

## **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE ASSISTANTS IN SPAIN**

Language and culture assistants will be assigned to:

- Elementary / Primary schools
- Middle & High / Secondary schools
- “*Escuelas Oficiales de Idiomas*”(State language schools for adults)

Posts are available in all Spanish *Comunidades Autonomas* (autonomous regions) including Islas Baleares and Canarias, and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, bordering Morocco in North Africa.

We recommend you research possible destinations in Spain thoroughly before applying and be as flexible as possible regarding your area choices.

[Andalucía](#)

[Cataluña](#)

[Islas Canarias](#)

[Aragon](#)

[Ceuta and Melilla](#)

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[Castilla-La Mancha](#)

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## **ANDALUSIA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

The size of Indiana, Andalusia accounts for as much as 17.3 percent of Spain's territory.

Its temperate Mediterranean climate is marked by hot, dry summers and mild winters with irregular precipitation. The most distinct characteristic of the Andalusian climate is the amount of sunlight throughout the year. Many attribute the happy and hospitable culture of the Andalusians to these many bright sunny days.

The thousand-year history of Andalusia has left an immense artistic legacy. The Alhambra in Granada, the Mezquita of Cordoba or the Giralda in the historic district of Seville are some of the most important historical landmarks of Spain's legacy. But in addition to those more known marvels, almost every Andalusian town or city boasts preserved traces of the region's rich cultural history dating back throughout its many periods.

Andalusia is divided into eight different provinces. The capitals of the Andalusian provinces, in descending order beginning with the largest are: Seville, the capital (683,000 inhabitants), Malaga (522,000 inhabitants), Cordoba (302, 000 inhabitants), Granada (255,000 inhabitants), Almeria (155,000 inhabitants), Cadiz (154,000 inhabitants), Huelva (142,000 inhabitants) and Jaen (102,000 inhabitants).

### **2. Teaching Methods**

The 805 bilingual schools in which the language and culture assistants will be placed are located throughout the entire geographic region of Andalusia. They consist of elementary schools and high schools, the majority of which are located in the capitals of the Andalusian provinces, in urban areas.

### **3. Assistants' Duties**

The language and cultural assistants are to carry out their duties under, and with, the following conditions:

- Work for a minimum of 12 hours each week, either in one specific school or two. Regardless of the number of schools in which the assistants work, they will not be held responsible for supervising the students. When in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a classroom teacher.
- The assistants will help the students improve their spoken skills in the target foreign language through practice.
- They will devise plans for phonetic and grammatical correction in the appropriate foreign language.
- They will collaborate with the teaching staff to come up with class materials.

- Finally, they will present current events and plan fun, recreational activities in order to familiarize the students and staff with the assistant's native culture.

Their work will last, at most, eight months, starting in October and finishing in May, so that their services coincide with the school year.

#### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Andalucia](#)  
[Junta de Andalucia](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la Junta de Andalucia](#)

## **ARAGÓN**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Aragon, located in the North-eastern region of Spain, has seen the ascent of many different cultures thanks to its privileged location. The Romans and Arabs, among other cultures, have bequeathed a rich artistic and cultural patrimony, in which their art is still admired today.

The region of Aragon includes three provinces of enormous natural diversity: Huesca, Teruel and Zaragoza. Huesca is famous for its thrilling rocky landscape, shaped by the Pyrenees Mountains. Teruel is noted for its Mediterranean-like scenery and Zaragoza for its urban thrust.

### **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants in Aragon will complete their duties in public elementary and secondary schools. Priority will be given to students that are between the ages of 10 and 12 years old, and who follow a full day schedule that starts in the morning and ends in the afternoon. Other schools, called *Centros Rurales de Innovación Educativa*, enrol students in an age group between 12 to 18 years. These students' school day takes place only in the mornings. Finally, the Official Foreign Language Schools generally operate in the evenings and are composed of adult students.

### **3. Assistants' Duties**

The culture and language assistants devote a weekly minimum of 12 hours to completing their duties. They do this with the help of the regular classroom

teacher, and their tasks consist of, most importantly, helping the teacher reinforce the students' oral skills.

#### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo del Gobierno de Aragón](#)  
[Turismo de España: Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación del Gobierno de Aragón](#)

## **ASTURIAS**

### **1. General Regional Information**

The Principality of Asturias is an Autonomous Region that consists of only one province, situated on the northern coast of Spain. Its capital, Oviedo, hosts the Regional Government and the primary regional institutions. Asturias shares its western border with Galicia, its eastern border with Cantabria and its southern border with Castilla y León. Asturias is about 3,900 sq. miles (the size of Connecticut), and has a population of slightly over a million inhabitants.

Asturias is most densely populated in the central region of the Principality, with high populated areas stretching from the coast to the inland, following the Principalities' trail of mineral valleys. Other Asturian large cities are Gijón and Avilés.

Just as Asturias is known for its natural beauty and its rich artistic and cultural heritage, it is also known for the rich hospitality of its people, which makes it a sought out destination for many visitors each year.

### **2. Teaching Methods**

Until now, those selected for the program have completed their duties in both high schools and official foreign language schools. These are public schools for students aged 14 years and above, which focus on teaching foreign languages.

The schools are dispersed throughout the entirety of Asturias, although the central area is where the majority of schools are located. In general, the high schools (IES) to which the language and culture assistants are assigned are those with bilingual education programs for their students, in which several non-language subject courses are taught in English or French.

### 3. Assistants' Duties

The language and culture assistants are responsible for helping a language teacher, or in the case that an assistant is placed in a bilingual school, assisting a teacher in a non-language subject course in which the assistant will devote special attention to the oral aspects of the language. Coordinating with the teaching staff is key to maximizing the assistant's duties, so weekly coordination periods will be scheduled for that purpose.

The schools stress the importance of the assistants' integration into the Spanish culture and the school life and encourage them to take part in many extra-curricular activities. Their work as linguistic and cultural agents is recognized and highly regarded by the entire educational community.

### 4. Links of Interest

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de la Comunidad Autónoma de Asturias](#)

[Información de la Comunidad Autónoma de Asturias](#)

[Turismo de España: Comunidad Autónoma de Asturias](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

**Área de Plurilingüismo**

Servicio de Plurilingüismo y Tecnologías Educativas

[auxiliaresdeconversacion@educastur.princast.es](mailto:auxiliaresdeconversacion@educastur.princast.es)

[Consejería de Educación del Gobierno de Asturias](#)

## CANTABRIA

### 1. General Regional Information

Cantabria is one of Spain's autonomous regions located on the Atlantic-Cantabrian Coast and has become known as "la España verde" or "Green Spain." It rests between the Basque Country, at its East, and Asturias, at its West. The Cantabrian region is home to around 568,091 inhabitants and encompasses approximately 2,000 sq miles. While the coast stays temperate and humid, the interior is much more extreme and dry thanks to the influence from the Cantabrian Mountain range.

The most heavily populated city in Cantabria is its capital, Santander, home to 200,000 inhabitants. This is a well known tourist city that hosts cultural activities every summer, such as the events of the *Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo* and the International Festival of Santander. Other municipalities, such as Torrelevega, Castro Urdiales, Camargo, Reinosa and Laredo, trail Santander in terms of population.

## **2. Teaching Methods**

The Cantabrian Office of Education fosters Bilingual education all through the K-12 system (*primaria* and *secundaria*) through the implementation of the *Plan de Potenciación de Lenguas Extranjeras (Foreign language implementation Plan)*. Among other benefits, schools can apply to host a language and culture assistant to help classroom teachers implement the program in their classes. The schools to which the assistants can be assigned are located all throughout Cantabria and are of the following types:

- Public preschools and elementary schools, with students ranging from the ages of 3 to 12. In these programs, classes follow both a morning and an afternoon schedule.
- High schools (IES), with students between the ages of 12 and 18.
- Bilingual schools offering educational programs designed to facilitate in-depth learning opportunities at different levels: early childhood, elementary, secondary and post-compulsory education.
- The teaching of languages, as a complement to the general educational system, is carried out at *Escuelas Oficiales de Idiomas*. These public funded schools, for students past 14 years of age, offer classes in various foreign languages.

## **3. Assistants' Duties**

- Assist the teaching staff of the foreign language with the more functional and communicative aspects of their lessons, taking part in the students' practice of the foreign language.
- Help with activities created to provide familiarity with subjects like geography, customs, economy, fashion and current events of their country of origin.
- Collaborate with the teaching staff to create interesting new teaching materials.
- Participate in the evaluation of the teach-and-learn process of the student body and make sure that each student is in the appropriate level of programming.
- Other duties related with the Plan's implementation.

## **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Cultura, Turismo y Deporte de Cantabria](#)  
[Turismo de Cantabria](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

## **CASTILLA-LA MANCHA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Of considerable size, Castilla-La Mancha constitutes the southern plateau of the country with a land area of some 31,000 square miles, equivalent to that of Maine, making it the third largest of Spain's regions.

This area is considered a "tierra de paso," or crossroads, as seen with its abundant remnants of past cultures, confirming its rich historical and artistic heritage which has yet to be fully discovered and understood.

Its more than 1,900,000 inhabitants are distributed among five provinces: Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca, Guadalajara and Toledo. The population distribution of these regions is very irregular, with small and numerous groupings in the north, contrasted with larger, but less numerous groupings in the south. This population distribution pattern can be traced back to the Spanish Reconquest (*la Reconquista*), a period which has left many lasting impacts on the land and people.

The rich history of this region has left behind important sites of great historic and artistic importance. Many of these cities, such as the renowned, "multicultural," Toledo and the "magical" Cuenca have been proclaimed World Heritage sites by UNESCO.

### **2. Teaching Methods**

Castilla-La Mancha's schools are dispersed evenly throughout its rural and urban areas and fall primarily under the following types:

- Official Language Schools (Escuelas Oficiales de Idiomas), evening schools for students beginning at 14 years of age, in which foreign languages are the primary focus of study.
- Preschool and elementary or grade school, programs attended by students between the ages of 3 and 12.
- High schools (IES), in which the student body falls between the ages of 13 to 18.

### 3. Assistants' Duties

Over the course of at least twelve hours every week, the cultural and language assistants are expected to carry out the following duties

- Collaborate with teachers to put into practice programs and activities for the educational communities.
- Provide conversational practice for the students and staff.
- Work in cooperation with the linguistic advisor, the English teachers and/or the teachers of other subjects taught in English.

### 4. Links of Interest

- GENERAL INFORMATION:  
[Turismo de Castilla-La Mancha](#)  
[Turismo de España: Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha](#)
- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:  
[Consejería de Educación de la Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha](#)

## CASTILLA Y LEON

### 1. General Regional Information

Castilla y Leon is located in the centre of the Spanish Peninsula. It has an altitude of almost a thousand yards and occupies almost all of the Northern Plateau. Its climate is continental, with warm, dry summers, and cold winters. The geography of this region is varied, including vast stretches of plains, mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers and canyons. This diverse countryside makes Castilla y Leon an ideal place for leisure time activities.

Castilla y Leon is also the largest autonomous region in Europe, harboring a land area of 36,500 sq. Miles (the size of Indiana). It is divided into 9 provinces: Avila, Burgos, León, Palencia, Salamanca, Segovia, Soria, Valladolid (the capital city) and Zamora.

Castilla y León is also home to an immense historic and artistic heritage. Among others, the historic cities of Avila, Salamanca and Segovia, the archeological sites of Atapuerca (Burgos), the Médulas (León), el Camino de Santiago and the Cathedral of Burgos, have all been named World Heritage sites by UNESCO.

Castilla y León also boasts the National Sculpture Museum of Valladolid, La Casa Lis (Salamanca), the Museum of Arms (Segovia), the Contemporary Art Museum of Patio Herreriano (Valladolid) and the Castilla y León Contemporary Art Museum (León).



## **2. Teaching Methods**

The schools to which language and culture assistants are assigned are mainly located in the provinces' capital cities. The rest are found in smaller towns and areas with full access to services and communications.

The language and culture assistants help in public schools of varying levels. They are assigned to preschools and elementary schools (CEIP) with French-Spanish bilingual programmes attended by students between the ages of 3 and 12, and will also help in high schools (IES) serving students aged 13 through 18. In addition to the two aforementioned, they may also provide services in official language schools (Escuela Oficial de Idiomas). These language evening schools are public institutions specialized in foreign languages teaching to students of at least fourteen years of age.

## **3. Assistants' Duties**

The assistants are expected to help the teaching staff with various aspects of language acquisition with special attention paid to conversational skills. However, their jobs go beyond assisting in teaching the target language, as they also help the staff with other non-linguistic duties necessary to run and maintain the schools. Coordination between the assistants and the teaching staff is a key factor in the programs' success and special time is allotted to make sure that their time and presence in the school is optimized for the benefit of the students.

The assistants work for a minimum of 12 hours each week, either in one school or more. Regardless of the number of schools in which the assistants work, they are not held responsible for supervising the students. When in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a classroom teacher

The schools at large encourage the assistants' transition and assimilation within their communities and foster their active participation in a variety of extracurricular activities. Their services as propagators of foreign language and culture are well known and highly valued throughout the educational community.

Their work will last, at most, nine months, starting on 15<sup>th</sup> of October and finishing on 15<sup>th</sup> of June May, so that their services coincide with the school year.

## **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de Junta de Castilla y León](#)

[Turismo de España: Junta de Castilla y León](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la Junta de Castilla y León](#)

## **CATALONIA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Catalonia is located on the northeastern coast of Spain, hitting the Mediterranean Sea to the east and France and Andorra to the North. This region has a moderate sunny climate with a very mild winter and a hot summer.

The Catalanian geography affords the region an active and open means of communication with the rest of Europe and other Mediterranean countries. This free and open communication and exchange has made Catalonia a cosmopolitan center with cities of great historical, cultural and artistic importance.

Also worth nothing, is that the assistants to be in a region in which they have the chance to study and learn two languages: Catalan and Castilian.

### **2. Teaching Methods**

The elementary through high schools where the assistants are assigned are located in all Catalonia's four provinces: Barcelona, Tarragona, Lleida and Girona. A number of leisurely activities including taking advantage of the rich natural resources, visiting historic monuments, water sports, hiking the mountain trails, sampling the wonderful Mediterranean gastronomy and taking part in the local customs of the country are easily accessible in all four provinces.

### **3. Assistants' Duties**

The Catalanian schools participate in innovative foreign language projects in which the assistants help the teaching staff with their class activities, work with small groups of students on communication skills, and plan games and other fun events for the students. In this manner the assistants present their own culture and country of origin. These activities are all done under the supervision of the teacher.

### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de Cataluña](#)  
[Turismo de España: Cataluña](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la Generalitat de Catalunya](#)

## **CEUTA AND MELILLA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Ceuta and Melilla are both Spanish autonomous cities situated on the Mediterranean side of the African continent. The territory of Melilla extends over 5.2 sq. miles in its eastern regions ending with Tres Forcas and housing a population of about 67,000. Ceuta is home to 75,861 inhabitants and encompasses a surface area of about 7.3 sq. miles.

The two cities lie 90 miles apart on the Northern coast of Africa and both have temperate, Mediterranean climates.

The official language of these two territories is Spanish; however, the Muslim population also speaks a local Arabic dialect, exclusively oral, named "Dariya."

The geographic situation of Ceuta and Melilla confers to both cities a very peculiar cultural tradition bequeathed by many years of mixing the Spanish population with others of Magreb, Indian and Jewish descent.

### **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their work in public schools of the following types:

- High schools, with students ranging from ages 12 to 18.
- Official foreign language schools (EOI) Escuela Oficial de Idiomas: evening schools focused on foreign languages for students over 14.

### **3. Assistants' Duties**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their duties under, and with, the following conditions:

- Work for a minimum of 12 hours each week, either in one school or more. Regardless of the number of schools in which the assistants work, they are not held responsible for supervising the students. When in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a classroom teacher.
- The assistants help the students improve their spoken skills in the target foreign language through practice.
- They devise plans for phonetic and grammatical correction.
- They collaborate with the teaching staff to come up with class materials.

- Finally, they present current events and plan fun, recreational activities in order to familiarize the students and staff with the assistant's native culture.

Their work will last, at most, eight months, starting in October and finishing in May, so that their services coincide with the school year.

#### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de la Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta](#)  
[Turismo de la Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación y Cultura de la Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta](#)  
[Consejería de Educación y Colectivos Sociales de la Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla](#)

## **THE REGION OF VALENCIA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Valencia is one of the 17 Autonomous Spanish Regions, stretching along the eastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula. The region is made up of the provinces of Alicante, Castellón and Valencia. Resting on the Mediterranean Sea, it borders Catalonia and Aragón to the north, Castilla-La Mancha and Aragón to the West, and Murcia to the South.

The Region of Valencia presents a climate characteristic of the Mediterranean: it has hot, warm summers, and mild winters. The temperature stays, for the most part, pleasant all year-round with an average that rarely falls below 60°, except in the mountainous zones.

The population distribution in the Region is as follows: Valencia: 2,358,919, Alicante: 1,657,040 and Castellón: 527,345. The population concentrates on the coastal areas at large, making the inlands very sparsely inhabited.

The Region of Valencia, thanks to its pleasant climate, gastronomy and enormous natural, artistic and cultural heritage, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. Furthermore, because of its popular festivals, such as las *Fallas* de Valencia (a tradition celebrated every March) this region of Spain has gained international acclaim.

## **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their work in public schools of varying types:

- Secondary education schools with students ranging from ages 12 to 18.
- Official foreign language schools (EOI) Escuela Oficial de Idiomas: evening schools focused on foreign languages for students over 14.

## **3. Duties of the Assistant**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their duties under, and with, the following conditions:

- Work for a minimum of 12 hours each week, either in one school or more. Regardless of the number of schools in which the assistants work, they not responsible for supervising the students. When in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a classroom teacher.
- The assistants help the students improve their spoken skills through oral practice.
- They devise plans for phonetic and grammatical correction.
- They collaborate with the teaching staff to come up with class materials.
- Finally, they present current events and plan fun, recreational activities in order to familiarize the students and staff with the assistant's native culture.

Their work will last, at most, eight months, starting in October and finishing in May, so that their services coincide with the school year.

## **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de la Comunidad Valenciana](#)  
[Turismo de España: Comunidad Valenciana](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la Comunidad Valenciana](#)

## **EXTREMADURA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Extremadura is found among the most varied interior regions of Europe. It is abundant with mountain-rivers, pastures, meadows, and it is one of the richest regions in regard to biological diversity in general.

Extremadura boasts a magnificent cultural heritage. Its beautiful cities compete in grandeur with their castles, palaces and monuments unlike any others on the face of the globe. Mérida and Cáceres have both been declared World Heritage sites by UNESCO, offering many impressive attractions that rival each other in their beauty and majesty. There is home to the monasteries of Guadalupe and Yuste, castles like those of Alburquerque or Trujillo, and even palaces like those that, even today, house “los Paradores” of Zafra or Jarandilla de la Vera.

Just as impressive, and possibly even more so, as the artistic heritage, is the natural beauty of this region. The national park of Monfrangüe, with an abundance of flora and fauna not found anywhere else in Europe, demonstrates the possibility of coexistence between human development and a healthy natural environment. Additionally, there are many other natural sites worth mentioning: the “Comarca de la Siberia” and “la Serena;” the Natural Park of “Cornalvo;” the valleys of “la Vera” and of the South of “Badajoz” are all authentic natural paradises, in which man has always lived respectful of the area’s delicate natural balance.

Yet the true richness of Extremadura comes from its people. It lies on the crossroads of the North and South (Castile and Andalusia) and the East and West (Spain and Portugal). This central locale has imparted a sense of balance on its citizens and formed the Extremadurians into a people that can work hard in addition to partying, and a people who voice their own opinion while listening to those of others.

Because of this inclination towards adaptation, learning, and innate curiosity, the assistants and their mission are very well received in Extremadura.

## **2. Methods of Teaching**

The job of the assistants is primarily carried out in secondary education schools (IES) although they can also help in bilingual elementary school programs or official foreign language schools (where students can begin studies after reaching 14 years of age).

## **3.Assistants’ Duties**

The assistants work from Monday through Thursday, while on Friday they can indulge themselves in cultural trips to another town, the mountain range or even to neighbor country Portugal.

The job of the assistants consists of promoting communication on, and providing familiarity with the foreign culture that they represent. This is to be done through a variety of activities that enhance the students’ exposure to the language with special emphasis placed on speaking and conversational skills.

#### 4. Links of Interest

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de la Junta de Extremadura](#)  
[Paseo Virtual por los Pueblos de Extremadura](#)  
[Turismo de España: Extremadura](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la Junta de Extremadura](#)

## **GALICIA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Galicia is one of the Spanish Autonomus Community of special historic character. It is perched at the northwestern corner of the Iberian Peninsula and is geographically limited to the North by the Cantabrian Sea, to the South by Portugal, to the West by the Atlantic Ocean and to the East by Asturias and Castilla y León.

The population distribution in the Galician Autonomous Community is as follows: A Coruña: 1.146.458, Lugo: 353.504, Ourense: 335.219 and Pontevedra: 962.472. Vigo is the largest, with 293,255 inhabitants, followed by six others: A Coruña (246.047), Ourense (108,137), Lugo (97.635), Santiago de Compostela (94.824), Pontevedra (81.981) and Ferrol (73.638). The traditional organization of the Galician population is substantially different from that of the rest of Spain as it is based on a system of small towns and parishes.

Galicia's economy depends mostly on its agriculture and its fishing industry, even though there currently are more jobs in the tertiary sector 731.400 people out of a total of 731.400 workers. Within the secondary sector, the naval construction in Vigo and Ferrol, the automotive and textile industry, as well as the granite manipulation industries, all greatly contribute to the Galician economy.

The Galician Community is also a tourist centre of great importance: its beautiful beaches, rural country sides and unparalleled ocean culture go hand in hand with a mild climate and an excellent gastronomy making Galicia a more popular tourist destination every year. The Rías Altas y Bajas, the Coast of Fisterra and beautiful historic cities like Santiago de Compostela, A Coruña and Vigo all claim prestige as prime tourist sites. Just as Galicia is known for its natural beauty and its rich artistic and cultural heritage, it is also known for the rich hospitality of its people, which makes it a sought out destination for many visitors each year.

Also worth noting, is that the assistants to be in a community in which they have the chance to study and learn two languages: Galician and Castilian.

## **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their tasks in public schools of elementary education (the students' age range is 3 to 12), secondary schools, attended by students between the ages of 12 and 18 and education of language learning for students aged 16 years and above.

The elementary and secondary centres are part of the Network of Galician Multilingual Schools or involved in the program of Bilingual Sections through the *Foreign Language Implementation Plan*.

Today there are 110 multilingual centres, 454 centres with bilingual sections y 11 EOI schools (Official school of foreign languages).

## **3. Assistants' Duties**

The language and culture assistants have a 12 hour a week schedule and their main classroom duty consist of reinforcing the students' spoken skills.

## **4. Links of Interest**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- [Cultura y turismo de Galicia.](#)
- [Turismo de Galicia.](#)

### **EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:**

- [Consellería de Educación e Ordenación Universitaria.](#)
- [Área de Linguas Extranxeras. Consellería de Educación e Ordenación Universitaria.](#)

## **THE BALEARIC ISLANDS**

### **1. General Regional Information**

This precious enclave on the Mediterranean Sea, located just off the Iberian Peninsula's eastern coast is an archipelago composed of two groups of main islands, surrounded by a number of smaller islands:

- Las Gimnesias: Menorca, Mallorca and Cabrera, as well as some surrounding small islands, such as Dragonera, the Isla del Aire and others.
- Las Pitiusas: Ibiza and Formentera, as well as distinct little islands off the coasts, such as Conejera.



The Balearic Islands are one of the seventeen Spanish Autonomous Regions, of which the capital is Palma de Mallorca. The official languages of the Islands are Spanish and Catalan. Together, the Islands have a 2,000 sq. miles extension with a population of over a million.

The Balearic climate is fair with more than 300 days of sun annually. The beautiful landscapes and beaches, the incredibly extensive cultural importance, the possibilities for leisure and relaxation and the hospitality of its inhabitants have made the Islands a cosmopolitan tourist destination for people from all over the world. For some, the Islands offer a beautiful place to vacation, and for others, a place to spend eternity.

The schools are located on the main islands of Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera. Some of the schools are located in urban areas, while others are located in large towns and rural areas.

## **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants will be assigned to elementary schools as well as high schools. The majority of the schools are public, although some are private schools subsidized with public funds. Each of the schools' curriculums is comprised of teaching programs in three languages: Spanish, Catalan and English.

## **3. Assistants' Duties**

The language and culture assistants assist the classroom English teacher and their main duties are mainly reinforcing the students' oral skills. The assistants follow a weekly schedule of 12 hours, which include one hour of coordination with the teaching staff.

## **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de las Islas Baleares](#)

[Turismo de España: Islas Baleares](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación y Cultura del Gobierno de las Islas Baleares](#)

## **THE CANARY ISLANDS**

### **1. General Regional Information**

The Canary Islands are one of the 17 Autonomous Regions of Spain. They are situated in the Atlantic Ocean, lying only 60 miles off the north-east coast of Africa.

This archipelago is comprised of a few small islands and seven larger ones: El Hierro, La Gomera, La Palma y Tenerife, which from the Province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife; and Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, which together form the “Las Palmas” Province. The total land surface of the archipelago consists of 2,882 square miles, divided among 430 coastal and 100 of which are beach front. El Hierro, the smallest of these islands, holds a mere 104 square miles while the largest, Tenerife, encompasses 785.

The Canary Island population currently stands at 2,103,992 inhabitants. The province of “Las Palmas” is home to 1,083,502 people while the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife houses 1,020,490. But the municipality with the greatest population is Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (381,847 inhabitants), followed by Santa Cruz de Tenerife (222,417), San Cristóbal de la Laguna (150,661) and finally Telde (100,015).

The climate in the islands is subtropical, with an average temperature of 71°, allowing for great biological diversity, which, together with their rich geography, make the islands home to the largest number of national parks in Spain (four in total). The most emblematic geographical feature in the Canary Islands is the Teide, rising to a height of 2.31 miles.

It should be noted that there is an hour time difference between the Canary Islands (GMT) and the rest of Spain (GMT+1)

## **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants will carry out their various duties in public schools of the following types:

- IES (Secondary schools), with students ages range 12 to 18.
- Official foreign language schools (EOI) Escuela Oficial de Idiomas, a kind of language evening school.

## **3. Assistants' Duties**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their duties under, and with, the following conditions:

- Work for a minimum of 12 hours each week, either in one specific school or in two. Regardless of the number of schools in which the assistants work, they are not responsible for supervising the students. When in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a teacher of that department.
- The assistants help the students improve their spoken skills in the target foreign language through practice.

- They devise plans for phonetic and grammatical correction in the appropriate foreign language.
- They collaborate with the teaching staff to come up with class materials.
- Finally, they present current events and plan fun, recreational activities in order to familiarize the students and staff with the assistant's native culture.

Their work will last, at most, eight months, starting in October and finishing in May, so that their services coincide with the school year.

#### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de las Islas Canarias](#)

[Turismo de España: Islas Canarias](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación, Universidades y Sostenibilidad del Gobierno de Canarias](#)

## **LA RIOJA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

La Rioja is a small region located in the North of Spain, famous for its production of red wine, well known throughout the world as “tierra con nombre de vino” or “land with the name of wine”. This region is also recognized as the cradle of the Castilian language, whose first written documents are found in the small town of San Millán de la Cogolla.

In crossing along with the famous “Camino de Santiago”, one can find the way filled with pilgrims and a hospitable and warm people to welcome the travelers.

The capital city, also the largest and most populated, is Logroño, home to about 146,000 inhabitants. It is a welcoming and warm city, offering both the tranquility of a small town, and a wide array of leisure-time options equally accessible during the week and on the weekends.

### **2. Teaching Methods**

There are positions for the language and culture assistants in elementary and secondary public schools. These positions can be found in many different areas of La Rioja, but the majority are in Logroño, along with some others in Nájera, Santo Domingo de la Calzada, Arnedo or Calahorra. All of these smaller regions and cities maintain good communication with Logroño and are

considered excellent locations to live, mingle, experience life, and learn Castilian.

### **3. Assistants' Duties**

In La Rioja the language and culture assistants collaborate with the teachers helping small groups of students and reinforcing the students' language skills. It is also important that the assistants easily and comfortably become actively involved in the school life.

### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de La Rioja](#)

[Turismo de España: La Rioja](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la La Rioja](#)

## **MADRID**

### **1. General Regional Information**

The Autonomous Region of Madrid encompasses 3,100 square miles and is home to about six and a half million residents. It is among Europe's fastest growing economic and demographic regions and is well known for its vitality and hospitality as an epicenter of Spanish culture, leisure, and entertainment.

The principal towns comprising the Madrid Autonomous Region are Alcalá de Henares (declared a world heritage site), Móstoles, Fuenlabrada, Getafe, Leganés, Aranjuez, Alcorcón, Coslada, Alcobendas or San Sebastián de los Reyes. All of these cities are home to over a million inhabitants.

### **2. Teaching Methods**

The assistants placed in the Region of Madrid will mainly be assigned to elementary schools with an English- Spanish bilingual program. This program was implemented in 2004-2005 and there are already 276 schools and 64 secondary schools involved and the numbers will grow in the next school year.

In these centres students received at least 1/3 of their classes only in English.

Language assistants may also be assigned to the German and French Bilingual Sections and to all the other Secondary Schools in the Region of Madrid not belonging to the Bilingual Programme in order to support their English Departments.

Approximately one third of the schools are within the city of Madrid and the rest are located close by and are easily reached by public transport.

### **3. Assistants' Duties**

The language and cultural assistants are to carry out their duties under the following conditions:

- Work between 12 and 16 hours each week, either in one specific school or in two. Regardless the number of schools in which the assistants work, they are not responsible for the supervision of the students. While in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a classroom teacher.
- The assistants help the students to improve their spoken skills in English through practice.
- They devise plans for phonetic and grammatical correction in the appropriate foreign language.
- They collaborate with the teaching staff to come up with class materials.
- Finally, they present current events and plan fun, recreational activities in order to familiarize the students and staff with the assistant's native culture.

Their commitment will last ten months, starting in October and finishing in June

### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de Madrid](#)

[Guía de Turismo, Entretenimiento y Ocio de Madrid](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la Comunidad de Madrid](#)

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## **MURCIA**

### **1. General Regional Information**

The region of Murcia is one of the 17 Autonomous Regions of Spain, situated in the southeast of the Iberian Peninsula, between Andalusia and the Region of Valencia, touching the Mediterranean Coast on the east, and Castilla-La Mancha on the west. The largest city is Murcia (the capital), followed by Cartagena.

The Region of Murcia has a population of 1,370,000 inhabitants approximately and, nearly a third of which (30.7%) live in the capital city. The region has seen a population growth higher than anywhere else in the country (5.52 per thousand inhabitants) coupled with the highest birth rate in Spain.

The Region of Murcia is the largest producer of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Europe and exports wine out of vineyards located near the municipalities of Bullas, Yecla and Jumilla. These fine wines boast the high standards mark of “denominación de origen,” promising select and exquisite quality. The land itself is warm and mostly semi-arid even though its agriculture is traditionally irrigated. Its highest peak is Revolcadores, hitting some 2,200 yards and located in the town of Moratalla.

The Region of Murcia enjoys a semi-arid, Mediterranean climate, with mild winters (52°F average in December and January) while its summers are often hot, with a maximum temperature of 104°. The annual average temperature is 64° and the region experiences scarce precipitations, usually from 300 to 350 mm per year. In fact, the sky stays almost totally clear from anywhere between 120 to 150 days each year, only changing in April and October, the months with the most precipitation.

Due to the distance from the sea, there are notable temperature differences between the coast and the interior of Murcia. These differences are most notable during winter, and while on the coast the temperature rarely falls below 50°, on the inland the temperature almost never rises above 43° and experiences higher levels of precipitation.

## **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants are able to carry out their assigned duties in kindergarten, elementary, and secondary education schools (a few of which have bilingual sections). They are also able to work in (EOI) Official foreign language schools (public education school for students of at least 14 years of age focused on the teaching of foreign languages)

The assistants can be assigned either on the coast or the inland, urban or rural spots. It is not pre-established which schools host assistants; rather they must apply for them. However, all schools can apply to host assistants.

## **3. Assistants' Duties**

The duties that the assistants carry out at the Murcian schools consist of supporting the teaching staff: both serving the needs of the foreign language teachers in non-bilingual schools as well as assisting those in bilingual institutions.

## **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Consejería de Educación de la Región de Murcia](#)

## NAVARRRE

### 1. General Regional Information

The Foral Region of Navarra is one of the 17 Spanish Autonomous Regions. This beautiful region is situated in the North of the Iberian Peninsula, bordering Aragón to the Southeast, La Rioja to the South, the Basque Country to the West and France to the North.

It is comprised of 272 municipalities and has a population of 600,000 inhabitants approximately, about a third of which live in the capital city of Pamplona (195,769 inhabitants) and half of which live in the metropolitan areas of that same city (315,988 inhabitants).

Navarra is today, one of the richest of Spain's regions with regards socio-economic standards. Its beautiful valleys spread throughout the land and have become popular tourist destinations. Among those most notable are the valleys of Baztán, Roncal, Salazar, Bidasoa, Cinco Villas-Malerreka, Ultzama-Basadurua or the valley of Larraun. However, what makes Navarra known throughout the world are the festivals of San Fermin, which are celebrated every year in July, attracting visitors from all over the world.

In addition to exposure to Spanish, the assistants assigned go to Navarra will have the opportunity to be in contact with another language: Euskera, the official language of many cities in Navarra.

### 2. Teaching Methods

The language and culture assistants will carry out their duties in public schools of varying types:

- Elementary schools, with students up to 12 years of age.
- High schools (IES), where the students' age range is 12 to 18.

### 3. Duties of the Assistants

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their duties under, and with, the following conditions:

- Work for a minimum of 12 hours each week, either in one school or two. Regardless of the number of schools in which the assistants work, they

are not responsible for supervising the students. When in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a classroom teacher.

- The assistants help the students improve their spoken skills in English through practice.
- They devise plans for phonetic and grammatical correction.
- They collaborate with the teaching staff to come up with class materials.
- Finally, they present current events and plan fun, recreational activities in order to familiarize the students and staff with the assistant's native culture.

Their work will last, at most, eight months, starting in October and finishing in May, so that their services coincide with the school year.

#### **4. Links of Interest**

- GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo de Navarra](#)  
[Turismo de España: Navarra](#)

- EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Dirección General de Enseñanzas Escolares y Profesionales](#)  
[Departamento de Educación del Gobierno de Navarra](#)

## **THE BASQUE COUNTRY**

### **1. General Regional Information**

Euskadi (The Basque Country) is a region of great historic, cultural and economic vitality drawn from a strong sense of community, and an impressive capacity for individual initiative and drive. It is one of Spain's seventeen autonomous communities, setting itself apart from most others in that it is organized under the Estatuto de Autonomía (Statute of Autonomy), created in 1979, setting forth its own laws on how to run its government and parliament.

Euskadi, located in the easternmost area of the Cantabrian-Atlantic Coast, boasts a surface area of 2,800 square miles and its population stands strong with 2 million inhabitants, with a population density around 780 inhabitants per square mile. There are two official languages here: Euskera and Castilian.

The Basque Country is divided into three provinces: Alava (301.848 inhabitants) and its capital city of Vitoria, home to the Parliament and the head of the Basque Government; Guipúzcoa (691.578 inhabitants) and its capital city of San Sebastián perched on the northeastern corner of the territory, while Vizcaya (1,147.480 inhabitants) and its capital, Bilbao, constitute the northwestern section.



The rich gastronomy of the Basque Country is renowned both nationally and internationally. In 2007, the famous British editorial, *William Reed*, bestowed the prestigious “San Pellegrino” award upon “Mugaritz” and “Arak,” making the Basque country home to 2 out of, what the editorial names, the 10 best restaurants in the world. Together with other exquisite dining establishments known throughout Europe, such as the “Martín Berasategui,” these famed restaurants help bring the Basque Country international prestige on the culinary level and add new depth to its allure as a center of the arts, culture and natural heritage.

## **2. Teaching Methods**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their tasks in public schools of varying types:

- Secondary schools, attended by students between the ages of 12 and 18.
- Teaching High School and Vocational Training. Students between 16 to 20 years.
- Official language schools, designed for teaching mainly foreign languages to adults. These institutions generally offer afternoon or evening classes.

## **3. Assistants’ Tasks**

The language and culture assistants are to carry out their duties under, and with, the following conditions:

- Work for a minimum of 12 hours each week, either in school or two. Regardless of the number of schools in which the assistants work, they are not responsible for supervising the students. When in the classroom, assistants will always be accompanied by a teacher of that department.
- The assistants help the student improve their spoken skills in the target foreign language through practice.
- They devise plans for phonetic and grammatical correction in the appropriate foreign language.
- They collaborate with the teaching staff to come up with class materials.
- Finally, they present current events and plan fun, recreational activities in order to familiarize the students and staff with the assistant’s native culture.

Their work will last, at most, eight months, starting in October and finishing in May, so that their services coincide with the school year.

## **4. Links of Interest**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Turismo País Vasco](#)

[Turismo de España: País Vasco](#)

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

[Departamento de Educación, Universidades e Investigación del Gobierno Vasco](#)