

# GREENHEART TRAVEL High School Abroad

Spain



Curriculum Guidelines



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## OVERVIEW OF THE SPANISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

Students in Spain enter their secondary education at the age of 12. The first 4 years are called *ESO*, which stands for *Educacion Secundaria Obligatoria*. Then they can either choose vocational studies, or they can study for 2 more years that will lead them to pass the *Bachillerato*: the diploma received at the end of the general curriculum of secondary education that will help them apply for universities.

All exchange students are usually placed in public high schools in Spain. Students who go on an exchange program to Spain come back with a thorough understanding of Spanish culture and a level of fluency in the language that is impossible to obtain in the classroom at home.

### Subjects in Spain

Exchange students will be placed in the fourth year of *ESO* or in first or second year of *Bachillerato*.

The fourth year of *ESO* (10th grade, 15-16 y. old) students have very few electives. They will have courses from the following curricula: History/Geography, Mathematics/ Science, and the compulsory subjects to all fourth year students: Physical Education, Catholic religion or ethics, English Language, and Language and Literature. Depending on the school, students will have two elective subjects between the following: French or German as a

third language, and Ancient History. Sometimes schools offer computer courses.

**First year of Bachillerato (11th grade, 16-17 y. old):** In this level, students must specialize in one of the following general sections, or tracks: Arts, Science, Technology or Humanities and Social Sciences. For each track, the following subjects will be compulsory: Physical Education, Catholic Religion or Ethics, Language and Literature, Philosophy, English. Then the students will take three other compulsory subjects, and they will also have one elective subject. (See table below)

**Second year of Bachillerato (12th grade, 17-18 y. old):** In this level, students are focused on taking the Spanish college entrance exam, the *Selectividad*. Therefore, they spend many hours at home in the afternoon studying their subjects of specialization (Arts, Science, Technology or Humanities and Social Sciences). Courses are focused on the material that will be tested on the *Selectividad*.

Most schools do not offer all specializations. The majority of the students are placed in the area of Social Studies. The following subjects will be compulsory: History, Language & Literature, English, Catholic Religion or Ethics. The students will take three other compulsory subjects and will also take an elective subject (see table below):

TRACK OF STUDIES	COMPULSORY SUBJECTS	ELECTIVE SUBJECTS
Arts (this track is not available at most schools)	Artistic Drawing, Mechanical Drawing, Art History, Graphic Arts, Design, Visual Arts	Artistic Workshops, Mathematics, Technical and Graphic Systems
Science	Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Mechanical Drawing, Earth and Environmental Science	Economy, Geology, Physics, Chemistry
Technology	Math, Physics, Chemistry, Industrial Technology, Mechanical Drawing, Electro Technology, Mechanics	Mechanical Drawing, Chemistry, Electro Technology, Industrial Technology
Humanities and Social Sciences	Modern History, Latin, Greek, Philosophy, Art History, Maths applied to Social Science, Economy, Geography	Greek, Literature, Psychology, Latin, Math applied to Social Science

## Schedule

All schools work on a five-day per week basis -- Monday through Friday. Most schools have a morning only timetable. Classes start at 8:30am, last approximately one hour each, and go until 2:30pm. There is a 20 minute break around midday.

## Extracurricular Activities

Spanish high schools do not usually offer (or very few) extracurricular activities. Sports and cultural activities are not affiliated with the school. Such activities take place outside of school. Sports clubs, art schools, and youth groups offer extracurricular activities for high school students. Students will have to pay to sign up for these activities.

## Transcripts

An exchange student will be able to get a transcript for this program, but they are in charge of talking to the local school about the transcript before leaving the program. Students will receive school transcripts after each trimester: before Christmas, before Easter, and at the end of June (end of May for 12th grade students). The first two reports are progress reports and are not considered official; although, they are widely accepted by schools in USA.

## Exams and Results

Exchange students are graded at the same standard as their Spanish peers.

### U.S. / Spain High School Grading Scale:

U.S.	SPAIN
A+ / A / A-	10 / 9 / 8.5
B+ / B / B-	8, 8, 7.5
C+ / C / C-	7, 7, 6.5
D+ / D / D-	6, 5.5, 5
F	Below 5

## What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.

## Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.