The IASAP-BV

Informative documentation for
Prospective students, applicants and participants
This document contains information for prospective students, interested applicants and participants of the Illinois School of Architecture’s overseas program in Barcelona-El Vallès.

The informative documentation of the program (IASAP-BV) is grouped in several categories (see Index on next page). The documents listed in blue are intended for students admitted to the program and therefore are not included in this package.

That set of documents will be available in the Spring semester. The only exception is the IASAP-BV’s Director Summer Letter for participants, which will be available in the Summer.

For any questions, please see the Contacts document at the end of this package.

All IASAP-BV participants must carefully and thoroughly read all the documents listed on the next page. It is also very strongly recommended that participants’ parents read these documents as well. For questions and comments please consult Rhonda Frank (rfrank@illinois.edu; 217-333-7720).
The supporting documents for all prospective participants of the IASAP-BV are:

A > General Information about the IASAP-BV
A1 • The IASAP-BV: Introduction, Program Rules and Application process
A2 • Academics, Faculty & Staff and Calendar
A3 • Requirements for Participants [includes Spanish visa requirements and Registration into UPC/ETSAV]
A4 • Cost and Fees [includes Schedule of Payments]
A5 • The Host School: UPC/ETSAV

B > Living in Barcelona-El Vallès
B1 • Student Housing
B2 • Health Care and Health Insurance
B3 • Banking in Spain and Europe
B4 • Other Practical Information [living in Sant Cugat, telecommunications, shipping, and mailing]

C > Preparing for departure and for studying and traveling overseas
C1 • Traveling to Barcelona [group flight information and directions for students traveling independently]
C2 • Preparing for studying (textbooks/supplies)
C3 • Preparing for traveling in Spain and Europe
C5 • Feedback from previous participants

D > IASAP-BV’s Director communications to participants
D1 • IASAP-BV’s Director Summer letter to participants (available in June/July 2017)

I • Preparing for departure and for studying and traveling overseas
I1 • IASAP-BV Index of documents [the present document]
I2 • Contacts in Sant Cugat/Barcelona and in Illinois
I3 • Emergencies [protocol and directions in case of emergency]
The Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at Barcelona-El Vallès (IASAP-BV) is a yearlong comprehensive international learning experience available to undergraduate students enrolled at the Illinois School of Architecture (ISoA) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It provides a unique opportunity for living and studying in an historically and architecturally vibrant overseas environment while simultaneously offering a curricular structure that is fully equivalent—in content and academic rigor—to the courses offered on the Illinois campus.

The Program’s mission is to provide students with a multicultural and cross-national approach, enriching their personal and professional development. It is committed to providing a holistic and dynamic architectural education that includes required courses and a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities that focus on an integrated approach to the discipline of architecture, continuing the students’ academic education on the same path toward graduation with a BS in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (see also document A2-Academics, Faculty & Staff and Calendar)

The Barcelona program is rigorous, intense, challenging, and broadening as it exposes students first-hand to the architecture of Western Europe and provides a wealth of opportunities for professional and personal growth. Sant Cugat and Barcelona are the program’s home, Europe at large is the classroom.

Location

The IASAP-BV is part of an overarching institutional agreement between the Schools of Architecture of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) that provides for a significant and long-term academic collaboration. Thus, the IASAP-BV is hosted at the Escola Tècnica Superior d’Arquitectura del Vallès (ETSAV), one of the two architecture programs of the highly ranked UPC (see document A5-The host school).
The ETSAV is located in Sant Cugat del Vallès, a small, beautiful and prosperous city within the Barcelona metropolitan area that has a rich history dating back to the medieval period.

Home for many international educational programs, Sant Cugat is known for its high quality of life.

Barcelona (and its area of influence) is one of the most cosmopolitan and attractive regions of the world. A sophisticated cultural landscape in a wonderful seaside location with an ideal blend of architecture, urbanism, and culture, Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain and the second most frequented tourist destination in Europe. The wealth of cultural and recreational activities is immense, from world-class museums and exhibitions, restaurants, theaters and shopping to man-made parks and landscapes. Barcelona boasts of it’s extraordinary natural attractions, the Mediterranean seashore and the nearby Pyrenean mountain range.

Most importantly, Barcelona (and its environs) is one of the most vibrant architectural cities worldwide, rich in architectural landmarks from various historical periods such as the Greco-Roman antiquity and the medieval Romanesque and Gothic. Without doubt, the stunning and unique Modernisme Catalán represented by the work of architects such as Antonio Gaudí, Domenech i Montaner, Puig i Cadafalch and Josep María Jujol, constitutes one of the highlights of Barcelona’s (and Catalunya’s) architecture. Closer to our times, in the last four decades the city has attracted world-class architects who, along with contributions from a brilliant generation of local architects, made Barcelona a model of contemporary architecture and urbanism.
Program Regulations

Students participate in the IASAP-BV as University of Illinois students. Students are required to follow the Student Code, and are subject to the same rules and discipline as they are on the Illinois campus.

All participants in the IASAP-BV must comply with the Program’s rules. The rules are simple common sense; they are based on the understanding that as a participant in one of the University’s overseas programs you implicitly become an “ambassador” of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Therefore, the students’ academic and personal behavior must be exemplary at all times. As a reminder, as part of the application process, students sign a Program Dismissal Form regarding conduct, an Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Responsibility form regarding extraordinary circumstances, a Release of Information form to other group participants, and an Acknowledgement of DRES regarding any necessary accommodations.

These are all found on the study abroad website: http://www.studyabroad.illinois.edu.

Withdrawal from the Program
Report immediately to Rhonda Frank, the Barcelona Coordinator (rfrank@illinois.edu and 217-333-7720), if for any reason you cannot carry through your commitment. We must have a written record of your withdrawal. See Section A4 for possible charges incurred at withdrawal.

Dismissal
If a student's conduct while participating in the Program is deemed undesirable or prejudicial to the University Community's best interest, as described in Part 3 of the Student Code, the student will be required to return to campus for the continuation of his/her studies and for possible disciplinary action. In addition, any student who has been accepted to the Barcelona Program, but fails to meet the responsibilities of participation while in Europe, may be dropped from the Program.

Students involved in unlawful acts deemed detrimental to the welfare of the Program will be promptly dropped from the Program and the University so notified (i.e., participation in the political affairs of a foreign nation, possession or distribution of narcotics, destruction of property, improper or disturbing behavior especially as a consequence of alcohol consumption, etc.).

Encumbrances
Academic and administrative offices may place encumbrances on your record for academic reasons, funds owed to the University, judicial reasons, and for failure to meet medical/immunization requirements. If you have an encumbrance(s) on your record, resolve it with the appropriate campus office as soon as possible. You will be informed of any encumbrance(s) when you register. Failure to resolve an encumbrance prior to 5:00 p.m. of the first day of instruction will result in cancellation of your course registration for the term.

Students who cause any damage to their housing or to the school are responsible and must pay for repairs or replacement. Individual students are financially responsible for any bills incurred by them while in the Study Abroad Program. Students not paying immediately will be encumbered by the University.
Application Process and Requirements

Students interested in participating in the IASAP•BV must comply with the following general requirements (see also document A3: Requirements for participants):

- Complete junior-level academic requirements by the end of their junior year.
- Complete all University general education requirements by the end of the junior year.
- Complete all minor requirements by the end of the junior year, if applicable.
- Complete one introductory course in the Spanish language at the college or high school level.
- Attend all scheduled meetings to prepare for the program, and complete all required administrative and bureaucratic preparations for long-term study in Spain in a timely manner. Meetings are scheduled in the Spring semester prior to departure (between early February and early May).
- Comply with the schedule of payments shown in Appendix I. (Some payments are due in the spring and summer semesters before leaving; exact dates will be announced in the first meeting of participants.)
- Register at the ETSAV (this is only for students admitted to the program; detailed instructions will be sent to all confirmed participants in April 2017).

All students participating in IASAP•BV must have a valid passport and complete all the requirements for a long-stay student visa to study in Spain. The meetings held during the Spring semester to prepare students for the Barcelona program focus on assisting the students through this process, in addition to other preparations.

To apply, visit the study abroad website at www.studyabroad.illinois.edu. Click on Create App if you are ready to apply. Click “Okay” in the pop up box to acknowledge that you will be charged $50.00 on your student account when you apply. This is a non-refundable application fee. You will be asked for your username and password. Your username is your net id. Your password is your active directory password. On the Program Application Page, fill out all required forms.

Application Deadline: January 15
For further information please visit: go.illinois.edu/Barcelona

Acceptance of a student into the IASAP•BV makes it possible for that student to have one of the greatest educational experiences of their career. As in any other educational experience, the optimization of the opportunity depends primarily on the student's willingness to be involved, to prepare, and to participate.
As mentioned in document A1-The IASAP-BV, the program operates within and in close collaboration with the ETSAV; however, the IASAP-BV is an integral part of the Illinois School of Architecture, academically and administratively autonomous from the host institution. The program of study follows the senior-year curriculum offered on the Urbana-Champaign campus; however, the specific content is adapted to take advantage of the program’s extraordinary location in one of the world’s richest architectural cities.

The curriculum includes four courses in each semester: three core courses—Architectural Design, Structures, and Architectural History—and a fourth course titled Overseas Architectural Studies; the latter is comprised of a range of workshops, seminars and other educational opportunities.

A language course (Spanish for non-Spanish speakers or Catalan for students already fluent in Spanish language) is offered during the Fall semester; this course intends to equip students with linguistic tools to be immersed into the culture in which they will live during the school year. Except the latter, all courses are taught in English by faculty from the Illinois School of Architecture and/or local professors specially appointed by Illinois to teach at the IASAP-BV.
Academic Structure & Course Registration

Participants register for courses both in the Fall and Spring semesters as they do on campus. Students will receive email notices regarding registration dates for each semester.

The academic year is organized as follows:

**FALL SEMESTER**

Arch 476B  Architectural Design and Exploration  6 credit-hours
Arch 451B  Theory and Design of Steel & Timber  4 credit-hours
Arch 409B  Special Topics in Spanish Architecture 1  3 credit hours
Arch 468B  Overseas Architectural Studies 1  3 credit hours

**SPRING SEMESTER**

Arch 475B  Architectural Design and Development  6 credit-hours
Arch 452B  Theory of Reinforced Concrete  4 credit-hours
Arch 409B  Special Topics in Spanish Architecture 2  3 credit hours
Arch 468B  Overseas Architectural Studies 2  3 credit hours

The course descriptions reprinted below are also available at [http://catalog.illinois.edu](http://catalog.illinois.edu).

**ARCH 475  Arch Design & Development  credit: 6 Hours.**
Schematic design and development of a small-scale public building emphasizing the integration of the basic elements of building; materials, details, structure, technology, program, life safety, and universal design. 6 undergraduate hours. 6 graduate hours. Prerequisite: ARCH 374 or ARCH 472.

**ARCH 451  Theory and Design of Steel and Timber  credit: 4 Hours.**
Analysis and design of steel and timber structures for buildings. Steel columns, beams, trusses, connections, roof and floor framing systems; timber beams, columns, roof and floor framing systems. 4 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: ARCH 352.

**ARCH 452  Theory of Reinforced Concrete  credit: 4 Hours.**
Concrete materials; behavior of reinforced concrete construction; behavior and design of structural elements, one-way slabs, beams, and girders; columns; ACI code requirements; and introduction to continuity in reinforced concrete structures. Course Information: 4 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: ARCH 352.
**ARCH 409** _Special Topics in Spanish Arch_ credit: 3 Hours.  
Explores aspects of the architecture and urban design of Spain from antiquity until the present. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite: **ARCH 210**.

**ARCH 468** _Overseas Architectural Studies_ credit: 3 Hours.  
This course is designed to enrich the professional development of students in a study abroad location. Students participate in thematic workshops, seminars, lectures and field trips focused on understanding and analyzing architectural and urbanistic landmarks and settings on site through both directed and independent assignments. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. May be repeated in separate terms up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Senior standing in the School of Architecture.

**ARCH 476** _Arch Design & Exploration_ credit: 6 Hours.  
Exploration of boundaries of architecture and the built environment. Focused exploration into specific design topics, such as issue-oriented building problems, urban design theory, intermediate building design and site planning theory, human-environment relationship theory, interdisciplinary design, and architectural design and presentation methods. 4. Undergraduate hours; 4 graduate hours.

Whereas all the courses offered at the IASAP-BV meet the above course descriptions, their content is adapted to take full advantage of the unique opportunities that studying in the vibrant, culturally and historically rich, and cosmopolitan metropolis that Barcelona provides.

The program’s courses regularly meet once or twice per week on a schedule determined prior to the beginning of each semester. Depending on space availability and calendar compatibility, IASAP•BV’s students may also have the opportunity to take some courses offered in English by our host School, the ETSAV.

**Faculty and Staff**

The **IASAP•BV** is administered by a Director (a full-time, tenured faculty member of the School of Architecture) and a Program Coordinator; both of whom are in-residence members of the School’s staff.

**Alejandro Lapunzina**, ISoA Full Professor and Director, is a graduate of the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina (1983) and Washington University in St. Louis (1987). A full-time faculty member of the School since 1991, he is the Program’s Director since its creation in 2014 and had previously served as Director of the IASAP-BV’s predecessor program in Versailles (France) from 1994 to 1999 and from 2002 to 2013. Professor Lapunzina teaches Architectural Design and coordinates the program’s curricular and extracurricular activities.

**Magalí Veronelli-Lapunzina**, Program Coordinator, has degrees in Political Science and Public Administration (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico, 1984) and Public Health (Universidad de
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1986). She has been the Program Coordinator of the School’s Study Abroad Program since 2007. Among many other tasks, the Program Coordinator provides support to the faculty and handles student issues, notably those related to necessary bureaucratic steps (such as completion of the foreign student visa process to study in Spain), their personal well-being (support with health-care issues), and housing accommodations.

In addition to the two in-residence members, the IASAP•BV team is comprised of specially invited visiting instructors from the United States, Spain and parts of the world who teach the program’s core and optional courses, all of whom are appointed by the Illinois School of Architecture and/or through an agreement between the School and the host institution (the ETSAV). The program also hosts numerous guests who offer curricular and extra-curricular activities, such as lectures, seminars, reviews and workshops.

The participation of local teachers, scholars and practitioners exposes students to other forms and methods of instruction, thus enriching their experience and expanding the horizons of their college-level education.

As an integral part of the School of Architecture, the IASAP•BV is overseen by the School’s Director, Peter Mortensen, and the International Programs Committee.

**Calendar**

The program’s calendar is designed to combine rigorous academic content with opportunities for independent educational travel. Activities begin with the students’ arrival in Barcelona during the first week of September and end in early-mid May to allow students to return home in time for Commencement at Urbana-Champaign.

Between September and May, the program’s courses are offered in two semesters: Fall (September to December) and Spring (January to mid-May). Between the semesters, a two-and-one-half week long break allows students to travel throughout Europe without class assignments, or return home for winter holidays.

Throughout the year the calendar of activities is demanding; time and focused dedication are necessary to complete course-related assignments. Thus, the weekly load is intense and filled with various course-related activities in studios, classrooms and field trips to architectural landmarks in Barcelona and its environs.

A few 4-to-8-day periods for independent travel are built into the program’s calendar in each semester. They are conceived to allow students to travel independently throughout Europe and the Mediterranean basin, expanding their horizons and exposing them to the region’s rich and diverse cultural and architectural history. While traveling independently, in most of these periods students are
technically in class, working on diverse course assignments specially and intentionally crafted to promote studying and analyzing the sites and places they visit.

[Important note: travel periods start on the day indicated in the program’s calendar and not on the afternoon/evening of the preceding day. Course-related activities can often extend to evening hours (for instance, mid-term reviews), especially in the days that precede these breaks. Likewise, the travel period ends on the day indicated in the program calendar, not the morning of the following day.]

It is important to note, however, that although the program’s calendar provides opportunities for independent travel, traveling beyond Barcelona-Sant Cugat is not a requirement for participation in the program (all school assignments issued during periods available for independent travel can be completed in Barcelona and its environs).

The only exception is the Traveling Workshop offered at the beginning of the Spring Semester This “Traveling Workshop” consists of a week-long, intense and thematic activity that takes place in different European cities under the guidance of a specially invited instructor. In past years, Budapest (Hungary), Lisbon+Porto (Portugal), Rome (Italy) and Copenhagen (Denmark) were the selected destinations for these “Traveling Workshops.” Destinations will be likely different each year. [Please note that a student’s personal cost of travel and lodging for participating in these workshops is not included in the Program Fee and is part of the estimate for periods of travel (see also document A4-Cost and Fees).]

The program ends in early-mid May with a short week of academic activities that mark the official culmination of the year at the Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at Barcelona el Vallès.

Preliminary dates for 2017-2018

The program’s activities will begin with the students’ arrival in Barcelona/Sant Cugat on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 (departure from Chicago tentatively set for Tuesday, September 5, 2017).

All students must arrive in Barcelona/Sant Cugat no later than Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

The first few days will be dedicated to mandatory Orientation activities.

The return date is tentatively set for Thursday, May 10, 2018, to allow students to participate in graduation ceremonies at Urbana-Champaign.

A preliminary calendar for the year 2017-2018 indicating the most important dates (major deadlines, periods for independent travel, and winter holidays will be issued in Summer 2017).

The final detailed calendar of courses and activities for the year will be presented and explained to all students during the first week following their arrival in Sant Cugat in September 2017.
All students admitted to participate in the program must comply with the following requirements.

### Meetings of Participants

Participants and **alternates (those on the waitlist)** are required to attend all meetings scheduled for the Spring 2017 Semester. Absence without prior approval can be cause for removal from the program and replacement by an alternate.

Student meetings will be held Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in the Plym Auditorium, 134 Temple Buell Hall (unless otherwise notified) according to the following schedule:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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</table>
| Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017 | Program Introduction  
Required UIUC Study Abroad Forms ([www.studyabroad.illinois.edu](http://www.studyabroad.illinois.edu))  
Passport Photos  
Housing/Roommate Forms  
Financial Guarantee Form |
| Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017 | Spanish Visa Requirements  
FBI/Police check  
Visa Application |
| Wednesday, March 8, 2017 | Course Registration  
Health & Safety |
| Wednesday, April 5, 2017 | Airline Ticket Form  
Living in Barcelona  
Election of Student Representatives |
| **Special Event**  
Saturday, April 8, 2017 | **IASAP•BV Presentation – Mom’s Day Weekend**  
9:00 am Plym Auditorium |
Students participating in the Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at Barcelona el Vallès (IASAP▪BV) must complete all the requirements for a long-stay student visa to study in Spain. The meetings held Spring semester to prepare for the Barcelona program focus on assisting the students through this process, in addition to other preparations. (Citizens of European Community countries are exempt from this requirement; this is the only exception.)

An original and one copy of each of the following forms must be submitted to be considered for a visa. It is essential that these documents are completed in a timely manner. Please turn in all forms to Rhonda Frank (rfrank@illinois.edu) in Room 104 Temple Buell Hall (TBH).

Further information can be found at the Spanish Consulate website: http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/CHICAGO/en/Pages/inicio.aspx

**Spanish Visa Requirements**

**Required Documents:**

1. **National visa application form** completed and signed. Write legibly.

2. **Original Passport and ID.** A passport with at least one free page to affix the Spanish visa, valid for a minimum of one year. If your passport expires before your re-entry date, please renew your passport. Instructions to apply for a passport are available at www.uspassporthelpguide.com.

   Passports may also be obtained at the Circuit Clerk’s office at the Champaign County Courthouse (101 E. Main, Urbana, 217-384-3725) or at the Champaign Post Office (2001 N. Mattis, Champaign, 800-275-8777).

   **Proof of State Residency.** Submit one of these documents: US Driver’s license, State ID card, Voter Registration card, Current Student ID card

3. **Two ID photos:** passport size (2”x2”), white background. Front facing, neutral expression, no hair, glasses, hats or other objects partially or fully covering your face. Do not write on the front or back of the photos. (These must be actual photos; scanned prints will not be accepted.)

4. **Original hardcopy Acceptance Letter** into the program (provided by the School of Architecture). This letter must contain the following: name, address, contact person, telephone and email of the School; full payment of tuition; dates of the program, subjects of study and hours of study per week (no less than 20 hours). The name on your acceptance letter must be the same as the name on your passport.

5. **Evidence of Funds.** A notarized statement from your parents/guardians accepting full responsibility for any expenses, including emergencies, while you are living in Spain.
6. **Proof of Health Insurance** with international coverage for the intended period of stay in Spain at a minimum of 30,000 Euros (or its equivalent in US dollars) and necessarily including Repatriation Coverage. A copy of the International Insurance card and the insurance contract complete this requirement.

7. **Criminal History Information/Police Background Check** (issued within 3 months of your application date). Required of all students over 18 years old.

   a. **If you have lived only in the United States of America for the last five years:** FBI Criminal Background check (issued in the last 3 months) legalized with the “Apostille of the Hague Convention” by the U.S. Department of State. For the Apostille of the Hague Convention in the U.S., please see: [http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english/legal-considerations/judicial/authentication-of-documents/notarial-and-authentication-apostille.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english/legal-considerations/judicial/authentication-of-documents/notarial-and-authentication-apostille.html)

   ▶ Or

   A State Police background check from each state you have lived in during the last five years, legalized with the “Apostille of the Hague Convention” by the corresponding Secretary of the State. **A LOCAL POLICE BACKGROUND CHECK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

   b. **Police background check** from all countries where you have lived during the last 5 years. **A LOCAL POLICE BACKGROUND CHECK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

8. **Medical Certificate.** A physician’s recent statement (not older than 3 months) on the doctor’s or medical center’s letterhead, signed by an M.D. with the following wording **verbatim:**

   “The applicant has been examined and found in good physical and mental health to travel to study abroad and is free of any contagious diseases according to the International Health Regulation 2005.”

   Applicant must be identified by his/her Passport’s First and Last Name on the Medical Certificate.

9. **Visa Fee.** Must be paid by a money order made payable to the “Consulate of Spain.” Current cost of fee: $160 for US citizens; $65 for other nationalities. Visa fees are not refundable.

10. **Evidence of Immigration Status in the US, for non US passport holders only:**

    In addition to their passports, **Non US citizens** must present evidence of their Immigration Status in the United States: a Permanent Resident Card or a US Visa with I-20.

Obtaining a visa for a European country involves a two-step procedure. The visa you receive from the Spanish Consulate in the United States will provide you entrance into Spain with a 90-day stay. Once in Spain, the IASAP•BV’s administrative staff will explain the procedures to obtain the legal documentation authorizing you to sojourn in Spain for longer than 180 days. The administrative office will assist you through the process, but the application must be completed individually. Additional documents, photos, and fees may be required.
Registration at UPC/ETSAV

Students participate in the IASAP-BV thanks to an agreement of bilateral institutional cooperation between the Illinois School of Architecture and the Escola Tecnica Superior d’Arquitectura del Vallès, one of the two architecture programs of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). Consequently, during the year of studies overseas, all students have the rare privilege of being simultaneously enrolled in two world-class universities: the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.

Thus, registering into the UPC is a requirement for participation. This process must be completed individually by each student. Instructions for registration (in English) will be sent to all admitted students shortly before the end of the Spring semester. It is very important that all students comply with this requisite in time (a deadline will be indicated as part of the instructions) in order to be properly registered at the UPC and to be able to use the ETSAV’s facilities. If questions emerge, please contact either the Illinois School of Architecture or the IASAP-BV’s administration (see document iC-Contacts).
A4 ▪ Cost & Fees

General Information
Schedule of Payments

Document updated: Dec 20/2016

Cost and Fees

The Program Fee to participate in the IASAP▪BV in 2017-2018 is $15,000. This fee is in addition to regular tuition and fees required for enrollment at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The program fee includes housing at the double occupancy rate, round-trip airfare to Barcelona and other expenses incurred on behalf of the students for some of the required academic activities of the program.

The total costs and fees for participating in the School of Architecture’s IASAP-BV consist of:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Illinois resident</th>
<th>Non-resident</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Tuition and Fees¹</td>
<td>$14,868</td>
<td>$29,494</td>
<td>$30,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IASAP▪BV Program Fee²</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Insurance³</td>
<td>$  365</td>
<td>$  365</td>
<td>$  365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee (non reimbursable)⁴</td>
<td>$    50</td>
<td>$    50</td>
<td>$    50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fees</td>
<td>$30,283</td>
<td>$44,909</td>
<td>$45,723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal expenses (estimate)⁵ $8,100/$9,000* [see note below]

¹ Students participate in the IASAP-BV as UIUC students and thus pay the full UIUC tuition based on their year of entry. There is a reduction in fees because participants are off campus. The fees charged are the general fee and the health insurance fee. Above figures are based on UIUC entry their freshman year. This figure may be different for students who joined the School at other times or as transfer students from other institutions.

² Includes round-trip group airfare Chicago-Barcelona, housing at Student Residence (double-occupancy), fees necessary to complete student-visa in Spain, all instruction related costs (registration in courses, etc...) and most field trips (including travel and lodging during the two multi-day field trips of the year, one in each semester). It does not include: personal expenses (i.e., meals); school supplies

*See note below
and materials; cost of travel and lodging during Traveling Workshops (see Academic Structure) and periods of independent travel.

3 International Insurance: this is mandatory health-care insurance for all students from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who participate in a program of study overseas.

4 Application Fee: non-reimbursable fee payable at the time of applying to participate in the program.

5 Personal expenses: generally consist of daily living and school-related expenses (supplies, textbooks, model-making materials, printing and photocopying, etc…) and traveling expenses. They depend on the students’ individual spending habits.

Estimated average personal expenses during non-travel periods (approximately 30 weeks): $120/$150 per week ($3,600/$4,500 per year; this includes food, personal hygiene, housing utilities, school supplies). [see note below]

Estimated average personal expenses during travel periods (approximately 6 weeks): $500/week ($3,000/year; this should include normal daily expenses plus lodging during travel periods).

Estimated transportation costs during travel periods (airfare, train, buses, etc…): $1,500/year (this will obviously depend on the mode of transportation, destinations, etc…).

Except for Personal expenses (not collected by the University), all payments are made through the Student Account. An initial payment is required in March after accepting admission into the program. Partial payments are due in April, August and January.

Note *: In the IASAP-BV Brochure distributed in the Fall 2016, the figure estimated for average expenses during non-travel periods (30 weeks) was of $200/week. A survey conducted by the IASAP-BV among some students currently participating in the program revealed that $120/$150 per week is a more realistic figure. However, this obviously depends on the students’ personal spending habits and the exchange rate at the time of participation.

Special notes on students’ housing costs:

As mentioned above, the Program Fee includes housing for students at double occupancy (two students per unit); (see also document/section B1-Student Housing). For students who opt for single-occupancy (one student per unit) an additional fee of approximately $3,600/$4,000 will be charged.

Utilities (water and electricity, including heat) are not included in the housing fee, and are the responsibility of the student.

A damage deposit of 400€ must be paid to UNIHABITAT Habitatge (the company that administers the Student Residence) by each student upon arrival. This fee, not included in the Program Fee, will be fully or partially returned after a unit inspection at the end of the lease period. If damages or losses exceed this amount, students will be required to pay the difference.
All applicants/participants must comply with the following schedule of payments for the IASAP•BV Program Fee. University tuition and fee payments follow the University’s schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Deadline for Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee (non-refundable)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>due at application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee: Deposit; non-refundable</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee: Payment 1</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
<td>April 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee: Payment 2</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td>August 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee: Final Payment</td>
<td>$7,000.00</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The IASAP•BV is a yearlong academic program. Participants make a commitment to the entire program, September through May. The program fee is $15,000. If for any reason a student participating in the program must leave the program prior to its conclusion in May, they are still required to pay the full program fee of $15,000 and no refunds will be given.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Program Fee includes monies for airfare and the housing reservation; both are non-refundable after the School incurs these expenses. Any necessary account adjustments (usually for students not going on the group flight or students requesting a single room) will be reflected in the August charge.

If a student withdraws from the program prior to July 1st, any uncommitted portion of payments they had made (except those fees marked "non-refundable") will be considered for a refund. If a student withdraws from the program after July 1, the total amount paid from Payment 1 ($3,500) will not be reimbursed.

Charges and payments are made through your Student Account. A $500 deposit is required when a student commits to the program. Without prior approved arrangements, failure to pay will be cause for removal from the program and replacement by an alternate. Keep all receipts and other records of payment. Anybody who is moved from the Alternate List to the Participants List must pay the $500 deposit within two weeks from the date of written notification.
As mentioned in document A1. The IASAP-BV, the yearlong program of overseas studies of the Illinois School of Architecture is part of an overarching institutional agreement between the Schools of Architecture of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) that provides for a significant and long-term academic collaboration. Thus, the IASAP-BV is hosted at the Escola Tècnica Superior d’Arquitectura del Vallès (ETSAV), one of the two architecture programs of the highly ranked UPC.

While participating in the IASAP-BV, students are simultaneously enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.

Housed at an off-campus facility in Sant Cugat del Vallès, the ETSAV is one of the top architecture schools in Spain, a teaching/research institution with an enrollment of approximately 1,000 students. Its courses and research are organized around the topics of architecture, urban planning and public housing, structures, history and theory.

For more information about the host school visit > [www.etsav.upc.edu](http://www.etsav.upc.edu).
The School of Architecture has secured housing at the student residence building adjacent to the ETSAV, reducing the students' transportation expenses and commuting time. The residence is managed by a local company which has agreed on a special group rate for IASAP-BV’s participants. Cost of rent at the double occupancy rate is included in the Program Fee (single occupancy is possible at a higher cost).

This residence houses students from different local schools (medicine, business, and architecture) and different nationalities. An internationally recognized building designed by faculty members of the ETSAV, the residence units are organized around a central planted courtyard. Housing units are approximately 440 square feet, and can accommodate two students; they are equipped with kitchenette, living/dining area, a full shower/bathroom, and individual sleeping/study areas. Units are furnished to satisfy the basic needs of a student during the year of study abroad, including internet access and linen (2 sets). All daily needs—from grocery shopping, to physical recreation, entertainment, banking, and health care—can be satisfied within a 10/15-minute walk from the residence.

Sant Cugat’s train station is ten minutes walking distance from the residence; it connects the town with Barcelona's central Plaza Catalunya through a modern and efficient public transportation system.
Description of units:

Size: about 41 m² (approx. 440 square feet); each unit offers sleeping space (separated by a closet in double occupancy units), a living/studying space, an eating/kitchen space and a complete bathroom (shower, no bathtub).

**Single units** are furnished with the following: 1 bed, 1 closet, 1 table, 2 chairs, 2 lamps, 1 small refrigerator, 1 microwave, 2 hotplates, internet access, 1 desk/chair and individual seat, table and kitchenware, linen, pillow and comforter for one student.

**Double units** are furnished with the following: 2 beds, 2 closets, 1 table, 4 chairs, 2 lamps, 1 small refrigerator, and 1 microwave, 2 hotplates, internet access, 1 desk/chair per student, table and kitchenware, linen, pillow and comforter for two students.

Roommates for double occupancy may be chosen from all the residents at UNIHABITAT: either students participating in the IASAP▪BV program, or other UNIHABITAT residents.

*The rental agreement is for accommodating the students only. Visiting friends and families must have other accommodations.*

By University regulations, all student housing is arranged with persons of the same gender – females share living spaces with females, and males with males. There are no exceptions.
Common Services in the Residence Hall:

- Common/shared social space/lounge (by reservation)
- Laundry Spaces: Washers and Dryers are available for a reasonable cost.
- Free Bicycle Parking at the entrance of the student residence.
- Free Common exterior social areas with tables, sofas, ping-pong table.
- Free Common room for TV-Movies and other social events (reserved through the office manager).
- Management office with an on-site manager during working days and office hours.
- Organization of some activities, for example, yoga, soccer/football.

Housing Payments (students):

Utilities and services are not included in this fee. Each student is responsible for paying to “UNIHABIT Habitatge” the following:

- Utilities
- Room Deposit
- Additional services provided by “UNIHABIT Habitatge”

Utilities include water and electricity. Heating is electric. Each unit has its own utility meters. Every two months, a bill for the consumption of water and electricity will be addressed to the tenants.

Upon arrival, students will have to pay a room deposit to “UNIHABIT Habitatge.” This amount should serve to cover any damages. Damages or losses in excess of this amount are the students’ responsibility.

**Room deposit**: 400€ per student. It can be paid using a credit card.

The room deposit may be fully or partially returned after a unit inspection at the end of your stay.

Before returning your room deposit, UNIHABIT will consider:

- **Cleanliness of the unit**: Each unit needs to be left as clean as it was found at arrival. (Cleaning of the unit also includes furniture, appliances, glass windows, bathroom and kitchen with its equipment: hood, microwave, and refrigerator.)

- Obviously, if **severe damages or losses** happen to the furnishings or the unit, students may not recover their deposit and may be obliged to pay for repairs and restitution.
Internet Access:

There are no telephone sockets. For this reason, it is impossible to get any exterior telephone/internet service.

Unihabit has routers that students can rent for 30€/per room/per academic year (for instance the expense/cost is shared by the two occupants of the unit for those in double occupancy): 15€ correspond to the installation and 15€ to a deposit. At the end of the year, the deposit is returned when students return their router (with no damages).

OPTIONAL ITEMS MONTHLY COST OF (per unit)

Students can request additional services at their own expense.

These are handled by the Management office without any participation/involvement of the IASAP•BV.

Please keep in mind that these fees correspond to the 2016-2017 school year. They serve as estimates only. Fees may change from one school year to the next one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MONTHLY COST OF (per unit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dishwasher:</td>
<td>16.50€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron and ironing board:</td>
<td>3.30€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linen and bedding:</td>
<td>10.00€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House cleaning:</td>
<td>77.00€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofa:</td>
<td>8.25€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armchair:</td>
<td>4.40€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV:</td>
<td>5.50€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of sheets/towels:</td>
<td>44.00€</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The physical and mental wellbeing of students is a priority at the IASAP-BV, as it is throughout the University of Illinois. In Spain there is a very broad range of private health care services and providers. Students in need of medical attention have a wide scope of choices.

During the year abroad, students are covered by an international insurance agreement required by the University of Illinois. This is a “world class coverage plan” administered by Arthur J. Gallagher International Insurance (http://international.illinois.edu/resources/safety-security/index.html) through the International Safety and Security Office at UIUC. Students are covered for the duration of the study abroad program. The cost of the insurance coverage is $365 which is paid by individual students through their student accounts (see also document A4. Costs and Fees).

Before coming to Spain, it is highly recommended that students—and if necessary their parents too—(a) read the instructions provided to them by the health insurance company, and (b) print both the "Verification letter" that confirms the insurance coverage and the "Health insurance card." Students must bring these two documents (verification letter and card) and will have to carry the latter with them at all times during the overseas period. In addition to this card, on the day of arrival in Barcelona, students will also receive an “emergency card” with contact numbers in case of emergency.

Local physicians are available for routine medical care. Since students have a US-based insurance that may not be widely accepted by small health centers or autonomous physicians, the program has established informal agreements with both a local health care center (for non-emergency health care) and with a state-of-the-art regional hospital—the Hospital General de Catalunya—if more complex cases require more specialized medical attention. Access to health care in these two institutions is thus
facilitated. Nevertheless, students will have to comply with the procedures established by the health insurance company either for claiming a reimbursement (usual, normal visits) or to establish a direct payment (in the case of an emergency for example).

The Program Coordinator follows closely all health-related cases and may assist students with the appointments, follow-up and the completion of claim reimbursements from the insurance company. Naturally, students can request appointments on their own at physicians’ offices, or they can go to the health care providers listed below which the IASAP•BV has already contacted.

**The main providers located right in Sant Cugat are:**

- **Centre Sanitari Can Mora:** [www.centrecanmora.com](http://www.centrecanmora.com)
  The Centre Sanitari Can Mora is useful for minor health problems. It covers: General Medicine, Traumatology, Nutrition, Psychology, and Physiotherapy. It has a laboratory and X-Ray/MRI/Scan/Sonogram center. It is located in the center of Sant Cugat, close to the school (about 10 minutes walking distance); hours are very convenient and they respond rather quickly to patients’ needs (a medical appointment is obtained within 48 hours for non-emergency situations).

- **Hospital General de Catalunya:** [www.hgc.es](http://www.hgc.es)
  The hospital is the most appropriate health center for emergencies or more serious health care problems. The hospital provides services in all major specialties and has adequate technology and supportive services (imaging, labs, etc.). It can respond to both simple and very complex health care needs. Emergency service is available 24 hours/day, seven days a week. Cases are treated according to the urgency of the problem. It is located approximately two miles from the ETSAV and the student residence hall.

It is advisable for students to bring their medical information with them. Medical history with your main health events and current problems, allergies, etc. may be needed should a student experience a health problem while in Spain. Vaccination records are also important. Students should have all vaccinations up to date.

If traveling outside Europe, it is necessary to check the health care requirements for each country of destination and research how to fulfill them. You are responsible for obtaining the proper protection.

**Students with a known health care concern**

If students are aware of any health care concern, it is advisable to contact the Program Administrator who will be able to help with the coordination of appointments, serve as a translator if necessary, and help with the follow up of the problem.

**Students under medical treatment before coming to Spain**

Students under a special medical treatment will need to bring the prescription with them. It is very difficult and expensive to import medicine, that is, to ship/bring medicine from a foreign country. Customs will likely charge onerous taxes for importing medicines by mail. A letter from the physician accompanying the prescription may be useful when going through customs.
If there is no other choice but to have a medication from the United States, it is advisable to bring the yearly amount to avoid being short. It is also important to have the drug name, dosage, frequency, and length of treatment, just in case more explanations are needed while in Spain or while traveling in other countries.

If you have an emergency after school hours, you should contact the program coordinator, Mrs. Veronelli L.; or the program director, Professor Lapunzina. If they are not available, use the emergency numbers distributed upon arrival.

If you develop a health problem while traveling throughout Europe, do not hesitate to contact a doctor or hospital. Please follow the instructions of the health insurance company, they will provide you with a list of health care providers. Also, physicians, consulates, hotels or businesses may be able to refer you to English-speaking doctors. If you are delayed in returning to Sant Cugat, notify the IASAP•BV office.

**UIUC Student Insurance**

All University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign students are automatically enrolled in the student health insurance plan and assessed the fee every semester that they register for classes, unless they have previously applied for an exemption from the fee (details below). Students who are enrolled in the Barcelona Program will be assessed the student health insurance fee if they have not previously exempted, and will be enrolled in the UIUC Student Health insurance as well as the required International Insurance for the semesters during which they are registered. The details of this plan are available at the Student Health Insurance website (www.si.illinois.edu). This is a worldwide plan, and may not be opted out of in favor of the International Insurance. The only students who are eligible to opt out of the UIUC Student Insurance are those who have comparable outside coverage (e.g. through their parents, work, etc.) Exemptions last for the duration of the academic year, except in the case of students who first did an exemption prior to the Fall 13’ semester, whose exemptions are permanent. Any medical expenses not covered by the International Insurance plan may be submitted to the UIUC student health insurance.

If you are not registering for the semester after studying abroad, and you wish to have Student Health Insurance coverage after your 6-10 month International Insurance coverage ends, you are eligible for a one-semester extension, to take effect after the last semester in which you had the UIUC Student Insurance. Students must complete the "Extension of coverage for continuing students only" form, available at www.si.illinois.edu, during the enrollment change period at the beginning of the semester for which the extension is to be applied. The form is completed online and payment made directly to the Student Health Insurance Office. The insurance fee will not be billed to your account for a semester in which you are not registered unless you file this extension. For extension period deadlines for each semester, or more information about the extensions, you may contact the office: *Student Health Insurance at McKinley Heath Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., Lower level Room 29, Urbana, IL 61801; 217-333-0165; insure@illinois.edu; fax: 217-244-9886.*
Payments for Medical Bills
All medical bills incurred must be paid for in cash or credit card upon service and a claim for reimbursement sent to International Insurance. International Insurance claim forms along with original itemized bills are required to be submitted to their office in Texas. The same applies for students using a different insurance company.

If you have UIUC Student Health insurance, claim paperwork with itemized bills from the doctor’s office should be submitted to United Healthcare Student Resources, P. O. Box 809025, Dallas, TX 75380-9025 for reimbursement. UIUC Student Insurance requires that these bills be translated into English, and the prices converted to U.S. currency prior to submission. They must list diagnosis, procedures and charges for each treatment, date of service, patient name and medical facility contact information. If you have any questions about submitting a claim on your UIUC Student Health insurance, please contact the insurance office at (217) 333-0165 or insure@illinois.edu.

If the School, for some unforeseen reason, must make a payment on behalf of a student, the student will be billed and/or encumbered.
First and foremost:

**WE STRONGLY DISCOURAGE STUDENTS FROM CARRYING SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF CASH WITH THEM ON THE FLIGHT TO BARCELONA OR WHILE TRAVELING IN EUROPE.**

The reason is simple: currency exchange outlets make a substantial profit with each operation. The exchange rate they will offer—even when they announce “no commissions”—is very unfavorable, often up to 10% less than the real value of the dollar. It is therefore much better to withdraw cash in local currency in ATM machines.

Participating students can withdraw money in local currency from most ATM machines using their US based debit/credit cards. The conditions of these depend on both the local ATM’s bank and the US bank that has delivered the debit/credit card. Before arriving in Spain, students should inquire at their US bank about these details and other information concerning international banking transactions and how the management of their own US bank accounts can be facilitated while they are abroad. Some American banks offer very interesting international options for students studying abroad.

Having a local bank account is not required, but it can be practical and helpful for everyday life, facilitating some activities such as shopping, having a Spanish cell phone, going to the gym, and placing lodging reservations throughout Europe (transfers are easy and not expensive because of inter-European bank agreements). And finally, in the eventuality that students want to get periodic services such as a mobile phone in Spain, retailers and service providers will require payment through direct withdrawals from a Spanish bank account. It is important to note also that having a local bank—or at least a European bank—may facilitate the reimbursement of the housing deposit at the end of the year.
For this reason, the program has facilitated the contact with a Spanish bank where participating
students can open an account valid during their stay in Spain and close it before their departure.

Banco Sabadell Atlántico (one of Spain’s largest banking institutions) seems to be the most open and
understanding of what our students need and their singular residence conditions (9 months in Europe,
different nationalities, mainly English speaking, etc...).

During orientation week, the Program Coordinator establishes a group appointment for students
interested in opening a local bank account. At the end of the year, a group procedure is also established
for closing the account.

The bank account opening procedure will be quite simple and you will only need:

- Your passport and visa papers
- Your US bank data: name, office, address, bank information: IBAN, ABA, account numbers.
- Complete Bank forms (provided here)

Please read carefully the information that follows (and share with your parents).

The account is free for students under 26 years old. For the few that may be older, we may contact the
bank for special consideration. You will be able to close the account at the end of the year through a
simple “account-closing” process.

The following list of information serves as a guide only as the bank has not yet determined fees for
2017-18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BANCO SABADELL (BSA)</th>
<th>FEES 2016-2017</th>
<th>Other useful information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Account Expansion Students age 18-25 years old</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debit Card</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personalization Debit Card (ID-photo, or image)</td>
<td>10€</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic transfers</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers to and from Euro countries</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Transfers, incoming</td>
<td>0.35% of total amount</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Transfers, to</td>
<td>Maximum cost: 3.00€</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.35% of total amount</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>international accounts</td>
<td>Maximum cost: 3.00€</td>
<td>In any BSA ATM in Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals, BSA</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>Like in the United States, Banks are associated in different groups, Cirrus, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM’s</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Spain, BSA is in the group Servired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals, in</td>
<td>4.5% of the</td>
<td>Of amount withdrawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain, other Banks</td>
<td>withdrawn amount,</td>
<td>Attention: there is also an exchange rate!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM’s</td>
<td>minimum: 3.50€</td>
<td>Minimum: none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free if withdrawal</td>
<td>Maximum: 1000€/day/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>amount is 60€ or</td>
<td>Minimum: none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more</td>
<td>Maximum: 1000€/day/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ServiRed ATM’s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals in Euro</td>
<td>4.50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals in non-</td>
<td>4.50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debit card payments in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debit card payments in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro countries</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debit card payments in</td>
<td>3.00€</td>
<td>Minimum: none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-Euro countries</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maximum: 1000€/day/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Balance</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Activity</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VERY IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING THE BANKING INFORMATION**

1. There is no obligation to open a local bank account, and there is no particular reason to do it at Banco Sabadell Atlántico; students are welcome to do their own research of a local banking institution. Nevertheless, please note the Program’s Administrative Office will only set aside one day to organize the opening/closing of bank accounts. Those desiring to use a different bank will have to do the work on their own.

2. While facilitating the liaison between Banco Sabadell and students, the IASAP•BV does not intervene in students’ private/personal banking affairs.

3. It may be useful to inquire with your bank in the US regarding transfers to European banks and see if you can get a preferential bank fee and/or exchange rate. IMPORTANT: it may be better to transfer funds in Euros rather than in US dollars (bank fees and exchange rates may be better if these costs are set by your US bank.)

4. When withdrawing money from ATMs with a US-based card it is generally better to carry out the entire operation in Euros; fees and exchange rate will be likely more favorable.
B4 ▪ Other Practical Information

Living in Sant Cugat/Barcelona
Telecommunications
Shipping and mailing

Traveling to Barcelona El Vallès

The School of Architecture arranges a group flight from Chicago – Barcelona for all program participants. The flight for the 2017-2018 Barcelona students will leave Chicago on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 and arrive in Barcelona on Wednesday, September 6, 2017. The group return flight is scheduled in time for students to participate in commencement ceremonies in May. The return flight will leave Barcelona on Thursday, May 10, 2018 and arrive in Chicago on Thursday, May 10, 2018. Specific flight information from the travel agent will be available during spring semester.

The IASAP•BV’s Director, Professor Alejandro Lapunzina, will greet the students at Barcelona’s El Prat airport. The IASAP•BV will have a bus ready to transport participants from the airport to the ETSAV in Sant Cugat del Vallès. Upon arrival students will get settled in their respective housing units.

Students who travel independently and arrive at Barcelona later in the day should go to the ETSAV in Sant Cugat del Vallès by their own means (instructions and map will be sent prior to the students’ arrival). If they arrive before, they can go directly to the Student Residence Hall. Since housing is paid for beginning September 1, students can occupy their units as early as Friday, September 1, 2017. In that case, please notify the IASAP•BV’s Program Coordinator by email: magali.vl@outlook.com at least ten days prior to your arrival so she can make the necessary arrangements.

The semester begins with the arrival of the group flight; therefore all students are required to arrive at the ETSAV in Sant Cugat by Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017.
Packing Your Suitcase

Planning to bring what you need for an 8 1/2 months period is a difficult exercise, as your outfits vary with the seasons, your activities, and the destinations of your intended travels.

Considering airline restrictions on the size and weight of luggage (see the airline’s website), the main objective is to satisfy the essentials. Questions to guide your decision making:

- What are the kinds of activities that you will undertake?
- What events (other than normal school activities) will you attend?
- What countries will you visit and in which season?
- What kind of sports or other extracurricular activities do you want to engage in?

Temperatures are generally mild in Barcelona and Sant Cugat. Barcelona is on the beach, where it can be a little more humid. Sant Cugat is surrounded by mountains, making it drier than Barcelona; the temperature difference between the two cities can be up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fall temperatures are in the 40s and 50s (Fahrenheit); during September and October it rains a lot (and the rain is heavy). Winter months have a temperature range in the 30s to low 40s, often with a cold, dry wind. During the spring season, it is reasonable to expect temperatures between 40s and 70s. It rarely snows, but it can happen!

The best advice is travel light with the basic essentials. If something is absolutely needed at one point, it can always be bought in Barcelona or Sant Cugat.

Pack washable, quick-drying fabrics as much as possible. Dry cleaning and laundry costs can be high. Shoes should be good for walking and waterproof. As architecture students remember that you are going to be working in studios and building models, etc. Dress accordingly. For special occasions or reviews pack formal sportswear.

The following websites have been recommended as good sources to consult to plan your suitcases:

- [www.thesavvybackpacker.com](http://www.thesavvybackpacker.com)
- [www.goeurope.about.com](http://www.goeurope.about.com)
- [www.fodors.com](http://www.fodors.com)
- [www.travelandleisure.com](http://www.travelandleisure.com)
- [www.bakpakguide.com](http://www.bakpakguide.com)
- [www.budgettraveller.org](http://www.budgettraveller.org)

Regarding cosmetics, unless there is something unique that is only produced and available in one specific place, it is generally better to get it in Spain. Most cosmetic companies are now global and the products name or logo may be identical, but the products will adapt to the particular conditions (water
quality, PH, etc.) and thus a product purchased locally will likely respond better than the same one brought from the US or other countries. For example, a shampoo that gives amazing results in the United States may end up favoring a “hay stack look“ after a few weeks of use in Spain.

Electrical appliances in the U.S. are designed for voltage/frequency of 110Volts/60 Hz; but in Europe, electrical power supply uses voltage/frequency of 220Volts/50Hz. This means that, for example, if you use an American hairdryer in Europe, it will certainly “fry” or burn rather quickly. Some products/brand names (hairdryers, for example) are designed for traveling; they have dual/compatible voltage and frequency. In general, electronic devices adapt well to the electricity because they have an internal converter. Nevertheless, it is important to check the information of all the electrical/ electronic devices that will be brought to Europe.

Plugs/outlets differ a lot from country to country. An international plug adaptor might be useful. Note: plug outlet adaptors do not convert voltage nor frequency, just adapt to the outlets.

Living in Barcelona/Sant Cugat del Vallès

Telecommunications in Spain

The telecommunications market changes very rapidly. It is impossible to predict which company will have the best prices and quality of service.

At the University Residence, students will have an Internet connection with ethernet (cable connection.) The limitation with this kind of connection is that only one computer can be connected at a time. The University Residence management office offers a Wi-Fi connection for an annual fee of 15€ plus a deposit of the same amount. The deposit fee is reimbursed to the student/s at the end of the year when the router is returned in good working condition and state.

When looking for cell phones, students should pay special attention to the commitment required. Many offers may seem very competitive, but they may require a two year commitment. It is important to read the small print before selecting a plan.

Most students have found the card-recharge system (usually referred to as “prepago”) to be very convenient. They refill the card as needed. Doing it online seems to give more units than refilling it at the telephone shop or machine.

In Spain, there are several cell-phone and internet providers; the more widespread are:

Movistar:  [https://www.movistar.es/particulares/movil/moviles/?prefilteroo=prepago](https://www.movistar.es/particulares/movil/moviles/?prefilteroo=prepago)
Orange:  [http://www.orange.es/](http://www.orange.es/)
Jazztel:  [http://www.jazztel.com](http://www.jazztel.com)
We recommend that you do your own research but wait until arriving in Sant Cugat to make your final decision.

International phone plans are pretty expensive. Skype (or similar programs) is the easiest way to communicate with the U.S. and the basic service (largely sufficient) is free. Gmail may be useful to call phones in the states and send texts. If you set your country to USA, then calls home are free. You can also phone or send texts via Skype, which is also cheap.

**Shipping/mailing packages/items to/from Spain**

Spanish postal services are slow and somewhat unreliable; this makes them expensive when quality of service and price are concerned. There are private postal services, reliable, but definitely more expensive. Any shipping through these companies needs to be established online. Whether posting or receiving packages through a public or private postal service, local customs fees may apply. It is important to keep this in mind because sending an inexpensive present/souvenir to a family member/friend may result in a very expensive and time consuming activity for the recipient.

Experience shows that receiving packages from home or any other country is very complicated and expensive because Spanish customs intervene whenever a package comes from a foreign country. And custom fees apply even on second hand or used objects. We strongly suggest that students come with what they consider reasonable for the length of their stay in Spain and that they buy any item that they need during their stay in Spain/Europe.

Sending letters poses a lesser problem. One consideration to note is that Spanish Post Office is somewhat unreliable so mail may suffer long delays and may, sometimes, never get to the destination.

Your mailing address in Sant Cugat: YOUR NAME
UNIHABIT SANT CUGAT:
Calle Pere Serra, 1-5
08173 Sant Cugat (Barcelona)
SPAIN

To ship a package, the student should have proof of the merchandise in order to free it from customs. Customs will require:

1. Bill (original) of every item, including old/second hand items
2. Description, weight and of each shipped item and designated use
3. Information about the sender (name, address, tax number)

Students should obtain a Spanish tax number (at the local Tax Agency). Please keep in mind that in order to get this tax number students need to have the residency card which takes about 2-3 months from arrival to be delivered.

Note: our experience shows that Amazon Spain complies with all the national rules for shipping/mailing and it informs of any extra fees being involved with the shipment of items.
Contacts

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