

Interview with the Education Office and the Trade Commission of the Embassy of Spain.

Written by:

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Study in Spain

Interview with the Education Office and the Trade Commission of the Embassy of Spain.

Every year thousands of students from across the world make their way to Spain to attend one of the 76 universities located in the country.

Spain's rich history and culture make it an appealing destination for students from different international lands due to the top-quality programs that are offered by its universities.

Ms. Maria Jose Fabre Gonzalez, Counselor of Education for the United States and Canada, and Ms. Inmaculada Gutiérrez, Trade Commissioner of the Embassy of Spain in Washington, DC discuss the importance of bridging partnerships and relations with Spain and North America at the NAFSA-Association of International Educators 2018 International Education Conference.

The International Education Conference is an annual conference and exposition organized by NAFSA-Association of International Educators, that connects peers with similar job challenges with top administrators, researchers, authors, and seasoned practitioners in the fields of education abroad, in order to broaden their knowledge of model practices and strategies.

Ms. Inmaculada Gutiérrez explains how Spain's participation in the conference seeks to bring closer and consolidate the Spanish educational offer in the American market. "The Spanish Pavilion incorporated 30 different institutions, and in addition there were other



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Spanish exhibitors present at the fair, as well as language schools with their own stands, so Spain's participation once again stood out among all the destinations.”

According to Ms. Gutiérrez, the Spanish education system has proved to be one of the most efficient, best planned systems in the world, and its higher education programs are known and recognized worldwide. Spanish education offers a high-quality preparation in every field of knowledge, which is rounded up with international expertise and fueled by professors and scholars leading in their fields.

“The welcoming and lively Spanish culture is attractive to a great number of international students. The good quality of life and the leisure possibilities that are offered constitute major reasons why international students choose Spanish universities as their destination.”

“As the most important trade fair of the sector in the United States, Spanish universities and schools find in NAFSA- Association of International Educators an ideal showcase in which to establish and maintain contacts with local professionals. In this sense, the capacity and good work of Spanish institutions and companies in recent years makes, year after year, the Spanish pavilion at NAFSA-Association of International Educators one of the most visible and crowded.” - **Ms. Inmaculada Gutiérrez, Trade Commissioner of the Embassy of Spain**

Why Spain

According to Ms. Maria Jose Fabre Gonzalez, the welcoming and lively Spanish culture is attractive to a great number of international students. The good quality of life and the leisure possibilities that are offered constitute major reasons why international students choose Spanish universities as their destination.

The history, art, sun, sea and breathtaking landscapes make Spain a perfect destination for anyone that wants to round up the academic experience with an unforgettable cultural life.

Furthermore, learning Spanish in Spain is a great opportunity of getting in touch with a language spoken by over 500 million people, that is second in the world by number of speakers and the second language also of international communication.

According to UNESCO stats, Spain hosts 50,000 exchange students every year and sends abroad about 23,000.





According to SEPIE, Italians are the largest exchange student population in Spain with 10,993 students in our campuses. Second are French (8,754) and the Germans go third (6,427). Americans are also very well-represented in Spanish campuses, with 5,882 students.

Spain is the third most popular study-abroad destination for U.S. students worldwide. Last year more than 28,000 students from the United States studied abroad in Spain. Nearly 3,000 U.S. language and culture assistants teach English in schools across Spain.

76

universities

Nowadays Spanish universities are offering most of their degrees in English.

Universities increase their offer of dual degrees to prepare students for a global work environment.

500,000

students/year

Further information can be found on the universities' websites about the bachelor degrees offered in English in Spanish here: <http://sepie.es/aplicaciones-web/i18n/html/tablagrados.html>

500m

spanish speakers

ne

There are 283 degrees with at least 30% teaching in ENGLISH, 164 with at least 50% and 80 with 100%.



Scholarships are offered and mostly granted by the Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación or the Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional. However, there are scholarships also granted by private entities and associations. It is recommended to look up the scholarships available in each Spanish education institution and contacting them for more information. You can find more information on shcolarships available here:

www.studyinspain.info/es/prepara-tu-viaje/como-financiar-tus-estudios

Opportunities to continue a professional career in Spain are available for students. You can find more information by consulting the Spanish Consulate website, and www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados, <http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/>



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Why is it attractive to international students?

International Recognition

Four Spanish universities rank amongst the 10 best in the world according to the ranking by disciplines of Shanghai (GRAS). Another 5 universities rank amongst the 20 best in the world. In total, 20 Spanish universities rank among the 50 best in the world in 24 specific disciplines.

Innovation and Technology

Spain is a world leader in all phases of management of the integral water cycle and first producer of desalinated water in Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. It is the second European country and the eighth in the world in vehicle manufacturing. Furthermore, it is a world leader in the production of industrial vehicles and technologies associated with electric cars. It is also the first European country and third in the world in agro biotechnology, as well as the second country in the world with the most renewable energy patents per inhabitant.

Culture and Arts

Spain is rich in diversity, culture and geographical essence, it is the second largest country in Western Europe and fifth in population: with a an area of 504,645 km² and 46,528,966 inhabitants. It is the second country that receives the most tourists every year. More than 82 million visited in 2017. Spain is the third country in the world and second in Europe in sites declared World Heritage by UNESCO: 45 declared Spanish



famous food and culinary arts. There are plenty of world famous Spanish artists in painting, writing, architecture.

Language

Spanish is the second most spoken mother tongue in the world: more than 500 million people speak Spanish as a native language. As an expanding global language: in 2050 more than 750 million people will be Spanish speakers. The Spanish language has experienced a growing interest, with almost 20 million students studying Spanish as a foreign language.

Cost and Quality of Life

The average expenditure of a student or researcher in Spain is estimated to be less than 1,000 euros/month, depending on the city. The enrollment of undergraduate students in Spanish public universities has an approximate cost between 700 and 1,800 euros per year. On the other hand, private universities establish their own academic fees, so the cost can be higher.

Procedures Facilities

Students from the European Union do not need a visa, and only registration in the Central Foreigners Registry is necessary if the duration of the stay is longer than 3 months.

Students from countries that are not part of the European Union must apply for a study visa, as it is not possible to enter Spain with a tourist visa and then apply for a study visa.

There is a fast-track for the admission of students in international mobility programs, Erasmus + and others.

Safety and Security

The U.S. Department of State states that Spain is generally a safe destination for tourists, students, business travelers, and others. It is the second safest country in the European Union, with the crime rate having dropped by 7.4 points in the last 10 years. The Spanish National Health Service has an extensive network of health centers and hospitals throughout the country. U.S. Department of State considers Spain Medical services comparable to the U.S.

The history, art, sun, sea and breathtaking landscapes make Spain a perfect destination for anyone that wants to round up the academic experience with an unforgettable cultural life." Ms. Gonzalez says. "Learning Spanish in Spain is a great opportunity of getting in touch with a language spoken by over 500 million people, that is second in the world by number of speakers and the second language also of international communication.





“In Spain, students will enjoy a first-class educational system, internationally recognized and in a monumental environment, full of history, art and culture. Spain is already a global destination, where the quality of life, security and character make more students fall in love with it every year, and thanks to the hospitality of its people they discover that Spain is also their home.”

- Ms. Maria Jose Fabre Gonzalez, Counselor of Education for the United States and Canada

