



SPAIN 2009

Salamanca 1

Session A: 6/18 – 7/18 --- \$5995 without airfare / \$6825 from JFK / \$7265 from San Francisco
Session B: 7/1 – 7/30 -- -\$5995 without airfare / \$6885 from JFK / \$7225 from San Francisco

- **Two weeks of classes in Salamanca, one week of immersion in Northern Spain, one week of travel**

Salamanca 2 (Dorm)

6/24 – 7/23 --- \$6040 without airfare / \$6840 from JFK / \$7270 from San Francisco

- **Two weeks of classes in Salamanca, one week of immersion in Southern Spain, one week of travel**

Salamanca 3 (Dorm Option)

7/16 – 8/10 --- \$4570 without airfare / \$5565 from JFK / \$5765 from San Francisco

- **Two weeks of classes in Salamanca, one week of immersion in Southern Spain, three days of travel (Madrid)**

Granada/Nerja Combo

7/9 – 8/3--- \$5420 without airfare / \$6275 from JFK / \$6540 from San Francisco

Choice of one of the following:

- **One week of classes in Granada, two weeks of classes in Nerja, four days of travel (Madrid & Sevilla)**
- **One week of classes in Granada, one week of classes in Nerja, one week of immersion in Southern Spain, four days of travel (Madrid & Sevilla)**

Nerja Summer Study

7/31 – 8/17 --- \$4095 without airfare / \$4965 from JFK / \$5295 from San Francisco

- **Two weeks of classes in Nerja, four days of travel (Malaga, Sevilla, Granada)**

San Sebastián Summer Study

Session A: 6/24 – 7/24 --- \$6340 without airfare / \$7310 from JFK, return to LaGuardia/ \$7510 from San Francisco
Session B (Dorm): 7/8 – 8/7 --- \$6840 without airfare / \$7690 from JFK, \$7940 from San Francisco

- **Two weeks of classes in San Sebastián, one week of immersion in Southern Spain, one week of travel**

Customized Total Immersion / Individualized dates / Independent airfare ---- \$675 per week

- **Two to Three weeks living with an Immersion Host Family (No group activities and no classes)**
- **Please see applicable informational page for details about this unique program.**

Spain provides a unique variety of language and cultural experiences. Fun and festivals, a wide variety of scenery, relaxed and warm people, historic sites, and a multitude of architectural and artistic treasures make Spain a perfect destination for Spanish language learners. Take classes at a leading language school as you fully immerse yourself in Spanish culture and society. Travel to vibrant cities and soak up the exciting European atmosphere. Join us for a life-changing adventure in a country that will captivate your heart!!

During our Spain programs you will:

- ***Participate*** in an enriching homestay, dorm, and/or immersion experience in an exciting, youthful city in Spain as you absorb the culture and practice the language.
- ***Study*** at prestigious schools dedicated exclusively to teaching Spanish in Spain – with the opportunity to earn three units of college credit during most sessions.
- ***Interact*** with local university students during Language Partner sessions.
- ***Choose*** from a variety of afternoon and evening activities such as swimming, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, salsa or flamenco dance lessons, tapas tasting, cooking, and horseback riding.
- ***Enjoy*** the food, ambience, and unique people-watching opportunities of the Spanish café scene.
- ***Experience*** the exuberance, originality, and passion of a Spanish flamenco show.
- ***Meet*** other students from around the country.
- ***Be Encouraged*** by your chaperones to exceed your language goals.
- ***Immerse*** yourself in the language, culture, and daily life of Spanish culture.
- ***Travel*** up to one week to some of the most amazing destinations in Spain!

ECI Chaperones:

ECI carefully selects chaperones on the basis of language ability, maturity, patience, judgment, professionalism, and their ability to earn the respect and trust of our teenage participants. Most chaperones are high-school language teachers with extensive travel abroad experience; some are full-time ECI staff with educational backgrounds, and all are enthusiastic leaders, fully trained by ECI, and highly dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding on the global level.

Price includes language classes & all group activities plus:

- Airline Fare from ECI designated departure city (unless “Without Airfare”* option is chosen)
- All transportation abroad / All accommodation / All group activities, classes, excursions, admissions / All meals during Homestays, Dorm Stays & Host Family Immersion Week; two meals per day during full day weekend excursions and during days of travel
- Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance / Travel Delay Protection / Baggage Delay or Loss Coverage
- Three full-time chaperones per group of 30 students

***All ECI summer programs are priced “Without Airfare” or “With Airfare” from SFO and a designated East Coast departure city.**

Price does not include:

- Application fee of \$95
- Airline taxes and fees (such as any applicable fuel surcharges and/or luggage fees). These taxes and fees are currently estimated to be \$440, and *will be confirmed one month prior to departure.*
- Spending money
- Optional activities
- University Credit Fees (should you choose this option)
- Some meals
- Optional Cancellation / Interruption Travel Insurance Plan

Student Eligibility for Spain Trips:

Participants must:

- Complete coursework equivalent to two years of high school Spanish by June 2009.
 - Possible exceptions are considered only with a teacher recommendation detailing the student's exceptional language skills.
- Be between the ages of 15 and 18
- Complete all sections of ECI's Individualized Application Form
 - Application includes: basic contact information for students & families, student interests, student introduction letter for Host Family with pictures (as applicable), any pertinent medical information, and special requests.
- Have a valid passport, *and provide ECI with a copy no later than 1 month prior to departure*
- Receive a positive teacher recommendation (ECI provides the form)
- Be committed to speaking and improving their Spanish
- Be open to new experiences and unfamiliar cultures
- Sign and abide by ECI's Personal Responsibility Contract
- Be able to make responsible choices and act in a mature manner
 - ECI leaders chaperone conscientiously. However, no one can be supervised 24 hours a day, and we therefore request that any student needing constant supervision refrain from applying for our life-changing programs.

ECI Scholarships:

ECI offers three \$3000 scholarships per season to applicants. For scholarship application details please see the Scholarship Application page on our website.

For additional information, please contact:

Tracy Cone – 510.845.2230 (tracy@educulture.org)

Phyllis O'Neill – 866.343.8990 or 510.845.3925 (info@educulture.org)

Or visit our website at:

www.educulture.org

ECI is a non-profit organization.

Dear Parents and Students,

EduCulture International's primary goal is a true language and cultural Immersion Experience for each participant. Immersion provides the student with a unique intercultural perspective, as well as the absolute best possible way to strengthen their language skills.

We take great professional and personal pride in making ECI programs the best of their kind. From our global coordinators to our local leaders, you will find ECI staff to be experienced, dedicated, qualified educational professionals who provide guidance and support throughout the program.

ECI offers Spain programs based in **Salamanca, Granada, Nerja, and San Sebastián** as well as **Customized Total Immersion (CTI)**. Each of our trips includes a different combination of the following components:

- ❖ **Spanish Classes**
- ❖ **Activities / Excursions**
- ❖ **Language School Homestay**
- ❖ **Dorm Housing**
- ❖ **Host Family Immersion**
- ❖ **Travel within Spain**
- ❖ **University Credit Option**

Students choose different programs and locations, each designed to meet various interests and educational needs. All groups are limited to thirty students with three full-time adults: one trip leader and two additional chaperones. Our adult / student ratio is ideal in terms of student bonding, personal attention, cultural education, organization and safety.

All students are able to take advantage of varied housing opportunities that include: **Dorm Housing, Language School Homestay** (two students per Spanish family), and **Host Family Immersion** (almost always one student per Spanish family). *For additional information on housing options for each trip, please see Accommodations Section.*

We also incorporate **Language Partners** into our programs whenever possible. Usually European college students, Language Partners work to enrich the Immersion Experience by providing ECI students with community integration opportunities and additional practice in conversational Spanish. Small groups of our students explore the town with their Language Partners, participating in various activities while discussing (in Spanish) an assortment of topics such as: entertainment, school, politics, travel, vacations, and sports.

Designed to be fun as well as challenging, ECI's programs provide students with an unforgettable and exhilarating once-in-a-lifetime experience. Participants gain a global perspective, strengthen their college applications, and create lasting global friendships through this individualized and unique international adventure.

We welcome you to explore our programs and discover the best match for you. In the following pages you will find descriptions of various components of our programs. For more information, frequently asked questions, pictures, video, and student experiences, please visit us at www.educulture.org. Also feel free to contact us at any time; we welcome talking with you and *we thank you for choosing ECI!*

Component Descriptions for ECI 2009 Spain Programs

- ❖ Spanish classes
- ❖ Activities & Excursions
- ❖ Accommodation Options
 - Language School Homestay
 - Dorm Housing
 - Host Family Immersion
- ❖ Travel within Spain
- ❖ University Credit Option
- ❖ Program Town Descriptions
- ❖ Meet & Greet Service



Spanish Classes:

The EduCulture International (ECI) commitment to high standards also extends to our choice of language schools. We always take great care in choosing schools that meet all of the ECI quality requirements. The location of each school and program town has been chosen for its learning standards, commitment to quality teaching, safety, cultural environment, and beauty.

Academia Mester

(Salamanca, Granada/Nerja Combo)

Academia Mester, established in 1991, is a well-respected organization specializing in teaching Spanish to non-native speakers. All language teachers are native speakers, have degrees in modern languages, and have had wide-ranging and solid professional experience teaching Spanish as a foreign language. Academia Mester features:

- ❖ Centrally-located schools, comprised of buildings designed and equipped for teaching
- ❖ Spacious modern classrooms, reference libraries, assembly halls, and common rooms for study and meetings, most of which are air-conditioned
- ❖ Computer rooms with Internet access
- ❖ 10 students maximum per class

Students are grouped into levels based upon a placement test completed before leaving the US. There are four 50-minute classes each morning, Monday through Friday. In the first two classes (grammar), students study different grammatical structures and their practical applications. In the second two classes (conversation), students analyze vocabulary and colloquial expressions.

Escuela de Idiomas Nerja

(Nerja Summer Study, Granada/Nerja Combo)

Established in 1980, Escuela de Idiomas Nerja is a highly reputable language school specializing in teaching Spanish to non-native speakers. All language teachers are native speakers and have solid professional experience teaching Spanish as a foreign language. Escuela de Idiomas Nerja features:

- ❖ A range of educational resources, including:
 - A bookstore, library, multimedia room, and Internet terminals (small fee)
- ❖ On-site café with a lounge and a beautiful Andalusian patio
- ❖ These common areas and library are located at the school's cultural activity and communications center, just a two-minute walk from the main part of the school.
- ❖ 10 students maximum per class

Students are grouped into levels based upon a written placement test taken before leaving the US. The course is comprised of four 50-minute lessons per day. The school's teaching method is the result of experience gained over many years of teaching intensive Spanish. Special emphasis is placed upon communication skills and the use of language in real-life situations. Participants have conversation classes, oral and written exercises, structured grammar, audio and video practice drills, and conversations on topics such as Spanish and Latin American culture and civilization. In addition, there are practical exercises in reading, composition, and vocabulary.

Lacunza IH (International House) San Sebastián

(San Sebastián Summer Study)

Lacunza IH San Sebastián, established in 1986, is a prestigious language school that specializes in teaching Spanish to non-native speakers. All language teachers are native Spanish speakers with university degrees in the teaching of Spanish. International House (IH) is a worldwide organization with one hundred and thirty language schools in thirty countries, with each affiliated school operating independently. International House particularly excels in the field of Teacher Training. Lacunza IH San Sebastián features:

- ❖ A range of educational resources, including:
 - A library & range of DVDs available to students
 - Computers with free Internet access and a free WIFI connection
- ❖ A fantastic location in the center of the city, only a fifteen-minute walk from the beach
- ❖ 12 students maximum per class

Students are grouped into levels from beginner to advanced proficiency based upon a placement test. Classes are Monday through Friday for two weeks. The course is comprised of three hours and forty-five minutes of class per day and is broken into three sessions. Grammar is the emphasis during the first session of each day, while conversation is the focus during the remaining two. Students discuss current events using newspaper articles, films, and documentaries.

crossing continents connecting cultures

for more information, FAQs, pictures, testimonies & to apply, please visit us at:

www.educulture.org

Activities / Excursions

ECI chaperones supervise a variety of afternoon and evening activities...



Some of our student's favorite activities include:

- ❖ Tapas Tasting Nights
- ❖ Exploring the town with Language Partners
 - ❖ Kayaking & Fútbol
 - ❖ Spanish Movie Nights
- ❖ Salsa or Flamenco Dance Lessons
 - ❖ Cooking Classes
- ❖ Excursions to Nearby Villages & Towns
- ❖ People-watching at outdoor Spanish cafés
- ❖ Optional Sports activities such as: swimming, volleyball, basketball, horseback riding

Please Note: Activities are almost always included at no extra charge. Occasionally, we offer optional activities / excursions, most of which are included or are nominally priced.

Each day also includes free time for students to get together with friends and explore their own interests and hobbies.

Each night: all students choose from and sign up for chaperoned nighttime activities.

"I loved kayaking, Arab Baths, the beaches and the mountains. Our chaperones did an incredible job of balancing their levels of authority with those of friendliness. I had an unforgettable trip!"

Granada 2008 student

Accommodation Options:

| <u>Options</u> (availability for each trip) | <u>Sal.</u> <u>1A</u> | <u>Sal.</u> <u>1B</u> | <u>Sal.</u> <u>2</u> | <u>Sal.</u> <u>3</u> | <u>Combo</u> | <u>Nerja</u> | <u>S.S.</u> <u>A</u> | <u>S.S.</u> <u>B</u> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Language School Homestay | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Dorm Housing | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Host Family Immersion | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |

Please Note: Customized Total Immersion (CTI) offers ECI students the unique experience of living with a host family for the duration of their travel. There are no classes, activities, or excursions planned by ECI. Please see CTI section for more details.

Language School Homestay

The Language School Homestay portion of the programs refers to accommodation with locals in the program town during the weeks that classes take place. Most of these homestay households are within a fifteen-minute walk of the center of the program town and language school in Salamanca, Granada, and Nerja. In San Sebastián, all are within a twenty-minute walk or bus ride from the language school and the beach.

Some homes are made up of a father, a mother and (occasionally) children, but many are single-parent households. These Spanish-speaking families provide room and board and are carefully chosen for ECI by the language school to provide a safe environment for our students. Students from other countries often share a family with our ECI participants, adding to the international flavor of the homestay experience. Generally, we place two ECI students per home.

Dorm Housing

Centrally located, the dorms in Salamanca and San Sebastián are within easy reach of each town's language school. Because ECI chaperones live in the dorms and eat with the students, they are able to form close bonds and relationships of trust and mutual respect with the students. For many students, spending two weeks here with the rest of the group is a perfect introduction to Spanish language and culture prior to the one-week Host Family Immersion later in the trip.

Host Family Immersion Week

After two weeks of practicing their conversation skills during classes and enjoying a fantastic variety of hands-on activities with the ECI group, students are prepared for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become immersed in language and culture during the **Host Family Immersion Week**.

ECI coordinators personally select immersion host families. Students live with these families during the third week of the following programs: Salamanca 1, 2 and 3, and San Sebastián Summer Study. Participants on the Granada/Nerja Combo choose between the following two options:

1. Spending the third week taking classes in Nerja and living with their Language School Homestay family (as discussed above)
2. Spending the third week living with an Immersion Host Family (No group activities and no classes)

Please note: we currently have no Host Family Immersion Week option on our shorter Nerja Summer Study program.

Immersion host families often (but not always) have a son or daughter of a similar age and are excited about sharing their homes and lives with an American teenager. ECI participants spend their time during that week interacting with the family, the family's children, and friends of the family. This is an excellent opportunity to become truly immersed in Spanish daily life and language and form lifelong friendships, and it hallmarks ECI's Immersion Experience. Students are generally placed one per home during **Host Family Immersion Week**. The chaperone team is on-call twenty-four hours a day to assist students should they have a problem or concern.

These warm and friendly families open their homes to American teens because of their genuine desire to share their language and culture. They make every effort to incorporate our students into their lives, many times arranging day trips and excursions that only locals are able to experience.

ECI students write a personal letter during their application process with information about themselves and their families as well as their ambitions, hobbies, and interests. From these vital details, our Host Family Coordinators carefully match each student with an appropriate host family. They take into account any specific requests and try to match each student's interests with those of the family.

Throughout this week, there are no organized ECI activities and no classes. This enables participants to immerse themselves completely in the Spanish way of life. **For many students, the host family immersion is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding parts of the trip!**



“The immersion week was one of the best weeks of my life. The chaperones were always helpful and friendly. I learned so much and met lots of really cool people on this trip.”

Salamanca 2008 student

Travel within Spain:

ECI's programs include between 3 – 8 days & nights of group travel to some of the most beautiful and culturally enriching places in Spain. We always choose high quality, centrally located hotels. Please find some of our destinations described below.

- The grandeur of Spain's capital city, **Madrid**. Highlights include: Gran Via, Plaza de España, Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol (a busy square marking the geographical center of Spain), the Royal Palace, the world-renowned Prado museum, the Reina Sofia Art Museum, and the Parque de Retiro.
- **Córdoba**, known especially for its unusual mosque, the Mezquita de Córdoba. Highlights include: Strolling through the narrow streets of the old Arab and Jewish quarters, visiting the Arab Baths.
- **Granada**, in the foothills of the snowcapped Sierra Nevada mountain range. Highlights include: the richly ornamented open-air rooms of the Alhambra, the Generalife Palace's spectacular gardens, free time to explore this old city filled with romance and folklore.



- **Sevilla**, the beautiful capital of Andalucía. Highlights include: the enormous Plaza de España, Sevilla's enormous Gothic cathedral, La Giralda, the Alcázar, the colorful Barrio de Santa Cruz, seeing a flamenco show.
- **Costa del Sol**, on the Mediterranean. Highlights include: free time relaxing on the beach, journeying to the Nerja caves, and the sea breezes.
- **Barcelona**, with its landmark buildings and world-class museums. Highlights include: Antoni Gaudí's famous cathedral, La Sagrada Familia, La Rambla, Parque Güell, the Barri Gòtic (Gothic Quarter).

“ECI changed my life. Every aspect of it was perfect. I learned more about Spanish, culture and how to live my life than anything else I did before. Every single day was priceless.”

Salamanca 2008 student

University Credit Option:

ECI's University Credit Option, available on all programs (*except Nerja Summer Study and Customized Total Immersion*), is an invaluable asset in today's competitive realm of higher education.

- ❖ ECI's University Credit Option provides students the option to earn 3 semester units in Spanish through the University of Southern Mississippi.
- ❖ These credits are transferable to other universities & accepted by most accredited universities in the U.S.

The university credit option is a great asset on a college application because it demonstrates the student's ability to complete university level course work as a high school student. (Please note: the University Credit Option requires additional fees and some additional work on the part of the student.)

ECI's Program Towns in Spain:

Salamanca

Named a *World Heritage City* by UNESCO, lively and fun Salamanca is a youthful Castilian town of 180,000 people, 30,000 of whom are university students. Filled with ambience and charm, the people speak the "purest Spanish in Spain", making it an extremely popular place for learning the Spanish language. Salamanca's center, Plaza Mayor, is a beautiful 18th century baroque square surrounded by wonderful shops, outdoor cafés, and honey-colored buildings. Salamanca is located in the southwest corner of the Castilla-León region, about 150 miles from Madrid, in the western part of Spain near Portugal. Its turreted palaces, Romanesque cathedrals, and historic colleges continue to attract students from all over the world.

"My Salamanca family was very friendly and cooked us whatever we liked. Living there gave me lots of opportunities to practice my Spanish. My immersion week was also very valuable and I'm glad I did it!"

Salamanca 2008 student

Granada

Granada, with a population of 250,000, is an Andalusian city filled with beauty and folklore. Set in the foothills of the snowcapped Sierra Nevada Mountains in Southeastern Spain, Granada is home to the Alhambra, a series of palaces and gardens built in the 14th century, and one of the most brilliant jewels of Moorish architecture to be found anywhere in the world. This amazing compound of buildings, including the Generalife Palace with its glorious gardens and courtyard, overlooks the city below. The Albaicín is the old Arabic quarter located on the hill opposite the Alhambra. It is characterized by cobblestone streets and whitewashed houses. With countless beautiful squares, a lively atmosphere, and a large student population, Granada is a very popular destination for ECI students in Spain.

"Everything was extremely fun. I especially enjoyed the Alhambra, Arab Baths, Language Partners and being in Granada. I felt close to everyone in my group."

Granada 2008 student

Nerja

Thirty miles east of Málaga on the Costa del Sol, Nerja sits directly on the Mediterranean coast. Surrounded by mountains on one side and gorgeous beaches and sandy coves on the other, Nerja is a summer paradise. The old town is filled with narrow winding streets, whitewashed houses and untouched Andalusian charm. Once a sleepy fishing village, Nerja is now a vibrant community with a population of over 20,000 people. With an average summer temperature of eighty-five degrees and close proximity to some of Spain's most historic cities, Nerja is an ideal place to study the Spanish language and culture.

"I love Nerja! Going out for Tapas with the Language Partners was fun and good to experience a young Spaniard's point of view. It was an awesome trip, and I definitely recommend it!"

Nerja 2008 student

San Sebastián

San Sebastián, facing the beautiful Bay of Concha, is an elegant and lively beach resort town that is home to about 180,000 people. Situated in the heart of the Basque region and a few miles from the French border, San Sebastián has much to offer our students. Its fantastic location boasts golden beaches, an amazing beachfront promenade that runs the length of the bay, and a very lively old town. In summer, it is one of the most popular resorts on the north coast. Its distinct Basque culture gives the city a flavor all of its own and makes it an ideal and unique location to study the Spanish language and culture.

"San Sebastian is a loveable city and I found others and myself truly bonded with the city and its culture. The classes were a great help in learning Spanish and the activities were stupendous. The trip was simply life changing."

San Sebastián 2008 scholarship student

Meet & Greet Service:

ECI program participants have the choice of traveling roundtrip on one of our chaperoned flights or making their own separate flight plans.

Participants who make their own separate flight plans are also responsible for making their own arrangements to meet up with the chaperones and group, unless they choose our **Meet and Greet Service**, which carries an **additional fee of \$135 minimum per direction**.

With the Meet and Greet service, an ECI representative will meet your son or daughter at the airport or any other designated arrival place. Prior to your child's departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. Once we have met your child, we will take him/her to meet the main group. The Meet and Greet is also available for the return trip, and we highly recommend it in either direction if your child is not traveling with the group. Remember that airline schedules are always subject to change. Please contact ECI to discuss this option.

crossing continents connecting cultures

www.educulture.org

ECI Customized Total Immersion

Individualized dates / Independent airfare / \$675 per week

Two to three weeks living with an Immersion Host Family in the beautiful Mediterranean town of Estepona (No group activities, no classes)

During ECI's Customized Total Immersion Program (CTI), students will:

- ❖ *Participate* in the daily life of a Spanish family.
- ❖ *Speak* Spanish with the family.
- ❖ *Take part* in home-life including meals and family events.
- ❖ *Enjoy* excursions with the Host Family, many times to places only locals know about.
- ❖ *See* sights, meet friends, enjoy Spanish culture all from the local perspective.
- ❖ *Immerse* themselves on an everyday basis in the Spanish language and culture.

ECI custom-designed the CTI Program for high school students who:

- Are at least 16 years old and have completed their sophomore, junior, or senior year by June 2009.
- Have completed three years of high school Spanish by June 2009. (Please note: two years of middle school Spanish is generally equivalent to one year of high school Spanish.)
- Are motivated, adventurous, and have an independent nature.
- Are serious about speaking only Spanish while in Spain.
- Are excited about the opportunity to be completely immersed as the only student in their host family for two to three weeks – without a formal study program and without formal contact with other American students.
- Are committed to the belief that total immersion is the most effective way to develop foreign language proficiency.

“My daughter spent time in France this Summer on a “total immersion” program. I couldn’t have wished for a better experience for her: the host family treated her as their own, organizing excursions and experiences, and providing home comforts. Most importantly, no one spoke English to her the whole time ensuring that she returned much more confident in her abilities in the spoken language. A first class experience.”

Andrew H., CTI parent 2008

Who are the Immersion Host Families?

ECI has developed an extensive network of coordinators in Spain who are committed to finding families who look forward to completely sharing their lives with our students during the summer. ECI Host Family coordinators work directly for us rather than for a language school. Host Families are usually comprised of a mother, a father, and children who are often of the same age as the visiting ECI teenager. Immersion Host Families host ECI students with the intention of sharing their daily lives, culture, homes and food. Families often take their ECI student on excursions, involve them in family events, and introduce them to friends and relatives. Often, ECI students and Immersion Families create lifetime friendships.

CTI Program Price Includes:

1. ECI arranged transportation to / from host family from the Malaga airport in Spain.
2. In-country orientation
3. Accommodation and meals with Immersion Host Family
4. Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance / Travel Delay Protection / Baggage Delay or Loss Coverage
5. A full-time on-call ECI representative

Price does not include:

1. Application fee of \$95
2. Airfare
3. Spending money
4. Optional activities
5. Optional Cancellation / Interruption Travel Insurance Plan

Customized Total Immersion (CTI) participants arrange their own flights, and a copy of the flight plans must be emailed to ECI no later than 6 weeks prior to departure.

An ECI representative or the host family will meet your son or daughter at the designated arrival point. Prior to your child's departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time.

At every step of the way, CTI Program Participants will find guidance and support available from ECI's global and local professional staff. Please contact us to see if the CTI Program might be right for you!



crossing continents connecting cultures

for more information, FAQs, pictures, testimonials & to apply, please visit us at:

www.educulture.org

Application Procedure – 2009 Summer Programs

1. The fastest way to reserve your/ your child's space on the chosen program is to use our online option for application and payment. Go to www.educulture.org and **click the *How to apply* link. Complete the PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM and pay the \$95 non-refundable application fee.**
Alternatively, you may complete the application page found at the end of this packet and mail it with a \$95 check made payable to ECI.
2. Upon receipt of your/ your child's initial application form and fee, you/ your child will automatically be enrolled in our Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance / Travel Delay Protection / Baggage Delay or Loss Coverage at no extra cost to you.
3. Instructions on how to log in and complete your / your child's application will be emailed to you once the initial online application is submitted. Please ensure that you / your child completes all portions of Application, including Host Family Introduction Letter and pictures.
4. Please ensure that your/ your child's Teacher Recommendation Form is mailed back to ECI (either directly from teacher or from you). If the student is not accepted into our program based upon an unfavorable teacher recommendation form, any payments made for Cancellation / Interruption Insurance will be refunded to you.
5. Sign and return to ECI the Personal Responsibility Contract.
6. A deposit of \$1500 will be due within two weeks of initial application.
7. We will confirm receipt of your deposit via email – plus a **time-sensitive option to purchase Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance** (Insurance Decision Form), a highly recommended way to protect your trip investment.
8. **Within 15 days**, we must receive written notification as to whether you accept or decline the Optional Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance and payment if you accept.
9. A third payment of \$1500 is due by Friday, March 6, 2009.
10. The balance is due 60 days prior to travel.

(Please note that this is our general payment plan. To arrange a customized option or for any additional information you may need, contact Tracy Cone at 510.845.2230; Tracy@educulture.org)

- ❖ **A comprehensive Orientation Meeting will take place in the San Francisco Bay Area in May or early June. This will be an opportunity to meet other participants, ask questions, and receive additional materials & cultural information. Approximately 50% of our participants live in other areas of the country, and these students will be mailed a packet with all relevant materials.**

Additional Payment Information – 2009 Summer Programs

- ❖ The application fee of \$95 covers Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance / Travel Delay Protection / Baggage Delay or Loss Coverage. It also covers pre-departure orientation & educational materials. It is separate from the Total Program Fee and is non-refundable.
- ❖ All Program Fee payments will be deducted from the Total Program Fee. Please refer to APPLICATION PROCEDURE – 2009 SUMMER PROGRAMS for an outline of due dates.
- ❖ It is the parent's responsibility to make sure all payments arrive at ECI's office by their due dates. Parents must assume responsibility for late payments due to mail delays or other unlikely circumstances. Students whose payments are not received on time may lose their place in the program or be subject to a late payment charge.
- ❖ Applications made 60 or fewer days prior to departure will be treated on an individual space-available basis. Full payment will be due at the time of application, and completed application materials will be due within one week.

Edu-Culture International (ECI) Refund Policy

After airline tickets are purchased and paid in full to the airline by ECI on behalf of a student, they become the property of the student and their cost is non-refundable. That portion of the Program Fee, once this occurs, is not included in the following refund policy:

- Prior to December 12, 2008: All Program Fee payments less \$150
- Between December 12, 2008, and March 6, 2009: All Program Fee payments less \$500
- Between March 6, 2009, and June 5, 2009: All Program Fee payments less \$1200
- After June 5, 2009: No refund

Cancellations must be received by ECI in writing by the above dates for refunds.

Any student who is unwilling to abide by ECI guidelines or who is believed to jeopardize the welfare of others will be dismissed without refund of program fees and sent home at the expense of his/her parents. ECI reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient enrollment. In this case, all program fees would be refunded.

We strongly advise the purchase of Cancellation/Interruption Insurance. As indicated on the previous page, an Insurance Decision Form will be sent to you after we receive your initial deposit. To obtain the Pre-Existing Exclusion Waiver, Supplier Financial Insolvency, and coverage for certain Terrorist Act(s), this form plus payment must be sent to our office within 15 days of the date on the form.

PRELIMINARY MAIL-IN APPLICATION FORM

– Please mail this page with a \$95.00 check to ECI.

Edu-Culture International

P.O. Box 2692

Berkeley, CA 94702

CLEARLY CHECK THE PROGRAM TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

SPAIN:

- Salamanca 1 Session A
- Salamanca 1 Session B
- Salamanca 2
- Salamanca 3
- Granada/Nerja Combo
- Nerja Summer Study
- San Sebastián Summer Study Session A
- San Sebastián Summer Study Session B
- Customized Total Immersion - Spain

COSTA RICA:

- Natural Wonders
- Expedition Costa Rica

FRANCE:

- Lyon Homestay
- Aix-en-Provence Session A
- Aix-en-Provence Session B
- Toulouse
- Customized Total Immersion - France

Please print the student and parent email address clearly on the form below, as future correspondence will be sent to you via that email address.

Parent Name(s) _____

Best Day Phone(s) _____ Best Evening _____

Mailing Address _____

Parent Email _____

Student Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Student Email _____

Student's School _____

Foreign Language Teacher _____

Years of foreign language completed as of June 2009 _____ (2 yrs. of middle school count as one year of high school)

Parent Signature _____ Date _____