



MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

6135 Old Washington Road
Elkridge, MD 21075
Tel: (410) 220-3792 | Fax: (443) 820-3806
MarylandInternationalSchool.org

Dear Parents & Students,

Maryland International School (MDIS) is an IB World School located in Elkridge, MD. Each year, our Global Ambassadors Program offers opportunities for our high school students to study abroad and earn credits over the summer. We are thrilled to announce that we are hosting a unique group educational travel experience, operated by World Strides, in June 2024. This 2-week program is designed to immerse participating students in the rich culture and language of Salamanca, Spain, providing them with an unforgettable educational experience and allowing them to expand their global perspectives. This year we are extending this opportunity to invite students enrolled at other schools within the IB Mid-Atlantic Association (IBMA).

Program Overview

- **Destination:** Salamanca, Spain
- **Program Duration:** June 27, 2024 - July 13, 2024
- **Eligibility:** Students from MDIS and other IBMA schools aged 16 and above by the program start date.



Accommodation: Stay with a carefully selected local homestay family, providing an authentic cultural experience.

Cultural Activities: Engage in various cultural activities, including museum visits, cooking & dancing classes, and guided tours of Salamanca's renowned landmarks.

Academic Component: Attend classes at the prestigious Universidad de Salamanca, with the opportunity to earn up to three college credits upon successful completion of the program.

Language Immersion: Immerse yourself in the Spanish language by conversing with your host family, interacting with local students, and exploring the vibrant city of Salamanca.





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Global Connections: Foster friendships and build lasting connections with students from different schools, backgrounds, and cultures.

Personal Growth: Develop independence, adaptability, and intercultural understanding through the immersive study abroad experience.

Information Session:

To learn more about the MDIS Global Ambassadors Program in Salamanca, we invite you to attend an information session. The session will take place on Thursday, July 13, at 3:00 PM, during the Maryland International School Family Fun Day. The session will be held in person at Maryland International School in Elkridge, Maryland, and will also be accessible via Zoom ([CLICK HERE FOR LINK TO MEETING](#)). If you are unable to attend either in person or virtually, a recording of the session will be made available.

During the information session, you will have the opportunity to ask questions, hear from program coordinators, and gain further insights into the program details. We highly encourage you to attend to ensure you have all the necessary information before applying.

How to Apply:

If you are interested in joining the MDIS Global Ambassadors Program, **we invite you to submit a letter of interest**. Please follow the instructions below:

Letter of Interest: Write a brief letter that includes the following:

- **Introduction:** Introduce yourself and provide your full name, age, current school, and grade level.
- **Motivation and Interest:** Explain your reasons for wanting to participate in the study abroad program, highlighting your interest in Spanish language and culture, and your enthusiasm for immersive learning experiences.
- **Language Acquisition Experience & Fluency:** Briefly describe your Spanish level (i.e. Spanish 3, Spanish 4) and your fluency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in the language.
- **Personal Growth and Cultural Exchange:** Reflect on how you believe the study abroad experience will contribute to your personal growth, broaden your perspectives, and foster intercultural understanding.
- **Goals and Expectations:** Outline your goals and expectations for the program, including what you hope to learn, achieve, or experience during your time in Salamanca.

Submission: Submit your letter of interest by the priority deadline on July 29, 2023, to Señorita Mandrich, the MDIS Global Ambassadors Program Coordinator, via pmandrich@marylandinternationalschool.org.





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Important Dates

- **Priority Deadline:** July 29, 2023 (In order to receive a decision by August 4, 2023)
**We will still accept letters submitted after this date, on a rolling basis.*
- **Notification of Acceptance:** August 4, 2023
- **Program Fee Enrollment Deadline (enroll before this date to save \$200!):** September 28, 2023

We encourage you to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to broaden your horizons, improve your language skills, and create lasting memories. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Señorita Mandrich at pmandrich@marylandinternationalschool.org.

We look forward to receiving your letters of interest and embarking on this exciting journey together.

Sincerely,

Patricia Mandrich
MDIS Global Ambassadors Program Coordinator
MYP/DP Spanish Teacher
Maryland International School

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Day 1 Start tour

Day 2 Hola Madrid

- Meet your tour director and check into hotel
- Madrid city walk
- Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, Plaza de España
- Puerta del Sol treasure hunt

Details: Madrid city walk

- Life in Madrid is centered around talking, toasting and tapas-eating. In a walk through this crowded and social city, your Tour Director will help you get to know the lay of the land. Then stroll over to the Puerta del Sol, the bustling city center. Next, you'll relax at the Plaza Mayor, a grand square where every sort of human drama has taken place—trials of faith, public burnings of heretics, royal marriages, the canonization of saints, and countless balls and bullfights. End at the Plaza de España for a stop at an outdoor café.

Details: Puerta del Sol

- Explore Puerta del Sol, one of Madrid's busiest and most historic squares. While here we will view the Kilometre Zero marker, from which all distances in Spain are measured, and Madrid's symbol, the Madrono.

Details: Plaza Mayor





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- Spend time in the Plaza Mayor, Madrid's most famous square. Throughout its long history, the square has hosted markets, bullfights, soccer games, public executions, and the Spanish Inquisition. It is now ringed by shops and cafés and is often filled with artists and musicians.

Details: Plaza de España

- The Plaza de España is a popular place to gather in Central Madrid. It features a large monument to Miguel de Cervantes, author of Don Quixote.

Details: Puerta del Sol treasure hunt

- Take interactive learning to another level with a Tour Director-led treasure hunt of Puerta del Sol, Madrid's most famous and most central square! Enjoy an after-dinner adventure, complete exciting activities, and solve fun clues. Each clue and every activity is built to maximize on-tour experiential learning.

Day 3 Madrid

- Madrid guided sightseeing tour
- Calle Mayor, Gran Vía, Cibeles Fountain, Puerta de Alcalá, Columbus Square, Royal Palace visit
- Mercado San Anton interactive visit
- Reina Sofia Museum visit
- Parque del Retiro visit

Details: Madrid guided sightseeing tour

- Get a taste of Spain's cultural, political and economic center with a tour led by a licensed local guide. See Madrid's mix of traditional and modern as you visit the Royal Palace, an 18th-century masterpiece. The enormous Baroque palace currently has more rooms (2,800) than any other European palace, but it was originally supposed to be four times as large. The palace is dripping with porcelain, jeweled clocks, and amazing ceiling frescoes—the most magnificent, in the Throne Room, was done by the Venetian artist Tiepolo when he was in his seventies. Next take a look at the Neoclassical architecture of the Prado Museum and the Puerta de Alcalá triumphal arch, built to honor Carlos III's entry into Spain.

Details: Gran Vía

- Stroll down the Gran Vía, Madrid's lively signature boulevard featuring magnificent shopping and cafés.

Details: Cibeles Fountain

- The Fountain of Cybele, one of the most recognizable fountains in Madrid, depicts Cybele, a Phrygian earth and fertility deity.

Details: Puerta de Alcalá

- See the Puerta de Alcalá, the ceremonial gateway to Madrid commissioned by Carlos III. The Neo-classical structure is located in the Plaza de Independencia and is named for the old path leading from Madrid to nearby Alcalá de Henares.

Details: Royal Palace visit

- Browse through the 3,418 rooms in the largest palace in Europe. Art lovers will marvel at the walls lined with priceless paintings, but don't expect to catch a glimpse of the Spanish royal family—they reside elsewhere.

Details: Reina Sofia Museum visit

- Officially recognized as Spain's National Museum of 20th Century Art, The Sofia—as it is more commonly known—is home to an impressive collection from Spain's two greatest 20th-century masters. Hosting works of both Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí, it's no wonder that The Sofia has risen to such a prominent place in the





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world of art. Certainly, the most famous piece in the museum is Picasso's Guernica, but in addition to this wonderful masterpiece, you'll also find a vast library, archive, bookstore, and restaurant.

Details: Parque del Retiro visit

- Enjoy the relaxing atmosphere in the Parque del Retiro, once the grounds of Felipe IV's royal palace complex. Our visit gives us the opportunity to interact with the locals, and perhaps visit the vendors or listen to the musicians that always seem to be present.

Day 4 Madrid -- Salamanca

- Travel to Salamanca via Segovia
- Segovia city walk
- Welcome and orientation session
- Begin homestay
- Overnight in homestay

Day 5 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch
- Salamanca Tour Director-led walking tour
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Salamanca Tour Director-led walking tour

- The past and present meet in Salamanca. Like many great medieval cities, Salamanca has a multitude of towering cathedrals and convents. Yet, the city's university students give it a hip, international vibe. One of the leading institutions in Europe, the university has attracted countless Spanish intellectuals, including Antonia de Nebrija and Miguel de Unamuno.

Day 6 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch
- Salamanca Cathedral (Old & New) visit
- El Convento de Las Dueñas visit
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Salamanca Cathedral (Old & New) visit

- Explore the Catedral Vieja and the Catedral Nueva. Unusually, the two cathedrals are built side-by-side and offer a contrast in styles, ranging from Baroque to Romanesque to Renaissance. In the Old Cathedral, a 53-panel altarpiece painted by Nicolas Florentino frames the statue of Salamanca's patron saint, the 12th-century Virgen de la Vega. After departing the cathedrals, our walk continues through Salamanca's old quarter to the 1st-century Puente Romano, the Convento de las Duenas, the Iglesia-Convento de San Esteban, and the magnificent Torre del Clavero.

Details: El Convento de Las Dueñas visit





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- Admire the beautiful Spanish Renaissance architecture of this once-palace where a group of Dominican nuns currently resides. Wander the courtyard and be sure to stop by the cloisters to see the Dueñas and try some of their homemade *amarguillos* and other sweets!

Day 7 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch
- Soccer game
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Soccer game

- Play one of Spain's favorite sports, soccer!

Day 8 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch
- Flamenco lesson
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Flamenco lesson

- Learn how to dance Flamenco from local dancers in a lesson.

Day 9 Salamanca -- Porto

- Travel to Porto
- Spanish Language and Culture Classes
- Tram tour
- city walk

Details: Travel to Porto

- Porto is a coastal city in northwest Portugal known for its stately bridges and port wine production. In the medieval Ribeira (riverside district, narrow cobbled streets wind past merchants' houses and cafes. São Francisco Church is known for its lavish baroque interior with ornate gilded carvings. The palatial 19th-century Palácio de Bolsa, formerly a stock market, was built to impress potential European investors.

Day 10 Porto

- Surf lesson
- Free time at the beach
- Evening sightseeing and food tour

Day 11 Porto --Salamanca

- Travel to Salamanca via Aveiro
- Aveiro city walk
- Overnight in homestay

Day 12 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch





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- Service activities
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Service activities

- Today we will take part in service activities in the local area.

Day 13 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch
- Service activities
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Service activities

- Today we will take part in service activities in the local area.

Day 14 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch
- Cooking class
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Cooking class

- Today, we will participate in a cooking class, where we will be able to learn more about traditional Spanish cuisine.

Day 15 Salamanca

- Spanish language and culture classes
- Lunch
- Spanish yoga class
- Overnight in homestay

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Day 16 Salamanca--Madrid

- Spanish language and culture classes
- End homestay
- Travel to Madrid via Avila
- Avila city walk
- Farewell dinner
- Final reflection and group discussion

Details: Spanish language and culture classes

- Participate in Spanish Language and Culture classes that will be led by University of Salamanca faculty.

Details: Final reflection and group discussion





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- This evening we make the final entries in our Reflection Journal and share some of the most significant observations and perspectives that have taken shape in the course of our travel experience and how these may be most relevant for us all as we return home.

Day 17 End tour

- Recognize perspectives and communicate ideas

Details: Recognize perspectives and communicate ideas

- Throughout the program, we will set time aside time for discussion, guided reflection, and time to write reflections on self-discovery and what we have learned. "We do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience." - John Dewey

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare and other transportation described in the itinerary
- Basic Medical, Dental, and Emergency Evacuation Insurance during the trip
- Up to three college credits upon course completion (grades 9-12) or high school credit (grades 6-12)
- Three nourishing home-cooked meals provided by the host family during homestays
- Daily breakfast and hearty dinner daily during hotel stays
- Full-time, multilingual, WorldStrides tour director who is LEAP-trained in experiential education
- 10 overnight stays in homestays with local families
- 6 overnight stays in a hotel with private bathrooms
- Local guide at sites and on city tours as described in the itinerary
- LEAP! Learning through Exploration and Active Participation; trademarked immersive approach of learning by doing
- Entrances and transportation to sites and activities described in your itinerary
- Local guide and local bus driver tips
- 24/7 On-Tour Emergency Support

Note: On arrival day only dinner is provided; on departure day, only breakfast is provided.

Note: Tour cost does not include airline-imposed baggage fees, any required passport or visa fees, or optional excursions. Optional excursions or other individual/group customizations will be listed as separate line items in the total trip cost, if included.

