

OHIO WESLEYAN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN SALAMANCA, SPAIN
ORIENTATION DOCUMENT FOR FALL, 2005

<http://go.owu.edu/~jjarriba/Salamanca/salamancaprogram.htm>

THE CITY OF SALAMANCA

Having been designated a European Cultural Center in 2002 and being included in the list of “World Heritage Sites in Spain,” Salamanca is known throughout Europe as a historical and cultural monument. Conscious of the city’s prestige, both the European Community and the Spanish government have invested heavily in the restoration and maintenance of historical buildings; in the creation of museums, theaters and concert halls, and in the perpetuation of an active cultural program for succeeding generations. The OWU Salamanca Program is structured to give you maximum exposure to the history and culture of this lovely city.

ACADEMICS

You will spend the semester living in Salamanca attending classes given by five tenured members of the Salamanca faculty, who also teach Spanish students, and you will receive four and one half Ohio Wesleyan semester credits. The regular courses taken from September through December include:

Spanish 358: Spanish Grammar.
Spanish 359: The History of Spanish Art (one-half unit)
Spanish 374: Topics in Latin-American Narrative
Spanish 377: Contemporary Spanish Literature
History 366: Contemporary Spanish History (history credit only)

You will also take classes on Spanish film offered by Juan Antonio Pérez Millán during September and November. These classes are held at the *Filmoteca de Castilla y León*. You may also join the Filmoteca by contacting Professor Pérez Millán. This membership allows you to view additional films from the Institute’s large collection.

RESIDENT DIRECTOR

Professor María Ángeles Pérez López is resident director of the Ohio Wesleyan Program. M^a Ángeles is a professor in the *Facultad de Filología Hispánica* at the University of Salamanca, and a specialist in Latin American literature. She has lived in Salamanca for many years and has worked with other American study abroad programs. Indeed, we are very fortunate to have M^a Ángeles as our resident director, for she brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our program. Among the many tasks that M^a Ángeles performs are: managing the program budget, placing students with host families and supervising those families, coordinating the orientation period, planning excursions, and arranging extracurricular activities. As resident director, M^a Ángeles is responsible for coordinating program efforts with Professor Julián Arribas. Because she is your official and primary contact in Spain, you should discuss any problems with her immediately. She is very personable, accessible, responsive, and efficient, and she will do her best to ensure that your experience in Spain is a truly memorable and rewarding one. M^a Ángeles’s address, telephone number, and e-mail address for communication in Spanish are:

María Ángeles Pérez López
Calle Borneo, No. 5, 1^o B
37003 Salamanca, Spain
34 (country code) 923-18-85-28 (home) & 696 35 49 31 (cellular)
mapl@usal.es

TRAVEL TO SPAIN

We are arranging a group flight from Philadelphia on September 1. You will need to communicate with Sue Bradley of Uniglobe Travel Resources about details of the add-on flight from your home to Philadelphia and about any alternative plans for the return flight to Philadelphia. You may exchange information with her by calling 800-458-5455 or via e-mail at slbradley@wanttotravel.com. Your return trip to Philadelphia will leave Madrid on December 15. Flight numbers and times will be given to you by Sue Bradley at the time of your reservation.

Upon arrival at Barajas airport in Madrid and after going through Immigration and Customs, you will be met by the Resident Director, M^a Ángeles, who will take you by bus to a hotel in Madrid for a weekend visit. The next day she will take you to Salamanca. During the two-hour trip from Madrid to Salamanca, you will receive a packet of orientation materials.

FAMILIES

Upon your arrival in Salamanca, M^a Ángeles will take you to your families. Living with a family is frequently one of the high points of the study-abroad experience. You will stay with middle class families who speak no English. In addition to providing for your needs, your family may prove to be a wonderful source of cultural, historical, and practical information.

You will receive a house key so that you can come and go as you please. Keep in mind, however, that families have their own rules and that you will need to adapt to them. For example, you may not bring anyone else to your room without the family's permission. Remember that normal American use of electricity, water and telephone may seem excessive to Europeans. Try to be conservative and, perhaps, buy an inexpensive cellular phone in Spain. Some rules may be relaxed as you establish rapport with your family. If you have problems, consult with M^a Ángeles. Families may be changed.

THE ORIENTATION PERIOD

Orientation and intensive Spanish begin upon arrival in Salamanca and ends on Monday, Sept. 19. During the special *Curso Intensivo de Lengua y Cultura Española* you will attend class three hours per day, five days per week, from 9:30 to 12:30. Attendance is required for all classes. In the afternoons, Spanish graduate students will guide you around the city. You will visit prominent historical monuments, learn to use university facilities such as libraries, and receive practical information that will permit you to explore the city and become involved in the community. Salamanca is the site of a major fair which begins on September 8. M^a Ángeles will provide you with various options for taking advantage of fair activities which may include bullfights or cultural events.

THE REGULAR ACADEMIC PERIOD

On Tuesday, September 20, after the *Curso Intensivo de Lengua y Cultura Española* you will begin regular classes and, that evening or the one before, dine with M^a Ángeles and the other professors to inaugurate the term. At that time, you will receive a student ID which gives you access to the benefits enjoyed by regular Spanish students: use of athletic facilities and libraries as well as participation in social and cultural activities.

Classes meet Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 2:00 but there are no classes on the

following national holidays: October 12, November 1, December 6, and December 8 (See excursions). You will note that courses in Spain differ somewhat from those at OWU. For example, you will be given assignments and be expected to complete them without prompting throughout the semester. It is important to attend class and to do required homework. Otherwise your grade may be determined by only one or two exams. Courses in Spain also tend to focus more on lecture than on discussion.

EXCURSIONS

You will take two long excursions. The first, from October 12 – 16, is being planned to include a guided cultural-historical trip to the north of Spain including Valladolid, Peñafiel, the city of Burgos, from which Ruy Díaz de Vivar, el Cid, the epic hero of Spain, initiated recapture of Valencia from the Moslems; Santander, Fuente De, a mountain wilderness; and Santo Domingo de Silos, a monastery famous in history for its early documentation of the Spanish language and more recently for the popular chants of its monks.

During Thanksgiving week, November 23 - 27, there will be a tour of the south including the Roman ruins at Mérida, the Royal Palaces of the Bourbon dynasty in Aranjuez, the Giralda in Sevilla, the Mezquita in Córdoba and the Alhambra in Granada. Because Thanksgiving will be celebrated during this trip, you are encouraged to invite your parents to join the group.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL

Salamanca is surrounded by many picturesque mountain towns which merit a visit; moreover, historical cities such as Madrid, Toledo, Segovia, Zamora and Avila are easily reached by inexpensive transportation. There are organized student bus excursions almost every weekend. M^a Ángeles will help you arrange travel outside of Salamanca. Students from earlier trips to Salamanca have extolled the experience of simply hopping a local bus, with a box lunch provided by the family, and spending a day in the countryside. Please keep in mind, however, that any time you leave Salamanca, you must notify M^a Ángeles.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The program pays for you to participate in a variety of non-university activities. For example, we have an agreement with a gymnasium where you may work out whenever you wish. You may also sign up for dance or aerobic classes. There are still other athletic activities in which you may participate such as hiking, climbing, horseback riding, and swimming. In addition, you may attend cultural events such as theater productions, ballet performances, concerts, or you may join photography, music, or art groups. It is to your advantage to let M^a Ángeles know your interests so that she can make arrangements for you.

TELEPHONES

You can purchase cellular phones (teléfonos móviles) for use in Spain from OWU students who have returned or you can buy a new one over there.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Your best access to Euros is through ATM machines (cajeros automáticos). Check with your bank to see if you can use your credit card abroad. Don't forget your PIN number.

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL

If you do not travel from the U.S. with the group, you should arrive in Madrid on September 1 and plan to join the group at the airport on September 2 for the visit to Madrid. Otherwise be sure to meet the group on Sunday, September 3 for the bus trip to Salamanca. If we know your plans for travel to Madrid early enough, we may be able to assist you in getting convenient, economical hotel rooms in Madrid. If you are traveling from outside the U.S., the Program will reimburse your OWU account for the cost of the round-trip flight from your home to Madrid and back home or the cost of the round-trip flight obtained for OWU group travel from Columbus to Madrid and back to Columbus, whichever is less. Reimbursement requires proper documentation which includes itinerary, costs, receipts, boarding passes, etc.

If you arrive at the Barajas airport in Madrid, when you are not travelling as a part of the OWU group, you can take the subway (Metro, línea ocho, pink line) into the city. A map of the subway system is available at WWW.metromadrid.es. Warning. The walk from the arrival gate at Barajas to the Metro station is quite long and complicated if you have a lot of luggage, although carts are available to make the task easier. After you board the subway at Aeropuerto, you will pass Campo de las Naciones, Mar de Cristal and Colombia before reaching Nuevos Ministerios (4 stations). Change trains at Nuevos Ministerios to línea seis, the grey line. Again there is a considerable walk to the boarding platform for línea seis. There will be a directional sign listing the following stations: República Argentina, Avenida de América, Diego de León, Manuel Becerra, O'Donnell, Sainz de Baranda and finally, your destination, Conde de Casal (7 stations). Do not go in the opposite direction from Nuevos Ministerios. The Auto Res bus station is across the street from the Conde de Casal subway station but it is not easily visible from the Metro entrance. Ask someone to point out the bus station if you do not want to waste steps. Buses leave for Salamanca about every hour. It costs about fifteen Euros. If you take a taxi, be careful not to be overcharged. If you arrive at the Plaza Conde de Casal from Salamanca, you can go four stops on línea seis, dirección Nuevos Ministerios, to the Diego de León station and change to línea 5, green line, dirección Casa de Campo, and get off at Gran Vía in the center of Madrid. Good luck.

Be sure to see our webpage for additional information:

<http://go.owu.edu/~jjarriba/Salamanca/salamancaprogram.htm>