

# Salamanca2012



## Study Abroad Handbook

A useful guide to your  
summer study abroad experience



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

**OFFICE OF OVERSEAS STUDY**

*The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.  
If you find erroneous information, please contact [overseas@indiana.edu](mailto:overseas@indiana.edu).  
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## PROGRAM CONTACTS

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## PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a supplement to the *Getting Started* handbook.

While it contains specific program information, *Getting Started* contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad.

Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before calling the Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is also available on the Web: [www.indiana.edu/~overseas/docs/Handbooks/salamanca.pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/docs/Handbooks/salamanca.pdf)



## ICONS IN THIS GUIDE



### Helpful Program Information

Information to help prepare you for study abroad



### Student Advice

Suggestions from study abroad returnees



### Savvy Traveler Tips

Traveling tips to get you where you're going



# The Program in Salamanca

## Calendar 2012

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Jun 30 (Saturday).....	Arrival date
July 1 (Sunday) .....	Meet under the clock in the Plaza Mayor ..... Important information and documents will be given
July 2 (Monday) .....	Placement test for Cursos Internacionales (9 a.m.) ..... Opening ceremony for Summer Courses (12 p.m.) ..... Class assignments, student ID and textbooks (7 p.m.)
August 10 (Friday).....	Last day of classes
August 11 (Saturday) .....	Bus from Salamanca to Madrid for flights to U.S.

## Arrival

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Saturday, June 30, is the official arrival day in Salamanca and you must arrive on or before that day.

To travel independently from Madrid to Salamanca, you must go to the Auto Res bus station located at Calle de Fernández Shaw, 1 (nearest metro: Méndez Álvaro), or you may travel to Salamanca from the Chamartín train station in Madrid.

On Sunday morning, you will meet under the clock in the Plaza Mayor at 11:00 a.m.. The families will have a city and university map that they will give you upon arrival. If you feel that you cannot find your way to the Plaza Mayor, the family is responsible for seeing that you get there. The Resident Director, Ana Vicente, will distribute to you:

- Your HTH insurance card
- Your student registration form which contains your registration number. This registration form **MUST** be presented to take the placement exam.
- University of Salamanca ID. You will need the student ID to use any of the university facilities such as the computer rooms or the gym. On the back of the ID card is a quick summary with hours and phone numbers for all the medical facilities that you can use in Salamanca. You must present your University of Salamanca ID to use the medical facilities.
- An agenda with information about the time and location of the placement exam, information about where you will meet to get your levels assignment and textbooks and where your classes will meet.

## Returning Home

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If you are traveling independently, you will need to take the following steps:

**1)** Approximately two weeks before leaving Salamanca, make a reservation at a Madrid hotel for at least the night before you fly back to the U.S. Most international flights depart in the late morning and you should be at the airport at least two and one half hours before the plane leaves. You will probably feel more relaxed if you spend the night in Madrid rather than rushing with split-second timing from another city to Madrid on the morning of your flight.

Most students have accumulated so much luggage by the end of the summer that the easiest way to get to the airport is to share a taxi with other students. Taxi drivers are permitted to take up to four passengers, and luggage may be stored on the taxi's roof rack. There is a surcharge for the taxi to the airport plus each piece of luggage. The price of the taxi will vary on the current exchange rate of the dollar to Euro, but the average price for a taxi from downtown Madrid to the airport for 2010 was 35€. You must have cash, as taxi drivers do not accept credit cards.

**2)** At least three days before traveling, check by computer or call the airline to reconfirm your return flight. Toll free information is available at any phone by dialing 1003. They will ask for your flight number. A travel agent will reconfirm your flight for a fee, if you prefer. Note: If you do not reconfirm your flight, you may get bumped.

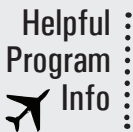
**3)** If you are returning from Salamanca to Madrid by bus, you can purchase your ticket and reserve a seat in advance on Auto-Res (the line that links Madrid and Salamanca) at the local bus station. An express bus (nonstop) departs for Madrid almost every hour. There are also buses that make several stops between Salamanca and Madrid. The fare is about \$5 lower, but the trip takes much more time. The one-way fare is approximately \$20. Salamanca also has renovated their train station and you can buy tickets in advance online. Trains arrive at the Chamartín train station in Madrid. The one-way fare is approximately \$20.

## Resident Director and Assistant Director

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The IU Resident Director, **Ana Vicent**, will be available on a regular basis to help you with any academic, housing, health, or adjustment problems that might arise. She will let you know how to reach her at all times and will come to your classroom building after class to chat with you and see how you are getting along. The Assistant Director will also be available to lend help and give you advice.

Let the Director know if you are having difficulties of any kind. In case of an emergency, please be in touch with her on the cell phone.



“Salamanca is, perhaps, the most perfect town in Spain. It has no particularly famous work of art. It is itself a work of art of every fruitful period—a town of mellow, golden stone standing by the riverside, among cork oaks; it has two cathedrals, storks’ nests on every pinnacle, exquisite little private places—a place to loiter in, discovering new graces at the turn of every street.” - **Evelyn Waugh**, *author and journalist*

# Salamanca

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Salamanca is an ideal program site. It is significantly cooler, quieter and cleaner than Madrid. The historic city center is a maze of narrow streets and squares with a score of monasteries, churches and palaces in warm golden sandstone with elaborately carved facades. There are many pedestrian walkways, and streets are blocked so that side-walk cafes can extend their tables.

The sun does not set until nearly 10 p.m., and during the long evening thousands of Salmantinos throng the Plaza Mayor, a huge 18th century square surrounded by an arcade. Cafes fill the square with tables that attract students, scholars, street artists, musicians and Salamanca's leading citizens. An occasional *estudiantina*, student singing group dressed in black 17th-century capes and knee pants, serenades with robust and sometimes ribald songs of love, patriotism, and student life to the accompaniment of mandolin, tambourine and guitar. They expect a small tip for their entertainment.

Although Salamanca's picturesque city center is small and compact, the city itself is an important, growing metropolis of 170,000 people. You are likely to live in a modern seven- to nine-story apartment building that is a 10 to 25 minute walk to the historic university buildings downtown. Salamanca is very much a university town with good bookstores, coffee shops and other facilities catering to students.

## University of Salamanca

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Founded in 1218, the University of Salamanca is the oldest university in Spain. In the 16th century it ranked with Paris, Oxford and Bologna as one of Europe's principal seats of learning. During the academic year the University has a student population of 18,000 students from all over the world. The University's buildings are spread throughout Salamanca. They are jewels of Renaissance and Gothic architecture with ornately carved facades in the elaborate Plateresque style. Try to find the tiny frog sitting on a skull that is carved on the university façade; he's supposed to bring you luck on exams.

The University of Salamanca is Spain's leading national institution in the teaching of Spanish to foreign students. Nearly a thousand students from virtually all over the world are attracted to the prestigious summer *Cursos Internacionales*, which over the course of three decades have developed a language instruction program of very high quality. Although you will not have Spanish students in your classes, you will find more than 500 of them in Salamanca taking classes in French and English. The first day of summer school in Salamanca looks much like any U.S. campus the last week in August: students in T-shirts and shorts are everywhere, checking maps, trying to figure out where their classroom buildings are, searching for the bookstore, lining up to drop and add classes.

# Academic Program

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The *Cursos Internacionales* prints a daily newspaper called *Marcapasos*. The orientation issue is a trilingual edition in English, Spanish, and French which explains all the things you need to know for your first day of the program: where the language placement test will be given, how to find placement test results, and how to pick up your textbooks (which are included in the program fee). Its map shows the Plaza de Anaya where placement exams are held. The main office of the *Cursos Internacionales* is located in the Patio de Escuelas Menores, just behind the statue of Fray Luis de León in front of the facade and main entrance into the university.

*Marcapasos* also explains how to sign up for weekend trips, film tickets, dance classes, and other optional activities. Read the paper every day. It tells you everything you need to know to take full advantage of *Cursos* activities. You may read previous editions at <http://corintio.usal.es>, the homepage for *Cursos Internacionales*.

On the morning of the placement exam, all IU students gather in the Plaza Anaya with the resident director. The short-answer written exam will take about 30 minutes and will be followed by a brief exit interview in Spanish. Exam results are distributed and classroom assignments are posted that evening. Textbooks are distributed and all students receive a folder with the university symbol.

When classes begin the next day, you will join other American students and students from other countries who want to perfect their Spanish language skills. Naturally there will be no Spanish students in your classes. In fact, since American students typically come to Salamanca for six weeks while students from other countries remain for four or eight weeks, most students in your language sections are likely to be from the U.S. You will be placed in one of three grammar levels—intermediate, advanced or superior—with no more than 15 students per class. If you feel that you should be in a lower or higher level you may consult with the onsite Academic Advisor who has an office in the same building where you take classes. Transferring to a different level requires the Advisor's signature and may be done only within the first three days of class. You will receive the books for the level you place into. If you change levels you must go to the main office at *Cursos* to get different textbooks. Do not write in your books until you are sure of your level. If you have written in the original textbooks given to you, you will have to pay for your new textbooks.

Classes are held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. with a ten minute break between classes. Two hours focus on grammar, one hour on culture, and another hour focuses on conversation. Most instructors are young, enthusiastic, friendly and ready to give you tips about what to do and see in Salamanca.

In recent years IU groups have been assigned to classes in the Facultad de Educación. It is a walled campus of three buildings on the big ring road above the newest bridge across the river, Paseo de Canalejas, which is about a 15-minute walk from the Plaza Mayor. Locations of your classes will be pointed out during our initial tour of campus.

Course grades depend heavily on the final examination. Not all instructors give midterm ex-



## STUDENT ADVICE

“Don't think it will be a vacation. It's fun, but be prepared to study. Don't expect life in Spain to be just like in the U.S. You have to make some adjustments.”

ams. Exams are given two days before the end of classes to allow professors time to correct exams and average grades. This does not mean, however, that the last two days do not count toward attendance. IU participants are required to take final exams.

Review Spanish grammar before you go, brush up on *vosotros* verb forms, and take along a familiar Spanish grammar textbook and small bilingual dictionary.

## Weekday Meetings

The resident director and/or the assistant director will meet with students Monday through Friday as they leave their last classes to assist them with any questions they might have. If students need to discuss something at greater length, a time can be arranged with the resident director or the assistant director.

## Travel Sign-Out Form

On the Thursday before each weekend students who will be traveling that weekend must sign out on a “Travel Sign-Out Form” so the Resident Director will know where you will be going. The purpose of this is for your safety, or in case of emergency. If you purchase a cell phone, please inform the R.D. of your number.

## Credits

You will receive 6 IU credits for successful participation in the program.

For administrative reasons, all IU participants will receive course equivalencies from the IU Bloomington course inventory. Students from other IU campuses should work with their home campus foreign language department to have the IUB courses count toward home campus requirements.

Students at the Intermediate level will receive credit or HISP-S 200 or HISP-S 250, depending upon specific level of previous coursework.

Students who place into *avanzado* or superior classes will receive three credits in *S280 Spanish Grammar in Context*. Students will earn three credits in *S317 Spanish Conversation and Diction* for the combined conversation and culture courses. If you have taken S280 already, you will be given six credits for S317, which is a repeatable course.

If you have already completed the courses above, you will receive six credits in *S496 Foreign Study in Spanish* which is considered elective credit at IUB and does not count as one of the advanced requirements for a major in Spanish at IU Bloomington.

IU does not award 300- or 400-level culture and civilization or literature credits because Salamanca classes focus primarily on language skills.

Students who place into a lower level than anticipated should speak to the Resident Director immediately. Upon consultation with the Cursos’ Academic Advisor, these students will go through an interview with the University of Salamanca Academic Advisor to make a recommendation about moving to a different course. Students who do not participate in the next level of language study will receive undistributed credit of HISP-OS 200. These undistributed hours count toward graduation but do not satisfy requirements for advanced courses.



### STUDENT ADVICE

Review basic vocabulary!  
Review the *vosotros* form  
because that is all you hear.

## Grades

Final Salamanca grades will be equated to IU grades according to the following scale.

<i>Sobresaliente</i>	A
<i>Notable</i>	B
<i>Aprobado</i>	C
<i>Suspense</i>	F

Grades that carry an “*alto*” or “*bajo*” are equated to plus or minus grades at IU. For example notable alto would be a B+. You will receive one grade for the grammar component, and the Resident Director will average your conversation and culture grades for the other grade.

All classes must be taken for a letter grade. They may not be taken on a pass/fail basis, nor does Indiana University permit withdrawals or incompletes for Salamanca course work. IU students are required to take final exams in all classes.

## Attendance

Class attendance forms an integral part of the credit you are earning, and regular class attendance is expected. Class participation (and therefore class attendance) makes up a portion of your final grade and **more than three absences will result in a lower grade**. In addition, the University of Salamanca will not award the final certificate for completion of classwork to any student who misses more than three classes during the six-week session. The University has generously allowed excused absences for students to participate in official excursions; **there is no possibility of permission for an excused absence for any other type of travel or unofficial excursions**. Certificates are not distributed until the last day of class, so any absences after the final exams could cause a failure.

## Non-Credit Options

The University offers optional non-credit courses in guitar, dance, song, cooking and film. You may register and pay for them in the main office of *Cursos*.

## Miscellaneous

During the summer, announcements of interest to all students will be posted on bulletin boards in the secretary’s office of the *Cursos Internacionales* and included in *Marcapasos*, which is distributed to the classrooms daily.

The University bookstore, located within the main university area, sells textbooks and has a good selection of popular and academic books. They will mail the books you purchase to the U.S. via boat with delivery in four to six weeks. Cost of mailing is based on the weight of the books. Several other bookstores in the university area sell notebooks, pens, etc.

IU students praise the value of *intercambios*, the chance to exchange an hour of Spanish with a native speaker for an hour of English. *Intercambios* offer both practice in speaking Spanish and a chance to meet new people. You can find a conversation partner through *Marcapasos* by leaving your name and phone number saying you would

like an *intercambios* partner. There is a *Marcapasos* mailbox inside the main office of the Cursos Internacionales where you may place your notice, as well as in the main office of the Facultad de Educación.

# Life in Salamanca

## Housing

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One of the greatest strengths of the Salamanca program is the chance to live in a Spanish home. You will have the opportunity to speak Spanish, share meals with your Spanish hosts, and to make contacts and friends through them. For many students the home stay is a highlight of their time in Spain.

Living with Spanish hosts, however, may mean a substantial change in your living habits as well as cultural differences to overcome. Be honest, considerate and communicative. Make an effort to get to know the individuals who have accepted you into their home. Find out whether there are household rules you are expected to follow, such as cleaning your room, being on time for meals, asking permission in advance to have visitors, etc. Let your landlady know your plans for the day so she won't have to delay meals or wait for you. Let the family know your weekend plans.

Be realistic in your expectations of your housing arrangements. Salamancans who let rooms to American boarders typically need the additional income. Many accept students almost as sons and daughters of the family, but not all students and their "families" achieve a close relationship; instead, their union remains basically a business arrangement. The landlady may worry about excessive use of hot water, toilet paper, or electricity, and you may feel that she serves insufficient food in order to minimize costs. Deal promptly and diplomatically with problems. If a polite and friendly discussion with the landlady does not improve the situation, discuss the problem immediately with your Resident Director.

Your IU overseas study fee includes a shared double room and three meals per day while you are in Salamanca. Your Resident Director will pay the landladies halfway through the program and one week prior to the end of class. Laundry service is included in your program fee.

You will know the name and address of your Salamancan landlady before you leave the U.S., but no description of the members of the household will be available. Please give your home phone number to your family before departure.

## Meals

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In Spain, breakfast is typically only coffee and bread or a sweet roll. The hearty midday meal is served between 2 and 3 p.m., with a lighter supper beginning at 9:30 or 10 p.m. To ward off hunger pangs in the intervals, follow the Spanish custom of enjoying a light snack about 11 a.m. and the merienda about 7 p.m. Most university buildings have a small canteen where you can buy drinks and snacks.

When you are ready to eat out, Salamanca offers several reasonably priced restaurants. There are inexpensive eating establishments in all areas of the city. The most expensive are the ones around the Plaza Mayor. In most restaurants the most economical meal is the Menú del día, a complete meal from entree to dessert for a fixed price.

## Medical Care

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Students with ID cards from Cursos Internacionales are entitled to free medical consultation at the following centers:

- **MEDICAL CONSULTATION**

### **CONSULTAS MÉDICAS**

Centro Médico Dr. Cuadrado

Calle Pozo Amarillo 31-33, 1º

Tf. 923 268 382 - 923 215 555

Consulta: de lunes a viernes, de 15 a 21 h.

Consultation: Monday -Friday, from 3 pm. to 9 pm.

### **Policlínica del Hospital de la Santísima Trinidad**

Calle Nueva de San Bernardo, 2

Tf.: 923 212700

Consultas de lunes a viernes, de 10 a 14 h. y de 16 a 20 h.

Consultation: Monday -Friday, from 10 am. to 2 pm.

- **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

### **URGENCIAS MÉDICAS**

Centro Médico Dr. Cuadrado

Tf. 615 859 959

- **SURGERY EMERGENCIES**

### **URGENCIAS QUIRÚRGICAS (24 horas)**

Hospital de la Santísima Trinidad

Paseo de Carmelitas (Avenida de Alemania), nº. 84

Tf. 923 269 300

Teléfono Atención 24 horas: 902 103 600

You must have your student ID card for all medical services. Dental care is not included, and you will have to pay for any medications recommended or prescribed. Most pharmacies close at 9:30 p.m., but there is always a pharmacy “de turno” open late night and weekends. The pharmacy “de turno” is usually posted on the main door of all pharmacies that are closed.

The insurance plan in which Overseas Study enrolls you provides coverage for accidents or illnesses and is valid worldwide (except in the U.S.) during the period of the program. The Cursos medical plan will only provide coverage in Spain.

## Money & Banking

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The European Union monetary unit is the Euro (€). The Euro functions similarly to the U.S. dollar in that it is subdivided into 100 cents. There are eight euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 Euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cents. Each Euro coin has a common European face and a face designed by each monetary member state. All coins can be used in every monetary member country. There are seven Euro notes which are differently sized and colored, and come in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5. The notes, unlike the coins, do not have national sides and are

completely uniform. For more information on the Euro see: <http://europa.eu.int/euro/entry.html>.



**STUDENT ADVICE**

Decide where you want to go and what you would like to see. Buy *Let's Go: Spain*. Know that you need to speak as much Spanish as possible.

You can change traveler's checks for currency at banks, post offices, airports, railway stations and small exchange booths. Banks are open from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday—just when you are in class, but you can also cash traveler's checks at a Casa de Cambio in the Plaza Mayor that is open until midnight. A much easier way to access money is by using a credit card or a debit card in ATM machines, which can be found on almost every corner. Visa and MasterCard (students have had mixed results with other cards) are accepted for purchases and services

**Do not plan to receive money from home by mail.** The mail service is not sufficiently reliable.

## Mail

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You will receive the address of your Spanish landlady before you leave the U.S., but it is safest to have correspondence sent to the University of Salamanca address on page 3. You may pick up your mail at classroom no. 4 next to the statue of Fray Luis de León, open until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Mail between Spain and the United States takes about one week. Ask your correspondents to stop sending you letters two weeks before the program ends, as the *Cursos Internacionales* makes no provisions for forwarding letters that arrive after you depart.

The main post office is located on Gran Vía, 25 and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. You may also purchase stamps at kiosks where cigarettes are sold. You can mail all correspondence in boxes marked *Buzón* with the post office icon on it.

## Telephones

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Telephone calls from your place of residence are not permitted in general, because local telephone charges are much higher in Europe than in the United States. Local phone calls are charged by the minute. Plan to use public telephones.

You can purchase Spanish telephone cards at the post office and at newspaper stands for both domestic and international calls. It is also very easy to rent or purchase cell phones that have pre-paid cards of varying amounts. They are national and work throughout Spain, and international. You can call the U.S. easily, and you may receive calls from anywhere. The caller pays for the call, so if family members call you from the U.S., your cell will not be charged.

You may also wish to obtain a calling card from your telephone company before leaving the United States. With the card you get reduced European rates, and you may use any public telephone to place calls. You can also make long distance calls by placing a credit card into a slot on the phone. The call will be billed directly to your credit card.

If you do not have a telephone card or a calling card, you can place international calls from several *locutorios* located throughout Salamanca (many take credit cards). Telefónica employees will give you a direct line to the United States and you may pay with Mastercard or VISA. You can also use any pay phone at no charge, dial 900-990-011, which connects you directly to AT&T, use your home phone card, and you will be billed the U.S. rates. Students can save a great deal of money by using the *locutorios* for international calls and restricting the use of cell phones for local calls and texting.

## E-Mail

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*Cursos Internacionales* provides e-mail accounts for summer students, but access is limited due to the fact that: 1) there are very few terminals; and 2) the computer room that houses them is open only a few hours each weekday—most of them while you are in class—and is likely to be closed evenings and weekends. The computer cluster in the San Boal building is open from 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. You may wait in line to use a university computer or pay a modest fee for e-mail and Internet access at several Internet sites that are located throughout Salamanca. Fees range from \$2 to \$4 per hour of use, depending on the quality and speed of the computers available.

## Wi-Fi on Campus

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The University of Salamanca now has a wireless network available on campus. Access can be facilitated, but must be requested in advance. IU will send a special e-mail request for those interested to provide passport numbers to be submitted along with application materials.

General information about the service is available on the Web:  
<http://lazarillo.usal.es/nportal/components/wifi/en/wifi.jsp>

## Local Transportation

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Salamanca is so compact that most places can be reached in a 20-minute walk. If you are placed further out and want to ride the bus, the host family will be able to inform you about buses and schedules. You can hail a taxi almost anywhere. Both buses and taxis are still inexpensive. Bus passes can be purchased at the main office next to the downtown market next to the Plaza Mayor.

## Social Life

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The University offers a diverse program of activities: welcome and farewell parties, sports and games, photography contests, movies, concerts, plays, etc. Furthermore, you may present your opinions and literary creations in Spanish, in *Marcapasos*.

Most places for dancing do not open until 1 a.m.

There are movie theaters in Salamanca and during the summer they run a “ciclo” of the latest and best movies by Spanish directors. You may purchase reduced fair movie tickets at the Cursos main office.

## **Plaza Mayor**

The Plaza Mayor is the heart of Salamanca. It is filled with cafes that offer a quick snack and a cup of coffee. Be aware, though, that sitting at a table in the Plaza Mayor doubles the price of a drink. There are no free refills of any drinks in Spain.

## **Sports**

Salamanca has four swimming pools that are accessible with the purchase of entrance cards. Three are located far from downtown. One is close to the Plaza de Toros, all are on bus lines. The orientation edition of *Marcapasos* offers information about discount pool passes and access to the university gym. Private gyms are also an option.

## **Salamanca Tours**

The University of Salamanca organizes free tours led by guides to the city’s principal historic and artistic landmarks. The tours are listed in the daily edition of *Marcapasos*.

## **Day Trips from Salamanca**

The University organizes optional tours on weekends in July and August to important cities of historical interest such as Segovia, La Granja, Madrid, El Escorial and Avila, Toledo, Sevilla and Granada, Andalucia, Barcelona, and Lisbon, Portugal, for prices ranging from 20 to 140 euros. *Marcapasos* publishes the date, price and sign-up deadline for each trip. These tours close out quickly, so plan to purchase the tickets as soon as you can. The longer trips to Andalucia, Barcelona and Lisbon are 3-day trips from Friday to Sunday. Students who go on these excursions are excused from Friday classes. You can also visit these places easily and inexpensively on your own by train or bus.

## **Pamplona**

The week-long fiesta of San Fermín with its famous running of the bulls (*encierro*) takes place in Pamplona for eight noisy, crowded days—the first week and a half in July. Prices, public intoxication, sexual harassment, and petty crime soar during this period and you are urged to act with extra caution if you join the *sanfermines*. Pamplona will be packed with tourists and hotel accommodations are almost impossible to find. We recommend that you go through a tourist agent who can guarantee a hotel room as part of a package. Since this occurs the first weekend that you are in Salamanca, you need to make your accommodations soon, or like most people you will find that you will be standing on a seven-hour train or bus trip to Pamplona.

## **Vacation Travel**

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The tourist offices in the Plaza Mayor and in the Casa de las Conchas offer free brochures on the various places to visit in Spain and in the province of Salamanca. Travel agents offer several inexpensive weekend packages which include travel and hotel. Students should not take their passports with them to travel within the country. A color

photocopy of the passport is sufficient. In case of lost passport you will need to contact the USA embassy in Madrid. (Serrano 75 28006 Madrid; Telephone 91587-2200; [www.embusa.es](http://www.embusa.es))

## **Buses**

Long distance buses are clean, comfortable, on time, air conditioned, inexpensive, and offer a variety of schedules. Tickets are sold by seat numbers so you are guaranteed a seat. Most long distance buses are equipped with a VCR and show a movie. They are not equipped with restrooms.

Salamanca bus station is at Filiberto Villalobos 33 (Telephone 923 23 67 17). Schedules and bus fares may be found online at [www.estacionautobusessalamanca.es](http://www.estacionautobusessalamanca.es).

## **Trains**

Traveling by train is one of the best ways to see Europe, and many economical rail passes are available. If you plan to travel primarily in Spain (a big country with lots to see), purchase individual tickets or a Spanish rail pass when you arrive in Spain. Eurail passes are valuable primarily for students who plan to do *extensive* travel in several European countries outside Spain, and these passes must be purchased in the United States. Talk to your travel agent about your plans and select the rail pass option that best suits your itinerary. Spain offers two types of trains: regular trains with first- and second-class seating, and the faster and more luxurious TALGO. The high-speed train AVE goes from Madrid to southern Spain in about three hours (half the time of the regular trains).

Train station, Paseo de la Estación; (Telephone 923 22 57 42)

RENFE office, Plaza de la Libertad 10; (Telephone 923 21 24 54)

Through [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) you can purchase tickets online but have to pick up the tickets at the main ticket booth at the train station. Both buses and trains take credit cards.

## **Rental Cars**

With a credit card it is possible to rent a car (all major rental companies have an office in Salamanca). Although somewhat expensive, it can be well worth it if three or four share costs. The largest expense is the gas, which costs up to four times as much in Europe as it does in the United States and is sold by the liter (about a quarter of a gallon). European compact cars, however, get good gas mileage.

Be aware that some car rental companies have a minimum age requirement (some 23 and some 25) to rent or drive their vehicles. Rental car companies in Salamanca are closed on Sunday. Weekday hours are 8:30 or 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 4 - 7 p.m.

## **Cultural Differences**

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Acceptable behavior in one culture can be a source of chagrin, amusement and learning in another. Many Europeans have the impression that Americans talk too loudly in public places, drink excessively, have lots of money to spend and are more interested in superficial values like clothing and makeup than in serious conversation or improv-

ing their minds. Try not to reinforce these stereotypes.

On the other hand, what Americans consider “pushy” behavior in traffic or while waiting in lines is more acceptable in Spain.

American women find that some males in Spain engage in behavior that would be labeled sexual harassment in this country. They follow women openly and persistently, make suggestive comments, and stare in a manner that is regarded as intrusive and vulgar in the United States.

Female behavior that is taken for granted in the United States—making eye contact while passing on the street, saying a friendly “hi” to a passerby, smiling at a stranger—are often interpreted as “come-ons.” You will have to change your normal responses to avoid harassment. Dress discretely. Stride firmly away from the unwanted attention and avoid eye contact. Be firm and direct in rebuffing any unwanted attention. Indicate clearly that you are not interested in the advances being made.

Living with a family means you may have to make some cultural adaptations. In general, Spanish señoras have a tendency to treat you in a similar fashion that they would treat their own children. This may include scolding you if you do not keep your room neat or if you do not eat everything on your plate. Though the volume of their speech may seem to indicate scolding, their intention is to treat you as one of their own.

## Packing

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**Travel light.** Don’t exceed one medium-sized suitcase or duffel (with shoulder strap) and a tote bag or small backpack. Experienced travelers rely on a small wardrobe of coordinated outfits. Take only what you alone can carry comfortably, and save room to take souvenirs and gifts back home.

Classroom dress in Salamanca is similar to that in the U.S. Jeans are fine for most occasions, and students wear slacks, skirts and shorts. However, Spaniards in general put a premium on being well-dressed, and Spanish students do not wear sweats, torn or ragged clothing or the grunge look. Try to avoid bringing clothes that need to be dry cleaned as it is very expensive in Spain.

Be prepared for temperatures of 85-95 degrees in Salamanca during the daytime, but also bring long-sleeved shirts and long pants for cooler evenings when the temperature may dip to 50 degrees. **Comfortable walking shoes are a must for Salamanca’s cobblestone streets!**

Electrical appliances are more trouble than they are worth. American electrical appliances cannot be used in Europe without voltage converters and adapter plugs, and even with converters they do not work well. It is cheaper to purchase a hair dryer (approximately \$20) in Spain than to purchase a converter and adapter.

Almost any product you need, such as toilet articles, hair dryers, etc., can be found at a store named Carrefour close to the bull ring in Salamanca. It is similar to a Wal-Mart and has

“Pack a week or two early, you’ll be surprised what you forgot if you put it off to the night or day before. I should have taken more pairs of comfortable shoes! Having a backpack for weekend travel is a good idea, too.”

**STUDENT ADVICE**

everything from food to clothes.

Take with you:

- Passport
- Two color photocopies of your passport
- Small bag or backpack for weekend trips
- Nice outfit
- Bathrobe and slippers
- Umbrella
- Sweater or light jacket
- Long sleeved shirts/ blouses
- Long pants
- Comfortable walking shoes appropriate for cobblestone streets
- Bathing suit, beach towel, sunscreen, flip flops
- Travel alarm clock
- First aid kit, bandaids, aspirin, Imodium, Q-tips, tissues
- Dental floss, chapstick
- Tylenol, Advil or other cold remedies
- Prescription drugs to last for the whole six weeks
- Extra contact lenses or glasses and typewritten copy of your prescription
- Contact lens cleaner
- Batteries (Expensive in Spain)
- Bath towel and washcloth
- Spanish-English dictionary, leisure reading in English
- Spanish grammar textbook
- MP3 player
- Pocket knife, cork-screw, spoon (must be in suitcase)
- Let's Go: Spain or other good travel guide

