



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

BC in Madrid: Carlos III
2011-2012
Program Guide

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

www.uc3m.es

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students prepare themselves by learning about the student's host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with: www.economist.com/countries or <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.newspapers24.com/world-cities/madrid-newspapers/>
- 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 students leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <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 websites: www.hthstudents.com
- Students and 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 further prepare for their study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

- Isabel Carrasco, the Boston College On-Site Coordinator, is available in case of an emergency on a 24-hour-basis. Students should make a note of Isabel's contact information before they go abroad, and we encourage students to share this information with their family.

Isabel Carrasco, BC in Madrid On-Site Coordinator

Office phone: 34 91 544 89 77*

24 Hour Mobile phone: 34 655 150 308*

Fax: 34 91 544 89 77*

Email: isabelakis@yahoo.es

*When dialing from the U.S., students must dial 011 first (and remember there is a 6-hour time difference).

- University Address:
C/ Madrid, 126-28903 Getafe (Madrid), Spain
Telephone: 34 91 624 9500

- Housing Coordinator
Paloma Landecho
palandechobc@gmail.com
Cell phone: 34 692 116 473
*When dialing from the U.S., students must dial 011 first (and there is a 6-hour time difference).

Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. BC in Madrid Carlos III students will be met at the airport and picked up on the *official arrival day*, provided they supply the necessary travel information one month prior to departure to the on-site coordinator, Isabel Carrasco.
- 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. Drop-in hours for visas are Fridays from 2-5pm.

Academics Program dates and Academic Calendar *Spring 2012 students should not purchase airline tickets until the pre-departure orientation.

Fall 2011	Spring 2012
August 28th : Arrival date (leave on August 27 th)	January 15th : Arrival date (leave on January 14 th)
August 31st : BC in Madrid orientation	January 18th : Orientation for CIII
September 1st-2nd : Orientation	January 23th : All classes begin
September 5th : All classes begin	April 2nd-9th : Easter holidays
October 12th : Holiday	April 20th : <i>CEH</i> classes end
October 31st-November 1st : Holidays	April 16th - 27th : <i>CEH</i> final examinations
November 25th : <i>CEH</i> classes end December 2nd : <i>CEH</i> examinations end December 3rd : <i>CEH</i> departure date	April 28th : <i>CEH</i> departure date
December 6th and 8th-9th : Holiday	May 8th : <i>Grados</i> classes end
December 16th : <i>Grados</i> classes end December 17st : <i>Grados</i> departure date *Any BC students wishing to take early exams must speak with and get approval from their professors to take any exams in December before their exam date. Arrangements can sometimes be made to take an exam by fax at BC on the scheduled day of exam in Madrid.	May 16th-29th : <i>Grados</i> final examinations
	June 1st : <i>Grados</i> departure date

***Fall 2011 dates are posted for approximation. Fall 2012 students should not purchase airline tickets until dates are posted.**

- BC-sponsored activities:
 - Welcome dinner
 - Tapas with Spanish students
 - Segovia, one-day trip
 - Madrid bus tour
 - Toledo, one-day trip
 - Salamanca, one-day trip
 - La Caixa Museum
 - Cooking lessons
 - Thyssen Museum
 - El Escorial, one-day trip
 - Prado Museum
 - Play - Golden Age literature
 - Bullfight
 - Flamenco Show
- 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>

Housing

- Home stay and residence halls are the housing options available to students attending Carlos III. Students are required to fill out housing forms included in the BC application package. BC in Madrid is responsible for housing assignments for Carlos III students.
- Students will be billed by BC for housing. Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012_estimated_student_budget_w_housing_June_2011.pdf
- Meals:
 - Home-stay: All meals included.
 - Residence halls: Most meals included, except weekends in some residences. These may be closed Easter and Christmas breaks
- Local Transportation: Transportation pass included in program for the first four months.
- Cell phones are supplied at orientation. Costs are separate from 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>
- 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/>

- 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, so 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/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012_estimated_student_budget_w_housing_June_2011.pdf
- 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 oiexchange@bc.edu
- Students may volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Elizabeth Goizueta at e-mail address Goizueta@bc.edu.
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home:
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>
http://studyabroad.com/pages/sitecontent/student_guide_five.aspx

References

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