



**BOSTON COLLEGE**

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

## **BC in Granada at GRIIS 2009-2010 Program Fact Sheet**

---

Congratulations on your acceptance to BC in Granada at GRIIS! Here are some guidelines to help you prepare for your semester or year abroad. Please contact the Office of International Programs at any time if you have questions.

### **I. PRE-DEPARTURE PLANNING:**

#### **Travel Requirements**

You will need to obtain the following travel documents in order to study in Spain:

A passport (valid at least six months beyond your estimated return date)

A student visa (you should visit the Consulate of Spain's website for information regarding student visa requirements and procedures.) Their website is: [www.maec.es/consulados/boston/es/home](http://www.maec.es/consulados/boston/es/home). You will receive 2 documents from the Office of International Programs that you will need to present to the consulate: 1) your acceptance letter to the GRIIS program and 2) a letter from your International Study Advisor addressed to the Consulate. Please note that the Consulate will require you to present additional documents, so we encourage you to begin this process as soon as possible as it may take a couple months to complete.

#### **What to bring**

By all means it is recommended that you pack light, and remember to leave more room in your luggage for necessities such as medical supplies, toiletries, electricity converter, and camera. If you already have a tri-band GSM phone, you can unlock it with your US service provider to use in Spain with a locally purchased SIM card. All personal hygiene products are locally available. If you bring clothes you won't mind leaving behind, you will have more room in your return baggage for souvenirs. Check airline luggage requirements and weight limits. Plan to have a larger back-pack or small luggage piece with wheels for short-distance traveling within Spain and Europe. Lower end hotels in Spain may not supply towels so you might need one when traveling. If you are under special medical treatment, bring the prescription medicines that you use clearly marked in the containers from your pharmacy. This will also ensure easy customs passage. Bring any medicines for allergies, or other mild ailments. Student returnees recommend bringing a laptop to Spain (be sure it's insured for loss/theft).

## Meeting other BC students on the program

One of the most helpful ways to prepare for your semester or year abroad is to speak with returnees from the program. Please visit the OIP Resource Room to view a list of BC student returnees from BC in Madrid. You may email or meet with them for advice on packing and other helpful travel tips.

## Suggested readings & Websites

- “ Spain is Different” by Helen Wattley-Ames
- “ Lonely Planet Spain” or “ Let’ s Go! Spain” travel guidebooks
- You will receive from GRIIS the “ Handbook for living and studying in Granada” . It is important that you read carefully this document since it contains many useful tips on your future life in Granada.
- Granada Institute of International Studies (GRIIS) <http://www.griis.es>
- APUNE (Asociación de Programas Universitarios Norteamericanos en España): <http://www.apune.org/>

## Insurance Services

- Please visit the HTH website: **Students need to register online at [www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com)**
- See <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html> before you go abroad to view health, safety, and practical information for Spain.

## II. ARRIVAL – WHAT TO EXPECT UPON ARRIVAL:

### Transfer from Airport

Make your own flight arrangements, and we request that you email Amalia Pulgarín ([apulgarin@griis.es](mailto:apulgarin@griis.es)) with your arrival information at least 2 weeks before going abroad. Students who arrive on the designated arrival date will be met at the airport by Amalia Pulgarín or a GRIIS assistant. GRIIS staff will take you directly to your host family, who will be waiting for you.

### On-Site Coordinator Information

Dr. Amalia Pulgarín, the Boston College Resident Director, is available in case of an emergency on a 24-hour-basis. Please make a note of her contact information before you go abroad, and we encourage you to share this information with your family.

Amalia Pulgarín, BC in Granada Resident Director

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

\*Remember when dialing from the U.S., you must dial 011 first (and there is a 6-hour time difference).

Teresa Checa, GRIIS Assistant  
24 Hour Mobile phone:34-692859825  
Email: [teresa.checa@griis.es](mailto:teresa.checa@griis.es)

### **Housing and Meals**

You 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 you a family according to your preferences expressed in a “ family questionnaire” that you will receive from GRIIS. You 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 you since these will be provided by your family. You will be notified at least two weeks in advance to your departure from Boston of your assigned family and its characteristics (family members, type of housing, etc), and will be given the mailing address and telephone numbers. We encourage you to get in touch with your host family prior leaving Boston.

### **Local Transportation**

Everything is relatively close and can be reached on foot within fifteen minutes.

### **Practical Information**

Finances: As a participant in the Boston College program you will pay regular Boston College tuition, while spending a semester studying and receiving services at BC’ s partner institution, GRIIS.

You should budget \$500-600 per month for on-site expenses (books, supplies, personal expenses, additional meals, and limited travel). Keep in mind the euro/dollar ratio when considering how much money to take abroad. We recommend using a debit card (and a credit card if you have one), as there are plenty of ATM machines around Granada and Europe. The only cash you should carry with you is a limited amount of euros (about \$200 worth) to cover expenses during the first days of your program. Once in Granada, the Resident Director will help you open a bank account if you wish.

### **Program Orientation**

All students who are not native Spanish speakers or fully bilingual in Spanish/English must participate in the early-start program. If you are a native/bilingual speaker and choose not to participate in the intensive language course, please notify your International Study Advisor, Elizabeth Goizueta ([goizueta@bc.edu](mailto:goizueta@bc.edu)). Students not participating in the intensive language program may not arrive to Granada early. During the first two days of the program students will have orientation sessions to get acquainted with the city and life in Granada as well as all aspects related to the University of Granada and its facilities.

By the time of your arrival in Granada, GRIIS will register you in all courses previously chosen by you and approved by your advisor. This requires that you need to contact Dr. Pulgarín upon your acceptance to discuss with her the courses you need to take.

### III. ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION:

#### Academic Calendar

##### Spring 2009

**Arrival day:** Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

**Remember: if you leave the US on the 6<sup>th</sup>, you will arrive on the 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>-Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>: Orientation sessions (early start students)

Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>-Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Intensive Language Course begins (required for all students except native or near-native speakers)

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>: Arrival in Granada of students of the regular program

Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>: Orientation sessions (regular program students)

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>: Introductory special course

Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>: Courses begin at Universidad de Granada

**Departure day:** Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

##### Fall 2009

**Arrival day:** 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 day:** Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Course selection

Course information is available on the GRIIS Website:

[http://www.griis.es/academic\\_programs.htm](http://www.griis.es/academic_programs.htm)

The BC in Granada Resident Director will assist you in selecting courses prior your arrival in Granada.

See the OIP web site for guidelines on courses approval:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html>

You are responsible for following all BC academic regulations while abroad. See the OIP web site for further information on study abroad academic policies

(<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics.html> - see the left hand menu items).

#### Cultural Activities

The city of Granada is known as a university city, due in large part to the student population at UGR. The city itself also offers many activities that prove noteworthy for students coming from abroad. GRIIS students will have a rich program of extracurricular activities, including day-trips to nearby places such as

The Alpujarras Mountains and Nerja Coast or monument cities such as Córdoba and Seville. A two-day visit to Madrid is also scheduled. Visits to exhibits, lectures, or movies are frequent. Sport activities are also organized by the program.

#### **Reminder of BC policy**

All Boston College academic regulations need to be observed. Please refer to the OIP website ([www.bc.edu/international](http://www.bc.edu/international)) or your Class Dean.

#### **IV. TRANSITIONING BACK TO BC:**

We encourage you to think about your return to BC in the final stages of your study abroad experience. Senior year holds many opportunities for returning study abroad students, including the Global Proficiency Program, the Junior Scholars Program, internships, senior theses, and much more. Please also keep in mind that it is common for students to experience some difficulties in transitioning back to Boston College and the United States.

We are happy to help you in any way we can to make this a great experience! Please let us know if you have any questions before, during or after you are abroad. We encourage you to keep an open mind, embrace challenges, and have fun!