

Frequently Asked Questions on Internships with IES Barcelona

Below you will find answers to questions commonly asked by students wishing to apply for an internship while studying in Barcelona with the IES Study Abroad Program. For further questions and to request an application, please contact your IES representative or visit the IES homepage www.iesabroad.org.

What are the advantages of an internship in Barcelona?

Participating in an internship with IES Barcelona, you will gain:

- The opportunity to explore a career field and obtain relevant work experience
- The opportunity to have valuable insights into Spanish working culture
- The ability to study the impact of culture on organizations
- The ability to do research that could not be done at home
- The opportunity to improve your language skills
- The work experience and references helpful for entering graduate school or getting a long-term job after graduation
- The opportunity to establish valuable contacts for the future

While taking an internship abroad certainly poses a number of personal and professional challenges, learning from these experiences can have a significant impact on your personal growth by developing your intercultural, cognitive and interpersonal skills. Having to solve problems in unfamiliar situations can also enhance your self-confidence, your awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Why would a Spanish organization want to take an American intern?

Many Spanish employers are eager to hire American students to add an international flair to their workplaces. They also know that American students tend to have good computer and office skills. Many employers find it appealing to get help with their English-language correspondence from a native speaker. The organizations that have worked with us in the past recognize the enthusiasm and purposefulness of students who participate in internships to expand their learning horizons.

What recognition does a student receive for completing an internship?

IES Barcelona awards credit for an internship and a grade will appear on the student's IES transcript. Internships typically earn 3 credits. To receive credit, the following criteria must be met:

- 1-. The internship involves a minimum of 110 hours of work.
- 2-. Students will devise learning goals for their internship to be discussed with the on-site supervisor and the IES Internship coordinator.
- 3-. The on-site supervisor writes an evaluation of the student's performance.
- 4-. Students complete final evaluations of their internship experience.
- 5-. Students participate in the internship seminar.
- 6-. Students will analyze cultural issues in their journal and write a substantial academic paper or project, which must be approved in advance by the IES Internship

Seminar professor. All papers will be presented at a final group meeting. The IES course instructor is responsible for assigning the final grade.

Required work and form of assessment:

- Participation in class 20%
- Journal 20%
- Written assignments 10%
- Final paper 30%
- Workplace supervisor 20%

Please note: Some Universities grant credit for internships, some do not. Please check with your home university study abroad and academic advisors.

I am just interested in getting some work experience. Can I do an internship without participating in the seminar?

No, all internship students are required to attend the seminars and complete all assignments to earn 3 credits.

The seminars is an integral component of the internship and are designed for each type of internship respectively:

IN395: Project-based Internship Seminar.

SL395: Service learning Seminar.

ED395: Language teaching Seminar.

Both the seminar and your Internship coordinator's coaching are designed as an ongoing monitoring device for you and for IES Barcelona.

When and how long do I work in an internship placement?

IES Barcelona Internships run during the Fall or the Spring semesters and involve a minimum of 2 daily working hours, from Monday to Thursday. Summer Intensive Internships run from May to July, and involve a minimum of 4 hours of daily work.

How much do internships usually pay?

All IES internships are non-remunerated positions.

How many students usually participate in the IES internship program each semester?

Project-based internships, Service Learning and Language Teaching Internships may sum up a total of 60 interns in Spring.

Eligibility

Do I have to be an IES student to be eligible to apply for an internship?

Yes.

Am I eligible if I am not a U.S. citizen?

Yes, as long as you are enrolled in the IES program for at least one semester, you are eligible to apply for an internship.

Is there a language requirement?

Only applicants with Spanish language level Intermediate I, Intermediate II, Advanced and Honors are admitted. Your level of competence in Spanish will be taken into consideration for internship placements. Some positions will require a greater command of the Spanish language than others.

The Application Process

What do I need to apply for?

Students interested in an internship must submit:

1. Completed Internship Application
2. Resume

Internship applications can be downloaded from the IES Chicago homepage www.iesabroad.org. The IES Chicago office must receive all applications by the deadline stated on the application. Applications which are not completed with the appropriate signatures will not be considered.

What is the application process?

The internships are awarded on a competitive basis. The selection procedure is as follows:

1. An orientation session for all students interested in an internship in the first week after arrival.
2. An interview with the internship coordinator to discuss the options available and their relationship to the student's background, skills, interest and language skills.
3. Application for a position will be accompanied by the student's resume and the coordinator's recommendation.
4. Selection by the firm offering the internship position, based on a personal interview with the applicant.

Please note: Securing an internship is a competitive and serious undertaking. You must approach an internship in exactly the same manner you would approach paid employment.

Can I secure my own internship through contacts I have in Barcelona?

Yes. If you have a personal contact in Barcelona who might offer you a placement, please ask him/her to contact the IES Barcelona internship coordinator, to discuss the placement with the internship coordinator.

The Experience

What kinds of internships are available in Barcelona?

IES Barcelona offers three categories of internships, carried out in conjunction with their respective seminars:

- Project-based Internships: in Business, Health, Environment, Design and Art.
- Service Learning with NGOs, Foundations and public institutions, for homeless children, adolescents with disabilities, the mentally impaired and immigrant women.
- Language Teaching Internships with public elementary and high schools : language assistant position.

At the end of your internship you may request a letter of recommendation from your employer.