

PRO YEAR SPAIN



www.ifxsoccer.com

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.



LANGUAGE SCHOOL

For the Pro IFX programs, participants study in an intensive language program, studying the native language of the country. Normally the classes take place 3-4 times per week in the morning or afternoon, generally about 3-5 hours per day. The language institutes are private organizations, generally with small class sizes.

The language programs are offered in different levels and terms. A participant who has never studied the language before would start at the first level, and after the term, if successful in completing the course, would then move on to the next level for the next term.



Participation and attendance in the language school is an integral aspect of the IFX program and required. Learning a new language or improving in one already understood is a tremendous asset to have in one's future. It is also important to be able to communicate in the native language for daily life.



> 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.



THE STUDENT HOTEL – CAMPUS BARCELONA



The Student Hotel - Campus Barcelona is the largest student residence in Barcelona. With 500 rooms, it offers you accommodation of the highest quality with a fresh and dynamic design. The residence offers both single and double rooms as well as extensive services and facilities for its student residents. The facility includes kitchen lounges on each floor, a roof-deck pool, a cafeteria and more.

Twin Room

These 18 square meter twin rooms provide both residents with their own wardrobes, study areas and single bed (90 x 200 cm). The bathroom is en suite and you can also make use of the common Cooking Lounge.

Single Room

The single rooms are multifunctional 12 square meter spaces comprised of a study area, a double bed (135 x 200 cm) and an en suite bathroom, as well as access to a shared Cooking Lounge. The single room offers a high degree of privacy while allowing you to mix with other students with your lifestyle.

If you're a student in Spain and you're looking for a central location, top quality, modern design, a great atmosphere, the chance to make new friends and want to experience Barcelona to the fullest, you've found the right place.



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



IFX Main Office

4847 Hopyard Rd. , Ste. 4, #113
Pleasanton, CA 94588 - USA
Tel: +1 510 599 4625
email: info@ifxsoccer.com

Emergency Numbers:

Youth Year & Pro Year Spain IFX Programs:

Provided on your host family contact sheet

England and Spain Programs:

Provided on your host family contact sheet
or program documentation.

Pro IFX Germany:

Christian Schaller
Cell: +49 160 52 41 547
Office: +49 911 99 43 9401

In an emergency, call the police or appropriate authority:

GERMANY
Dial 112

SPAIN
Dial 112

ITALY
Dial 112

ENGLAND
Dial 999 or 112

