

Application Package

As you have booked a language immersion program you probably will have lots of questions and, happily, we have lots of answers! We recommend that you go through our web site for basic information but, most importantly, we encourage you give us a call at +34 956 87 19 26

If this is your first time travelling without your family, one of the most important considerations is determining whether or not you are ready for that experience.

How do you know if you are ready? From our years of experience working with parents and teens we've compiled a list of questions that you should carefully consider:

1. **Are you mature enough?** You need to be able to handle new and unexpected situations in a safe and effective manner *without parental assistance*
2. **Do you have a positive attitude?** No matter how much you have travelled, each experience is unique and you need to be able to maintain a positive attitude, even when things get uncomfortable.
3. **Do you possess the necessary social skills?** Not all students attending immersion programs need to be extremely outgoing or extroverted but it is important that you have the confidence and social skills to approach other students you don't know and make friends
4. **Who wants you to attend this program?** It is absolutely essential that *you* want to attend an overseas immersion program. Your mom or dad may have fond memories of an exchange experience or immersion program they attended when they were a teen or they may heard or read about the many benefits of an immersion program, but your experience will be unique and it is crucial that you want to have this experience as much if not more than your parents want you to.
5. **Do you have the ability to advocate for your special needs?** It is absolutely essential to communicate to us any special needs, physical or learning-based, prior to offer you the appropriate program options.

HOMESTAY

What will my host family be like? Host families come in all shapes and sizes so there is no one description that will apply to all. While there are some "conventional" family models with a mom, dad and children, many host families are single adults (females only), older couples or single parents (mothers only). While the family make-up may vary, what they all have in common is their desire to open their home to you and share their local culture.

What will my room be like? Decor and room amenities vary from home to home from elaborate to very basic. You can expect your room to be clean and comfortable and to have one single bed per person, a dresser and/or wardrobe, a desk and a chair. Many home stay programs are shared rooms so you will have another student from the program as a roommate. In most cases you will be sharing the washroom(s)/toilet(s) and the rest of the common areas (living room, kitchen and dining room) with the family.

What meals will I eat with my hosts?

You will have breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday with your host family. Breakfast is usually toast or bread and cereal with juice, coffee and tea. Dinner is a full meal that will often reflect the local cuisine and cooking customs. Lunch can be a bagged lunch (sandwich and fruit). This depends on the program and what meal option you choose. Specific details about meals can be found on the overview page for each program.

How will I get to and from school and afternoon/evening activities?

Most home stay accommodation is between 5 and 20 minutes from school (always on foot). On your first day, your hosts will make sure you know how to get to and from school. We always recommend to our students to travel with both the school emergency number and the home number of your hosts. This is nothing to panic about but it is something you should be prepared for.

Program Rules

Each of our programs has a clear set of rules and expectations. These rules are appropriate for the age range and supervision level of the program and are essential to the overall success of your experience.

Failure to respect the program rules could result in being expelled from the program. In this case, your parents must arrange for your immediate return home, at their expense, and with no refund. Thankfully, this rarely happens and if you understand the importance of making good choices while away from home, it likely won't happen to you.

In most cases, if you break a rule, you will be given a warning by the program director. This, of course, depends on the rule in question; a serious infraction (drug use, alcohol abuse or inappropriate behaviour towards another student) will result in immediate expulsion, whereas missing curfew or skipping a mandatory activity will usually result in a warning. Minor infractions are generally not reported to us but major or repeated infractions will definitely be reported to us by the program director and we will, in turn, inform your parents.

An important note about drinking alcohol: In Spain the drinking age for wine and beer is 16. However, *all* of our regular teen programs strictly forbid the purchase and/or consumption of alcohol for students regardless of age. Even if you enjoy alcohol under parental supervision at home, you are not permitted to purchase and/or consume it will under the care of program staff. This will be strictly enforced.

Get ready to pack

You shouldn't need to buy too many specialty items but we do recommend that you purchase a good two-way dictionary (two-way means that you can look up a word in your language as well as in the target language).

We also suggest that you take a camera, iPod or MP3 player. But remember, *you* are responsible for keeping your valuables safe at all times so only bring what you know you can keep track of.

Approximately 6 weeks prior to your program start date, we'll be sending out a comprehensive pre-departure package that will include a packing list specific to your program.

PACKING LIST

Bathroom Accessories (A lot of these things can be bought there so its not necessary to stock up and haul things with you.)

- Bathrobe
- Cologne/Perfume
- Comb/Brush
- Deodorant
- Hair dryer
- Insect Repellent
- Laundry Soap/Bleach
- Personal Medicines
- Shampoo / Conditioner
- Shower Bag - For carrying all your toiletries
- between room and shower.
- Shower Shoes/Flip flops
- Soap
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Toiletries/Cosmetics
- Towels

Bedroom Accessories

Host family will provide everything the student needs

- Clothing
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- Summer: light clothes, thin cardigan, bathing suit and towel...
- (Normally the weather in Summer is for short sleeves. Don't forget to bring sun cream depending how delicate your skin is)
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- Desk Accessories

- Erasers
- Notebook
- Paper
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Pens

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- Entertainment (Don't bring too much of this, you are here to study. But, you do need to relax.)

- Books
- Games (Card games are better than board games because they take up less space.)
- Stereo, cds, cassettes

- First aid kit (Aspirin, Band-Aids, ace bandage, cold medicine, etc...)