

LEARNING SPANISH IN A CORUÑA



Ayuntamiento de A Coruña
Concello da Coruña





ABOUT A CORUÑA

Situated in the north-west of Spain, in the Autonomous Region of Galicia, A Coruña is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city of over 300,000 people. Known as “the city where no one is a foreigner,” A Coruña is friendly, clean and safe. A Coruña is well-known for being a welcoming city. In A Coruña, anybody can enjoy open-air leisure pursuits and its various cultural and leisure facilities. A Coruña is home to many cultural attractions, a variety of restaurants, beautiful parks and pathways with some of the most picturesque natural areas in Galicia. The climate is warm and humid throughout the year, with average temperatures between 50 and 70 degrees.

You can obtain more information in English about our city in the following link:

<http://www.turismocoruna.com/web/>





ABOUT THE CORUÑA BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Coruña Board of Education (CBE) is the largest public school district in Galicia. The CBE follows the Galician Government's Program of Studies and international students have a coordinator working with them to provide a customized timetable based on the students' goals, needs and interests. International students are encouraged to get involved in extracurricular activities as a way of improving their proficiency by interacting with Galician students.



OUR TEACHERS

CBE teachers are required to pass a rigorous public recruitment (oposiciones) and have, at least, one degree. Many of them have Masters degrees, Ph.D.s, or specialized diplomas in teaching and learning, demonstrating their commitment to teaching.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS

Our safe and caring schools welcome international students in 10th and 11th grades. Selection is based on students' needs and convenience to home. Our high schools ensure a positive international experience by having an international Student and Homestay Coordinator who:

- Provides a comprehensive academic and social orientation upon arrival
- Encourages international students to become involved in school activities
- Provides opportunities to meet Spanish friends



Our bilingual High Schools are located in the center of the city and provide a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and become critical and reflective thinkers. They offer a 32 hours weekly schedule made up of different subjects from the 7th to the 12th grades. As a rule, they have between 60 and 80 teachers on staff.





COURSES OFFERED

4° ESO - 10TH grade

REQUIRED

- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Spanish Language
- English or French
- Physical Education

ELECTIVE

- Native Language
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Computer Programming
- Music
- Latin
- Technology
- Second Foreign Language
- Visual Arts...

1° BACH. - 11TH grade

REQUIRED

- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Spanish Language
- English or French

ELECTIVE

- Native Language
- Biology and Geology
- Physics and Chemistry
- Maths
- World History
- Latin
- Greek
- Economy
- Second Foreign Language
- Technology
- Visual Arts...

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| • Badminton | • Rowing |
| • Basketball | • Rugby |
| • Cycling | • Running |
| • Chess | • Sailing |
| • Dancing | • Skating |
| • Fencing | • Soccer |
| • Golf | • Surfing |
| • Gymnastics | • Swimming |
| • Handball | • Tennis... |





ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

We know the students of Bilingual Schools are special. They have open minds to other people, cultures and new experiences. But we also know that even after years of practicing a foreign language, the only way to master it is to undergo a total immersion for long periods of time in the native country. After the American students' stay among us we can expect the achievement of different goals depending on the length of their stay. Our main task is offering professional, methodologically sound language instruction, as well as promoting the direct personal contact of each individual to the Spanish culture.

In addition to numerous leisure activities, our Language Exchange invites all the students to also get to know Spain outside the classroom. Social behaviour patterns and mannerisms, colloquialisms and "street slang" are experienced first-hand. We want to provide American students an opportunity to broaden and increase their knowledge of Spanish Language and Culture through interaction with native speakers such as friends, families and teachers. The American student will also have the opportunity to use this experience upon their return to the United States, thus helping to develop cultural understanding between the citizens of Hispanic cultures and the United States.

The following four programs are offered in A Coruña through the exchange between American and Spanish students. This means that the Spanish family will host an American student and the American family will host the Spanish student in return.



FULL ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM

- The program begins at the end of June 2012 and ends at the end of June 2013.
- Intended for students in 9th and 10th grades in the year 2011 / 2012.
- During July and August, students will have an intensive and free course of 20 hours per week (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.). In the afternoons they will spend their time enjoying different organized leisure activities with other Spanish friends and with the host family.
- From September on, students will participate in the academic calendar and be subject to the regional education norms with the rest of Spanish students, in the High School selected for him by the Town Council. They will be able to follow a course equivalent to the 10th or 11th year whose subjects will be chosen according to their demands and needs.
- At the end of the year they will be expected to be able to:
 - Understand extended speeches, TV programmes and films without too much effort.
 - Understand long literary texts, specialized articles and longer technical instructions.
 - Express themselves fluently and spontaneously, effectively for social and professional purposes and formulate ideas and opinions with precision.
 - Express themselves in clear, well-structured prose, develop coherent arguments, and draw appropriate conclusions.
 - At the end of the year they will be certified by the Instituto Cervantes according to the level of proficiency achieved in Spanish.
 - They will be able to choose the extracurricular activities according to their likes and preferences.





SIX-MONTH PROGRAM

- The program begins in mid- June 2012 and ends in mid- December 2012.
- Intended for students in 9th and 10th grades in the year 2011/2012.
- During July and August, students will have an intensive and free course of 20 hours per week (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.). In the afternoons they will spend their time enjoying different organized leisure activities with other Spanish friends and with the host family.
- From September till mid-December, they will participate in the academic calendar and be subject to regional education norms with the rest of Spanish students, in the High School selected for him by the Town Council. They will be able to complete the first term of a course whose subjects will be chosen according to their demands and necessities.
- At the end of this period, the American student will be expected to be able to:
 - Understand speeches and lectures provided the topic is familiar for him. He will be able to understand the major points of many radio or TV programs and the majority of films in standard dialect.
 - Understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday language and the descriptions of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.
 - Interact fluently and spontaneously with Spanish speakers, taking part in discussions in familiar contexts and sustaining personal points of view.
 - Connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences, dreams, hopes and ambitions, being able to give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
 - Write simple, coherent texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest, describing experiences and impressions.
 - At the end of this period of time they will be certified by the Instituto Cervantes according to the level of proficiency achieved in Spanish.
 - They will be able to choose the extracurricular activities according to their likes and preferences.



TWO-MONTH PROGRAM

- The program begins in mid-June 2012 and ends in mid-August 2012.
- Intended for students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades in the year 2011/2012.
- During this period of time they will have a free intensive course of 20 hours per week (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). In the afternoons they will spend their time enjoying different organized leisure activities with other Spanish friends and with the host family.
- At the end of this period of time they will be accredited by the Instituto Cervantes according to the level achieved in Spanish.



SHORT-TERM (2-3 WEEKS) STUDENT EXCHANGE

- Students may also arrange exchange trips to A Coruña throughout the year. On these short exchange trips, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves into Spanish High Schools.
- Intended for students in 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grades in the year 2011/2012.

ABOUT HOMESTAY FAMILIES

Living with a Spanish family is an excellent way to learn about Spanish culture and improve the domain of this language. A Coruña is well known for its warm, friendly and safe host families which are carefully selected. They welcome international students into their homes and are eager to show and share their Spanish lifestyle.

The process for recruiting host families into our homestay program is a rigorous one. The Student and Homestay coordinator ensures that all the families:

- have been thoroughly interviewed to determine suitability,
- have their home inspected,
- have successfully passed a police record check,
- can provide a private bedroom with study area,
- are willing and enthusiastic about receiving international students,
- include their international student in all family activities.
- are willing to respect the American families and student's culture.

ABOUT STUDENT AND HOMESTAY COORDINATOR

The Town Council has a Student and Homestay Coordinator who professionally manages all aspects of the High School and homestay program. This ensures a safe and happy experience for all students.

This Coordinator is responsible, among other duties, for finding high quality host families, matching American students to compatible Coruña families, arranging custodianship and providing continuous monitoring and support.

American students and their parents have access to this Coordinator 24 hours a day in the event of a problem or emergency.

FINANCES

Students must pay for their...

- ...travel costs
- ...medical insurance
- ...course books and materials
- ...spending money in A Coruña





MORE INFORMATION

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