees should be paid in one of the following two ways:

- By cash within the first three days of your stay in the School's office.
- By bank transfer at least 15 days in advance, with no charge for the beneficiary to:

Colegio Internacional Alicante

Bank:	La Caixa
SWIFT:	CAIX.ES.BBXXX
IBAN:	ES17 2100 1533 1702 0014 3107
Account No.	2100 1533 17 02 00143107

Recognitions & Membership: Colegio

Internacional Alicante is a full member of:

- Federación Española de Asociaciones de Escuelas de Español para Extranjeros (**FEDELE**)
- **FEDELE Comunidad Valenciana**
- Fundación para la Investigación y Desarrollo de la Cultura Española (**FIDESCU**)

Colegio Internacional Alicante is the only School in Alicante recognized by FIDESCU for taking it international exam of Oral Spanish: DIE



School: Founded in 1998, as a co-operative of teachers of Spanish as a Foreign Language, we are a small and modern school.

Classrooms are perfect equipped and air-conditioned. We are located within the centre of the town, within the main shopping area, 2 minutes to the sea and a few minutes from the historic sights. All the teachers are University Graduates with many years of teaching experience. Our small classes and the familiar way the teachers interact with the students create a friendly, dynamic and young atmosphere.

Private tuition or specialised Business Spanish is also available for students who do not wish to pursue a normal group course.

On the other hand, we are able to design a "tailor-made" course to fit student's specific needs.

Our School is located right in front of Plaza Séneca 3.750 m2 park.



Shared apartments: The housegroups are a mix of different nationalities. This is a good way to

practice your Spanish. Apartments are comfortable, but basically furniture, don't expect luxuries. No meals are offered but each apartment has a kitchen with everything you might need for cooking yourself and doing your laundry. The students are responsible for keeping them clean and for bringing their own towels. We also recommend you to bring your own sheet. Please note than apartments a deposit is required.

Students: We receive about 500 students a year, the average in summer time (July, August and September) is 85, in spring and autumn around 40 and in winter only around 20. Our students come from all over the world: German, Dutch, Scandinavian... are the most popular nationalities you can find during your stay with us. Mostly of them are in their 20's, but we also welcome senior students.

Telephone: Students are welcome to receive calls in the family but are not supposed to use the phone. Check with you phone company if your cell phone works in Spain.

Transfer service: You can arrange airport pick-up from Alicante Altet International Airport and transfer to your lodging. This service can be booked Saturdays and Sundays, from 07:00 to -00:00h. If you have asked to be picked up at the airport please do not leave the hall. Somebody will be waiting there for you with a sign with your name when exiting the terminal. The transfer fee has to be paid even if the student does not arrive on the flight communicate to us. The school will be responsible for transfers if we know: Airline, flight number, time and date of arrival.

Tuition hours: 1 lesson =60 minutes.

TUITION COMPARISON ~ real number of hours per week

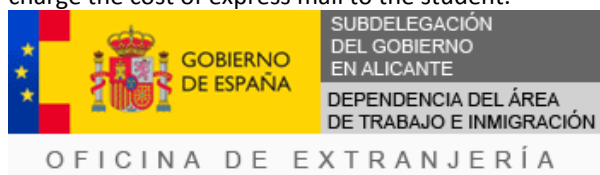
	1 week	4 weeks	10 weeks	15 weeks	20 weeks	30 weeks
C.I Alicante 60 min. tuition	20h	80h	200h	300h	400h	600h
Other Schools 50 min. tuition	16.6h	66.6h	166.6h	250h	333.3h	500h
Other Schools 45 min. tuition	15h	60h	150h	225h	300h	450h

Tutorials: Should the student have any problems in following the class or in understanding certain points of the language, the school will arrange a tutorial for this student without any charge.



Visas:

- Citizens from the European Union do not need a visa and can enter in Spain with an Identification Card or valid Passport.
- Citizens from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and USA do not need a visa and will receive a permit to stay up to 90 days on arrival.
- Citizens from Non European Union countries should check with the Spanish Embassy or Consulate prior to departure.
- A Student Visa must be obtained by the students prior to departure from their countries at the Spanish Embassy or Consulate. If you plan to extend your stay more than 90 days, you should apply for a visa type D.
- School will provide all the necessary certificates: Confirmation of the Spanish program, invoice for the total cost and invitation letter. These documents do not have any official power and merely serve as confirmation of a course in our centre. In the event that the student should need the originals urgently (less than 15 days) we will charge the cost of express mail to the student.



Welcome to Spain.

General Information.

Location: Occupying the greater part of the Iberian Peninsula, Spain is the fourth-largest country in Europe.

Climate: The climate of Spain is extremely varied. Because of its wide variety of climate, Spain has a greater variety of natural vegetation than any other European country; some 8,000 species are catalogued.

Population: The population of Spain in 2015 was estimated by the United Nations (UN) at 46,500,000, which placed it at number 29 in population among the 193 nations of the world.

Languages: According to the 1978 constitution, Spanish is the national language. Catalan, Galician, Basque, Bable, and Valencian are also official in the respective autonomous communities.

Administrative divisions: The Spanish State is integrated by 17 autonomous communities and 2 autonomous cities, both groups being the highest or first-order administrative division in the country. Autonomous communities are integrated by provinces, of which there are 50 in total, and in turn, provinces are integrated by municipalities

Domestic Trade: A wide variety of shops are available in Spain, from small specialty boutiques to large department stores, shopping malls, and outlet stores. Usual business hours are from 9 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Banks are open from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and to 1 pm on Saturday. Department stores are often open from 10 am to 10 pm, Monday through Saturday. Many small shops and businesses are often closed in the afternoons, from 2 pm to 4 or 5 pm. Restaurants are opened from 1.30 pm to 4 pm, and from 8.30 pm to 11.30pm. Pubs and discos are open till 3 or 6 am.

Taxation: The main indirect tax is Spain's value-added tax (VAT). The VAT had a standard rate of 16%.

Health: Spain's health care system is free used for European Country citizens provided with their **European Union Health Card**. We recommend that students take out a travel insurance during their stay. Pharmacies are open from 9 am to 2pm and from 4.30 pm to 8 pm from Monday to Friday, Saturdays only till 2 pm. There are 24h open pharmacies.

Safety: Spain is one of the safest countries in Europe. In general:

- Keep your belongings in sight.
- Keep hold of our handbag and protect your wallet on public transports and in crowded areas.
- Take care of your camera or phone in amusement or recreation areas.
- Take only essentials when you go to the beach.
- Avoid isolated or badly lit places.

National Police number is 091, Civil Guard 062, several languages spoken reports on 902 102 112. National emergencies number: 112

Transport: The Spanish road system is mainly centralised, with six highways connecting [Madrid](#) to the [Basque Country](#), [Catalonia](#), [Valencia](#), West [Andalusia](#), [Extremadura](#) and [Galicia](#). Additionally, there are highways along the Atlantic ([Ferrol](#) to [Vigo](#)), Cantabrian ([Oviedo](#) to [San Sebastián](#)) and Mediterranean ([Girona](#) to [Cádiz](#)) coasts. Spain has the most extensive high-speed rail network in Europe (AVE), and the second-most extensive in the world after China. There are 47 public airports in Spain.

Monuments and World Heritage Sites: Spain is the third country in the world with the most World Heritage Sites, after Italy and China. In the Region of Valencia we enjoy: Silk Exchange of Valencia (Valencia) and Palmeral of Elche, (Alicante). UNESCO declared Mystery Play of Elx (a liturgical drama dating from the Middle Ages) one of Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity and Valencia's Festival "Fallas"

Welcome: Students are supposed to go the first day of the course at 9:00 am to:

Colegio Internacional Alicante
C/ Pintor Aparicio 18C, 1º
03003 Alicante

If you haven't done our on line test, you are given a written test on arrival and placed in a class according to your knowledge of the Spanish language. After a welcome speech we will invite you to star your lessons and from now ... to speak in Spanish...

¡HASTA PRONTO!



Join us:

You can make a virtual visit to our

<http://goo.gl/NLSxLk>

get to know us through our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SpanishinAlicante>

inquire in Pinterest

<http://www.pinterest.com/spanishalicante/>

Flickr

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/spanishschoolalicante>

or You Tube

https://www.youtube.com/user/alicanteschool?ob=0&feature=results_main

follow us on Twitter

https://twitter.com/in_Spanish

or find us on

https://es.foursquare.com/in_spanish

You can also join our Facebook group and ask our students what they think about us:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5124742217/>

Or read the comments they have written

<http://spanishschoolalicante.blogspot.com.es/p/students-feedback.html>

<http://spanishschoolalicante.blogspot.com.es/>



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School**

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