



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**BC in Granada at GRIIS**  
**2009-2010**  
**Program Guide**

Granada Institute of International Studies  
[www.griis.es](http://www.griis.es)

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### **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: [www.economist.com/countries](http://www.economist.com/countries) or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.theolivepress.es/>, <http://www.ideal.es/granada/#>
- 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.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 website: [www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com)
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website ([www.bc.edu/international](http://www.bc.edu/international)) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- 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**

- Amalia Pulgarín, BC in Granada, On-Site Coordinator and Director of GRIIS  
Office phone: \*34-958520162.  
24 Hour Mobile phone: \*34-651490379  
Email: [apulgarin@griis.es](mailto:apulgarin@griis.es)  
Fax: +34 958 520162

The address of GRIIS  
Granada Institute of International Studies  
Acera del Darro, 12, 8-B  
18005 Granada, España

### **Travel Information**

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Students must contact Amalia Pulgarin with their travel information at least one month prior to arrival in Spain.
- Please consult OIP website for visa workshops.

- 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/en/MenuPpal/scBoston/visas/Paginas/Visas.aspx>

## Academics

- Academic Calendar:  
Fall 2009  
Arrival Date: Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> –Orientation sessions (early start students)  
Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Intensive Language Course begins (required for all students except native or near-native speakers.)  
Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: Arrival in Granada of students of the regular program  
Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>: Orientation sessions (regular program students)  
Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>: Courses begin at Universidad de Granada  
Departure Date: Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

### Spring 2010

- Arrival Date: Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>: Orientation sessions (early start students)  
Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>: Intensive Language Course begins (required for all students except native or near-native speakers.)  
Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>: Arrival in Granada of students of the regular program  
Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>: Orientation sessions (regular program students)  
Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>: Placement test at UGR  
Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Courses begin at Universidad de Granada  
Departure Date: Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>
- 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/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/transcripts.html>

## Housing

- Students will live with a local family in Granada. Families may be a married couple with children, a couple, or a single person. GRIIS will assign a family according to the student's preferences expressed in a "family questionnaire". Students may also ask student returnees. The program cost covers housing plus three meals a day. It will not be necessary to bring sheets, pillows, blankets, etc. with students since these will be provided by the host family. Students will be notified at least two weeks in advance to

their departure from Boston of their assigned families and its characteristics (family members, type of housing, etc), and will be given the mailing address and telephone numbers. The Office of International Programs encourages students to get in touch with their host families prior leaving Boston.

- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: [http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910\\_estimated\\_stude.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf)
- Transportation expenses are not covered by 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 our 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://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 sure 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, 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](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/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910\\_estimated\\_stude.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.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/financesawards/Scholarship\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/Scholarship_Opportunities.html)

## Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting [oiexchange@bc.edu](mailto:oiexchange@bc.edu)
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Elizabeth Goizueta at e-mail address [Goizuete@bc.edu](mailto:Goizuete@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://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

## 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.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>

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