

YOUTH YEAR SPAIN



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IFX
INTERNATIONAL FUTBOL X-CHANGE

PLAY SOCCER ABROAD!

➤ IFX welcomes you to our organization and we are looking forward to working with you during IFX experience. Your journey abroad will be challenging, yet rewarding in many ways. In order to prepare you for your program, please read through the IFX Program guide to learn about our different processes and for tips on different things while living abroad.

This guide discusses all aspects of your upcoming program including important information about the program region, the school, club placement process, and more. Please read thoroughly through this program guide and should any further questions arise, please let us know.



DESTINATION

BARCELONA

Barcelona is the capital and largest city of Catalonia, Spain with a population of 4.7 million people, (including neighbouring municipalities within the Province of Barcelona). It is the largest metropolis on the western Mediterranean Sea. Barcelona has a rich cultural heritage and is today an important cultural centre and a major tourist destination. Particularly renowned are the architectural works of Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech i Montaner, which have been designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Barcelona is one of the world's leading tourist, economic, trade fair and cultural centres, and its influence in many fields contributes to its status as one of the world's major global cities.

FC Barcelona is a sports club best known worldwide for its football team, one of the largest and the second richest in the world. The club's museum is the second most visited in Catalonia. The matches against cross-town rivals RCD Espanyol are of particular interest, but there are other Barcelonan football clubs in lower categories, like CE Europa and UE Sant Andreu. Barcelona has three UEFA elite stadiums: FC Barcelona's Camp Nou, the largest stadium in Europe with a capacity of 99,354; the publicly owned Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys, with a capacity of 55,926; and Estadi Cornellà-El Prat, with a capacity of 40,500. Furthermore, the city has several smaller stadiums such as Mini Estadi, Camp Municipal Narcís Sala and Nou Sardenya. The city has a further three multifunctional venues for sports and concerts: the Palau Sant Jordi with a capacity of 12,000 to 24,000 (depending on use), the Palau Blaugrana with a capacity of 7,500, and the Palau dels Esports de Barcelona with a capacity of 3,500.



CÁDIZ

Cádiz is a city and port in southwestern Spain. It is the capital of the Province of Cádiz, one of eight which make up the autonomous community of Andalusia. Cádiz, regarded by many as the oldest continuously inhabited city in Western Europe, with archaeological remains dating to 3100 years. It has been a principal home port of the Spanish Navy since the accession of the Spanish Bourbons in the 18th century. The city is a member of the Most Ancient European Towns Network. It is also the site of the University of Cádiz.

Cádiz is, in most respects, a typically Andalusian city with a wealth of attractive vistas and well served historical landmarks. The older part of Cádiz within the remnants of the city walls is commonly referred to as the Old Town (Spanish: Casco Antiguo). It is characterized by the antiquity of its various quarters (barrios), among them El Pópulo, La Viña, and Santa María, which present a marked contrast to the newer areas of town. In addition, the city is dotted with numerous parks where exotic plants flourish, including giant trees supposedly brought to Spain by Columbus from the New World.



DESTINATION

VALENCIA

Valencia on the east coast of Spain, is the capital of the autonomous community of Valencia and the third-largest city in Spain after Madrid and Barcelona. Its historic centre is one of the largest in Spain, with approximately 169 ha; this heritage of ancient monuments, views and cultural attractions makes Valencia one of the country's most popular tourist destinations. Due to its long history, this is a city with numerous popular celebrations and traditions, such as the Fallas (when you can taste the traditional Spanish dish paella), which were declared as Fiestas of National Tourist Interest of Spain in 1965 and Intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in November 2016.

Valencia has a subtropical Mediterranean climate with short, very mild winters and long, hot and dry summers. Its average annual temperature is 18.4 °C; 23.0 °C during the day and 13.8 °C at night. In the coldest month, January, the maximum temperature typically during the day ranges from 14 to 21 °C, the minimum temperature typically at night ranges from 5 to 11 °C.

Valencia is also internationally famous for its football club, Valencia C.F., one of the most successful clubs in Europe and La Liga, which won the Spanish league in 2002 and 2004 (the year it also won the UEFA Cup), for a total of six times, and was a UEFA Champions League runner-up in 2000 and 2001. The team's stadium is the Mestalla; its city rival Levante UD plays in the La Liga after club was re-promoted after club was relegated previous season, its stadium is Estadi Ciutat de València.



ZARAGOZA

Zaragoza, is the capital city of the Zaragoza province and of the autonomous community of Aragon, Spain. The city is famous for its folklore, local gastronomy, and landmarks such as the Basílica del Pilar, La Seo Cathedral and the Aljafería Palace. Together with La Seo and the Aljafería, several other buildings form part of the Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Fiestas del Pilar are among the most celebrated festivals in Spain.

Zaragoza's main football team, Real Zaragoza, plays in the Segunda División. Founded on 18 March 1932, its home games are played at La Romareda, which seats 34,596 spectators. The club has spent the majority of its history in La Liga. One of the most remarkable events in the team's recent history is the winning of the former UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1995. The team has also won the Spanish National Cup "Copa del Rey" six times: 1965, 1966, 1986, 1994, 2001 and 2004 and an Inter-Cities Fairs Cup (1964). A government survey in 2007 found that 2.7% of the Spanish population support the club, making them the seventh-most supported in the country.



HIGH SCHOOL



Surely you will expect to find many differences if you compare Spanish schools with your home school, but perhaps you will not find as many differences as you may have imagined at the beginning. As with all colleges and institutes, you must attend classes, complete some homework assignments and pass the exams.

In the Spanish educational system, students have mandatory and elective subjects. Foreign students participate in school with the same rights and responsibilities as Spanish students, although in some cases teachers can be more flexible in this aspect.

You must attend the school every morning (and some afternoons) from Monday to Friday. Between the morning and afternoon sessions you usually have enough time to go home to eat. If the family eats out of the house, you can do it at a nearby restaurant or stay for lunch at school.

GOING TO CLASS IS MANDATORY!

Other school activities include sports, music, drawing and art. There's also extra-curricular activities such as field trips, sports competitions, traveling, etc. You can choose and organize these activities once you are in Spain.

The cost of books is not included within the program nor are the cost for extra-curricular activities.

Classes are challenging with expectations of completion of coursework not only in, but outside the classroom. Students are required to take certain core courses, which generally include: Spanish language, Spanish literature, foreign language, philosophy, and physical education. Additionally, students may choose one optional area of study to broaden their curriculum including: arts, science or technology.

All classes will be conducted in Spanish. Exposure to Spanish in the classroom and in their daily life helps them to master and become fluent in their foreign language skills. You will have an added advantage over other foreign peers with additional exposure to the Spanish language through your soccer activities



> CLUB TRIALS & EVALUATION PERIOD

During the first week after arrival, participants begin trials with IFX partner clubs to be evaluated by both the IFX staff as well as by the partner clubs. Training schedules for participants during the evaluation period can not be provided in advance but participants will be notified by the IFX representative generally the day prior or in the morning/early afternoon about their training for that evening. Participants may undergo several weeks of trials before a club ultimately decides to offer a spot on their team. In most cases, participants are placed within 2-4 weeks with a club. In some cases, it can be much quicker, or a bit longer, but the average is 2-4 weeks.

IFX places participants with clubs that are a good fit for their level. This means that we strive to place them with a club that will provide them with a challenging training and playing environment in order for them to improve all aspects of their game. On the other hand, participants are not placed with clubs where the participant is over their head and not have a realistic chance of getting playing time, or becoming a disruption to the partner club's training.



HOST FAMILIES



IFX players can choose to live with a carefully selected host family for the duration of their program. All host families are handpicked and many have hosted international students before. Our program partners carry out a strict host family screening process, to assure the suitability of the families and the welfare of the students, and provides 24 hour emergency service. Both families and students receive a profile on each other, as well as personal information to ensure a comfortable and well matched visit.

Host families often have the responsibility of providing the participant with the experience of being "of" the host country. That can mean exploring attributes of the local culture, such as holidays, traditions, and religious celebrations. That can also mean showing typical day-to-day routines.

European families can be distinguished by their love for outdoor activities. Swimming, bicycling, fishing or trekking throughout beautiful landscapes surely will be activities you could enjoy with your new host family.



TRANSPORTATION



During the IFX participant's evaluation and trial period, IFX will assist participants with logistics of getting to/from training. Once a participant is placed with a club, they will be responsible to get to and from training with public transportation. IFX will provide guidance to each participant on how to go about obtaining a monthly transportation train/bus pass that enables the participants to travel unlimited on public transportation throughout the region. The cost ranges generally from 50 – 75 Euros per month depending upon the region and country.

Participants are not permitted to drive vehicles while in the IFX program and will be subject to program dismissal should they be found driving a vehicle.



> IFX CONTACT INFORMATION



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In an emergency, call the police or appropriate authority:

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SPAIN
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ITALY
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