



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao
2013-2014
Program Guide

Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao
www.deusto.es

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Students should know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.deia.com/>, <http://www.elcorreodigital.com/vizcaya/>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home:
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions students may want to visit the following website: www.hthstudents.com
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the experience abroad.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study-abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

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Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.
- Passport/Visa information:
Students will need to obtain the following travel documents in order to study in Spain:
A passport (valid at least six months beyond the estimated return date)
A student visa (students should visit the Consulate of Spain's website for information regarding student visa requirements and procedures.) Their website is:
<http://www.maec.es/subwebs/Consulados/Boston/es/home/Paginas/Home.aspx>
- Students will receive visa workshop and pre-departure orientation information via e-mail. All workshops and orientations are mandatory.

Academics

Program dates and Academic Calendar

Fall 2013	Spring 2014
August 25th : Arrival date	January 26th : Arrival date
August 26th : Placement test for Intensive course	January 27th : Placement test for Intensive course
August 27th -September 5th : Intensive Spanish course	January 28th – February 7th : Intensive Spanish course
September 5th : Placement exam for regular Spanish course	February 10th : Placement exam for regular Spanish course
September 9th : Beginning of academic semester	February 12th : Regular courses begin
December 19th : Early departure date/ Beginning of winter break * Students are allowed to arrange an early departure. Any BC student wishing to take early exams must speak with and get approval from their professors to take any exams before their scheduled exam date.	TBD : Easter Holiday
	May 29th : Regular courses end
January 17th : Last day of regularly scheduled final exams	June 12th : Last day of final exams
January 18th : Late departure date	June 13th : Departure date

***For Fall 2014, Fall 2013 dates are posted for approximate reference. Students should not purchase airline tickets until dates are posted.**

- Activities:
Deusto participants can take part in many local activities and excursions. Information will be available closer to departure date.
- For course selection information, please refer to OIP Program Description Course Catalog.
- Course approval information will be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>
- As a BC student, you are required to take a full load of courses at your host institution abroad. BC program participants can refer to the [course load requirement table](#).

- If you have a learning disability, you should discuss with your ISA whether your host university is able to make appropriate accommodations; if so, bring documentation from your doctor or the BC Disabilities Office to support any request for accommodations at your host university.

Housing

- Based on the preference students indicated in the Deusto housing form, they will either live with a local family, in a shared apartment with international students, or in a dorm. Students will receive an email at least one month before they arrive in Bilbao to provide the exact information of their housing arrangement (i.e. a brief description as well as the student's address and phone number). Students will be responsible for paying their host family or landlord in Bilbao. If students choose to live in an apartment, they will be responsible for purchasing and preparing their food. If students choose to live with a host family, their family will provide 1, 2, or 3 meals per day. If the student chooses to live in a residence hall, three meals a day will be provided. Please direct any housing inquiries to the Universidad Deusto.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- No transportation pass provided in the program.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by OIP's blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>. You are encouraged to consult HTH on-line services for health and safety information about all world destinations, travel illnesses, and as a resource for international medical providers.
- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
 - http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
 - <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
 - <http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be aware that the manner in which medical help is obtained, the way patients are treated, the conditions of medical facilities, and how health care is afforded may be quite different from U.S. practices. U.S. health care values, assumptions, and methods are not universally practiced; even notions regarding the onset of an illness or the timing of expert attention may be considered culturally based.
- Refer to your Study Abroad Handbook for further information about health and safety issues including women, LGBT, disabled people and others.
- In the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a natural disaster, you should first text your onsite coordinator; follow the emergency procedures discussed in the onsite

orientation; and call or text your parents to let them know where you are and that you are safe.

- The emergency number in Spain is 112.
- Students are required to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>

BC emergency contact information:

OIP (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

BCPD (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)

- Alcohol and Drugs

In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country. If students choose to drink alcohol abroad, they should always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country's laws by visiting:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:
<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- Banking information: Students are encouraged to use ATM machines. Please contact on-site coordinator.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

Returning to BC

- Students should complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Students may mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting oipexchange@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock.

References

- Suggested readings:
The New Spaniards by John Hooper
Spain is Different by Helen Wattlely-Ames
Lonely Planet Spain or *Let's Go! Spain* travel guidebooks
APUNE (Asociación de Programas Universitarios Norteamericanos en España): <http://www.apune.org/>
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>