The linearity in section shows the modernist aspiration of getting to the bare elements of construction or any of anything. The hole building seems like a series of plans/lines which is reminiscent of Mondrian's compositions, Hans Richter's "Rhythmus 21" or other modernist works which clearly influenced Mies.

Is the plan based on rectangular modules of same proportions?

Circulation happens through & around the enclosed space.

Water adds serenity to the spaces. At the enclosed part the water & sculpture creates a calming sensation.

There is a basement.
A Message from the IASAP-BV’s Director

Greetings from Barcelona and Sant Cugat! Handbook 3 which you have before you concentrates on preparations for your study in Barcelona and the practical aspects of living there, including the yearlong calendar, housing, banking, health care, etc.

Additionally, there are things you can do right now to enhance your experience in the IASAP-BV. Allow me to share some tips to assist in your summer preparations.

- **Practice Spanish**: it does not matter how much you know, or if you do not know any; refreshing your knowledge or beginning to learn the basics will be extremely useful in daily living. There are plenty of useful sources on the internet and in your local public library.

- **Practice your sketching skills**: similar to above; it does not matter how good you are, practicing always pays off! Some instruction/teaching of sketching techniques will take place in the first few weeks of the program, but nothing teaches more than practicing. The method is simple and has no secrets: practice, and practice it again, like a basketball player practicing hoops in the driveway, or a pianist playing and replaying the same fragment to master it.

- **Become informed about places you may want to travel**: you are not an “accidental tourist” but an architecture student participating in an architectural study abroad program. Prepare for your year abroad by becoming informed about the cities and countries you intend to visit during independent travel breaks; identify buildings and sites of interest and find out information about them. Like everything else, it will be quite rewarding.

Everything you do to get ready for the yearlong experience will be certainly useful; concentrating on these things will produce direct benefits. In a few more weeks, you will receive a message with additional recommendations for the rest of the summer.

My personal congratulations to you on your acceptance into this program. I look forward to welcoming you at Barcelona’s airport on September 3rd.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Lapunzina
Professor, ISoA
Director, IASAP-BV
1. Traveling to Barcelona and Yearlong Calendar

Traveling to Barcelona

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Flight Reservation: Chicago &gt; Barcelona</th>
<th>Wednesday, September 2, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Airlines Flight Number 1999</strong></td>
<td>Departs Chicago at 12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrives Charlotte, NC 3:06 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment: Airbus A321 Jet. Class N-Coach/Economy; Status: Confirmed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Airlines Flight Number 0744</strong></td>
<td>Departs Charlotte, NC at 4:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrives Barcelona at 7:10 am on Sept. 3, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment: Airbus Jet. Class N-Coach/Economy; Status: Confirmed; Meal: Dinner-Snack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrives at Barcelona's El Prat Terminal 1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Return Reservation: Barcelona &gt; Chicago</th>
<th>Thursday, May 12, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Airlines Flight Number 0067</strong></td>
<td>Departs Barcelona at 10:00 am, from Terminal 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrives New York JFK at 12:55 pm, at Terminal 8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment: Boeing 767 Jet. Class N-Coach/Economy; Status: Confirmed; Meal: Lunch-Snack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Airlines Flight Number 0366</strong></td>
<td>Departs New York JFK at 5:05 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrives Chicago O'Hare at 7:04 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment: Boeing 737-800 Jet. Class N-Coach/Economy; Status: Confirmed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Airlines Confirmation Number for all flights is DPASOK.

Students arriving in Barcelona on September 3, 2015, on the group flight arranged by the Illinois School of Architecture (see above) will be greeted at Barcelona’s El Prat airport by the IASAP-BV’s Director, Professor Alejandro Lapunzina. Students flying to Barcelona independently and arriving at Barcelona’s airport before or at the same time are strongly encouraged to join the group and Prof. Lapunzina at the airport’s gate at the time of arrival of the group flight.

The IASAP-BV will have a bus ready to transport participants that meet at 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 (housing is paid beginning on September 1, therefore they can occupy their units as early as Tuesday, September 1, 2015; in that case, please notify the IASAP-BV’s Administrative Coordinator by email: magali.vl@outlook.com).

The first formal activity of the program is scheduled for Friday, September 4 at 9:00am; therefore all students should arrive at the ETSAV in Sant Cugat prior to that day and time.
Preliminary Yearlong Calendar

The program's activities begin with the students' arrival at Barcelona/Sant Cugat on Thursday, September 3, 2015. From September 4 to September 11 time will be dedicated to mandatory Orientation activities.

Fall semester: Fall semester instruction begins on Monday, September 14; the semester activities are scheduled to end on Friday, December 18, 2015 (note that activities on this final day of class will likely end in evening hours –tentatively 8 pm; therefore, if you plan to travel during the winter break please schedule your traveling accordingly).


Spring semester: Spring semester instruction begins on Thursday, January 7 at 9 am; the semester course-related activities are scheduled to end on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 (again in evening hours). The program formally ends with the departure of the students who will fly back to Illinois on the group flight on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

The IASAP-BV 2015-2016 Yearlong Calendar posted on the following page is a preliminary document. The dates for the beginning and ending of classes in each of the two semesters, and the winter break are definite. However preliminary, it is worth mentioning the two weeks – one in each semester—labeled as “Independent Study-Travel Week.” These weeks are intentionally built into the program’s calendar to allow students to travel throughout Europe if they desire (note that traveling is not required). Yet, it should be clearly understood that these weeks are not “vacation,” but “study-travel periods;” this means that while traveling independently, students are however “in-class” and will be assigned a series of studies to be developed during the travel time.

The dates for these two “Independent Study-Travel Weeks” shown on the calendar are rather firm; yet, we reserve the right to modify them until the first two weeks of the year. It should be also noted that these traveling weeks start on the day shown on the calendar and not on the afternoon/evening that precedes them. As mentioned above, course-related activities can often extend to evening hours (for instance, mid-term reviews), especially in the days that precede these weeks. Likewise, they end on the day shown in the calendar, not the morning of the following day.

All other dates/activities —such as dates for mid-terms, field-trips, etc.— shown on the calendar posted on the following page are preliminary and for reference only.

The final calendar for the year will be presented and explained in detail to all students upon arrival in Sant Cugat in September.

Please note the following dates:*

September 3 (arrival day): housing residence paperwork; distribution of city information.
September 4: mandatory red-tape meetings to complete visa paperwork and other forms.
September 9: meeting for those interested in opening a local bank account (see pages 10-12).

*NOTE: students not attending these meetings will have to complete the required paperwork on their own.
# 2015-2016 Yearlong Calendar

**September 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>TTh</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Su</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Sep 3-5: Arrival in Barcelona/Sant Cugat del Vallès-Walking Tour
- Sep 7-10: Orientation at UPC/ Sep 11: Catalunya's Holiday (no class)
- Sep 14: Fall semester courses begin
- Oct 1-3: 3-day Fall semester field trip (to be confirmed)
- Oct 12: Columbus Day, National Holiday (no class)
- Oct 20-23: Mid-terms (exams + reviews) (activities will likely end at 8pm on Friday)
- Out 24: Fall semester Independent Study-Travel Week begins
- Nov 1: Fall semester Independent Study-Travel Week ends
- Nov 2: Classes/activities resume at 9am
- Nov 26-29: Thanksgiving Week-end (no-class)
- Dec 7: Holiday
- Dec 14-16: Final Exams + Reviews (activities will likely end at 8pm on Friday)
- Dec 18: Winter Break begins
- Jan 3: Winter Break ends
- Jan 7: Spring semester begins
- Jan 26-30: 4/5-day Spring semester field trip (tentative dates, TBC)
- Mar 15-18: Mid-terms (exams + reviews) (activities will likely end at 8pm on Friday)
- Mar 19: Spring semester Independent Study-Travel Week begins
- Mar 20: Spring semester Independent Study-Travel Week ends
- Mar 20: Classes resume at 9am
- May 4-10: Final Exams + Reviews (activities will likely end at 8pm on Friday)
- May 12: Students depart/program ends
2. Personal Preparations for the year abroad

Your Suitcase

Planning what to bring what you need for a 9 to 10 months period is a difficult exercise. At least three different seasons must be considered. Depending on the destinations of your intended travels, the characteristics of your outfits may vary and some activities may require particular attire.

Considering airlines’ restrictions on the weight and size of the luggage (see the travel agent’s website), the main objective is to satisfy the essentials. Elements to guide your decision:

- 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 activity will you do?

Both in Barcelona and Sant Cugat temperatures are generally mild. Barcelona is on the beach, where it can be a little more humid. Sant Cugat is surrounded by mountains which can produce a difference in temperature of 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 and with the essentials. If something is absolutely needed at one point, it can always be bought in Barcelona and 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 and plan your suitcases:

- www.thesavvybackpacker.com
- www.enjoy-europe.com
- www.goeurope.about.com
- www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism
- www fodors.com
- www.travelandleisure.com
- www bakpakguide.com
- www. budgettraveller.org

Concerning 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 stick look” after a few weeks of use in Spain.
Electrical appliances: electrical and electronic products 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/brandnames (hair-dryers, 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. Attention: plug outlets adaptors do not convert voltage nor frequency, just adapt to the outlets (two flat legs, two round thin legs, two round thick legs, two round and one flat, etc.)

Textbooks and Supplies

The list of required textbooks that you need for courses offered at the IASAP-BV will be communicated by email directly from the Illinois School of Architecture. Generally, you will only need to bring required textbooks for the two Structures courses. You may be required to purchase a Reader for the two History courses (information on this subject will be provided at the beginning of the Fall semester).

Please note that it is strongly recommended to bring the textbooks with you; if you ship/mail them, Spain’s customs will charge very onerous taxes for importing books (even if used) from foreign countries.

For structures classes, you will also need a scientific calculator (one that at least is capable of performing trigonometric functions - graphing calculator not required). Each student must have his or her own, as sharing of calculators is not allowed during texts and quizzes. An LCD non-rechargeable battery type is recommended. If you must use a rechargeable one, make sure it can work on 220 volts, 50-cycle AC. **NOTE:** Do not carry a calculator in carry-on baggage through foreign airports--their x-ray machine will damage the calculator.

Obtaining a guidebook of Barcelona will prove essential for daily life, as many of the program’s activities take place in Barcelona. The offer of street guides is wide; we will make recommendations during Orientation week.

You will need the normal architectural supplies you use in Urbana-Champaign: pencils, pens, tracing paper, glue, cutters, etc. Bring one or two rolls of tracing paper, pens, markers, etc. with you. We recommend purchasing glue, cutters, etc. here to avoid problems with luggage controls.

**Sketching supplies** deserve a special paragraph: sketching is frequent and intense at the IASAP-BV. Bring your sketching supplies: pens, pencils, charcoal, etc. You will also need a variety of sketchbooks for your sketching assignments and for some courses.

**Recommended sketchbook size/format:** blank pages (not ruled) US Letter size or its European equivalent (A4 format); smaller size sketchbooks are also appropriate, but not smaller than 5" x 8" (13x20 centimeters). Moleskine® has a wide range of appropriate sketchbooks at sizes 7 1/2"x10" (19x25 cm) and 5" x 8 3/4" (13x21), but you can obviously choose similar ones from other trademarks. Moleskine sketchbooks can be bought in Europe.
A sketchbook/notebook with blank pages (not ruled) will be required for exclusive use in one of the four courses offered in each semester (ARCH 468B Overseas Architectural Studies). In other words, you will need at least two sketchbooks, one for general sketching activities, another for Arch 468B. If you already have a sketchbook that still has plenty of pages to work on you can bring it for general sketching activities and if eventually you need another one you can get it here (prices are generally competitive with those at the US).

**Computers**: students are encouraged to bring a laptop computer with the latest virus protection software installed on it. In addition, they should have the necessary software listed below installed before leaving for Barcelona.

**Software**: standard software used in Urbana-Champaign (word processing [Word, Excel], imaging [Photoshop], publishing [Illustrator, InDesign], as well as 3d modeling, rendering and drawing programs: Rhino + Grasshopper, REVIT, 3ds Max Design, CAD, etc.) should be installed prior to leaving for Barcelona.

- **Autodesk** ([http://students.autodesk.com](http://students.autodesk.com)) is available, free of charge, to all students as long as they are currently enrolled and have a valid University supplied email address ([netid@illinois.edu](mailto:netid@illinois.edu)). **NOTE**: This must be installed and activated before leaving for Barcelona.
- McNeel allows students to download a free trial and purchase their software at a discounted price as long as the student is currently enrolled and has a University-supplied ID card and email address.
- Software can be accessed from [http://www.rhino3d.com](http://www.rhino3d.com)
- Grasshopper can be accessed from [http://www.grasshopper3d.com](http://www.grasshopper3d.com)
- Imaging and publishing software can be purchased through the University webstore: [http://webstore.illinois.edu/home](http://webstore.illinois.edu/home) or direct from adobe: [http://www.adobe.com/index.edu.html](http://www.adobe.com/index.edu.html)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact FAA IT at [http://it.faa.illinois.edu](http://it.faa.illinois.edu)

Information about printing services, model shop, file storing/sharing and security will be provided in the Welcome Package to be distributed to students upon arrival to the ETSAV in September.
3. Practical Information for the Year

PRELIMINARY NOTE: in response to several inquiries, this section includes information on specific aspects related to students’ lodging, health care, banking, etc….; this information complements and supplements what was already provided in preceding documents/handbooks distributed to all participants in the Spring 2015.

Housing

Common Services available at the Student Residence:

- Free bicycle parking at the entrance of the student residence.
- Free common outdoor social areas with tables, sofas, ping-pong table
- Organization of some activities: for example, for the year 2014-2015:
  - Yoga (on Sundays)
  - Soccer/Football (on Friday evenings, 5€ participation fee/month)
  - Specific activities such as dinners, sky days, etc. For some activities, there may be a monetary participation requested.
    Please note that the activities and prices may vary from one year to the next.

- Management office with an on-site manager during working days and office hours.
- Free common room for TV-movies and other social events: This space needs to be reserved in advance with the office manager.

- Laundry areas: Washing and Drying machines are available for a reasonable cost (2014-15 prices: 2€ for washing, 1€ per 15 minutes of drying.)
Housing Payments:
The rent for double occupancy is included in the program fee. Utilities and services are not included in this fee. Each student is responsible for paying to “UNIHABIT Habitats” the following:

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

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 Habitats.” 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.**

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 damage 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.

![Image of housing units](image)

Students can request, additional services at their 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 this school year 2014-2015; and that they serve as estimates only. They may change from one school year to the next one.
MONTHLY COST OF OPTIONAL SERVICES (per person)

House cleaning: 77.00 euros  
Change of sheets/towels: 44.00 euros

Bandwidth access for each unit may be bought for about 30€ per month. Access point costs 30€ (can be shared by the two occupants of the unit), 15€ for the installation and 15€ as a deposit. At the end of the year, the deposit (15€) is returned to the students. There are no telephone sockets. For this reason, it is impossible to get any exterior telephone/internet service.

MONTHLY COST OF OPTIONAL ITEMS (per unit)

Dishwasher: 16.50 euros  
Linen and bedding: 3.30 euros  
Iron and ironing board: 3.30 euros  
Sofa: 8.25 euros  
Desk: 1.65 euros  
Armchair: 4.40 euros  
Chair: 1.10 euros  
TV: 5.50 euros

Important Note: The housing rental agreement is for accommodating the STUDENTS only. Family and friends who visit you are not allowed to stay in your housing and must make separate accommodations.

Banking in Spain

Students can withdraw money in local currency euros (€) in Euro-zone countries, pounds in the UK, etc., in most ATM machines using their US-based debit/credit cards. Banking conditions, rules, restrictions, exchange rate, and special fees/charges vary depending on each banking institution.

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. Please check with your own bank.

Although easily accessible to students from the first day, banking with US-based debit/credit cards may become expensive after a while. It can also be complicated to use these cards for everyday activities and purchasing plane tickets, hotels/hostels or apartment rentals for long field-trips and travel breaks, etc. Most electronic machines are well adapted to recognize European Banking cards, but this is not always the case for non-European ones. Depending on the country, service providers may request bank transfers or check payments. And last but not least, in the eventuality that students want to get periodic services such as a mobile phone or Internet/Wi-Fi service in Spain, retailers and service providers will require payment through direct withdrawals from a Spanish bank account.

A Spanish bank account is not required, but it may facilitate the students' daily life and travels. For all the reasons, the IASAP-BV has undertaken informal research about local banking. 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 (9-10 months in Europe, different nationalities, mainly English speaking, etc...).

Representatives of one of Sant Cugat's branches of Banco Sabadell Atlántico (BSA) will visit the IASAP-BV on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 to open bank accounts for interested students. Please read carefully the information that follows (and share with your parents). Let us know if you would like us to reserve an appointment for you to open a bank account with
BSA on September 9. Of course, the sooner we know this, the better. The 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)

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BANCO SABADELL (BSA)</th>
<th>FEES</th>
<th>Other useful information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Account Expansion Students age 18-25 years old</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account’s maintenance</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 Maximum cost: 3.00€</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Transfers, to international accounts</td>
<td>0.35% of total amount Maximum cost: 3.00€</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals, BSA ATM’s</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>In any BSA ATM in Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals, in Spain, other Banks ATM’s</td>
<td>4.5% of the withdrawn amount, minimum: 3.50€ Free if withdrawal amount is 60€ or more</td>
<td>Liked in the United States, Banks are associated in different groups, Cirrus, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ServiRed ATM’s</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Spain, BSA is in the group Servired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals in Euro countries</td>
<td>4.50%</td>
<td>Of amount withdrawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM withdrawals in non-Euro countries</td>
<td>4.50%</td>
<td>Of amount withdrawn Attention: there is also an exchange rate!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debit card payments in Spain</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Minimum: none Maximum: 1000€/day/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debit card payments in Euro countries</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Minimum: none Maximum: 1000€/day/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debit card payments in non-Euro countries</td>
<td>3.00€</td>
<td>Minimum: none Maximum: 1000€/day/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Balance Required</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Activity Required</td>
<td>None</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 from the Program’s Administrative Office, will only set aside one day to organize the opening/closing of bank accounts with Banco Sabadell. 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 at 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.

WE STRONGLY DISCOURAGE STUDENTS FROM CARRYING SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF CASH WITH THEM ON THE FLIGHT OVER OR WHILE TRAVELING.

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 through a 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 proposes a Wi-Fi connection for a monthly fee. Students have found this connection to be unreliable and with variable strength depending on how many people are connected.

When looking for cell phone and internet connections, 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.

For the year 2014-2015, most students have found the card-recharge system (usually referred to as "pre pago") 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/?prefilter00=pregago
- Orange: http://www.orange.es/
- Vodafone: http://www.vodafone.es/particulares/es/

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 call phones or send texts via Skype, which is also cheap.
Shipping/mailing packages/items to/from Spain

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

Spanish postal services are slow and somewhat unreliable; this makes them expensive when quality of service and price are related. There are private postal services, reliable, but definitely more expensive. Any shipping through these companies needs to be established online. Local customs’ fees may apply when shipping/mailing packages/items to and from Spain. 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.

When shipping/mailing packages/items to/from Spain it is important to detail that the contents have no value. No insurance should accompany the package because it has no declared value. Sometimes, the sender is required to provide an itemized list of the objects included in the package; be concise and stress the fact that objects are not new (used). Even with all these precautions, customs may decide that a specific item is subject to import taxes and in this case, the recipient will have to pay them in order to receive the package. When the Customs office is involved, students may need to pick up the package at that office to complete the required paperwork. In general, the post office will not deliver these packages.

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.

Health care + health-related issues

In Spain there is a very broad range of private health care services and providers. Students in need of medical attention will have a wide scope of choices.

1. Students can request appointments at physicians’ private offices, pay for the medical service and then present the paperwork to their insurance.

2. Students can go to the health care providers which the IASAP-BV has already contacted. These providers offer medical services at a preferential rate. Some of them have signed agreements with CISI (the University required medical insurance) in order to simplify the paper work for students.

The providers that signed an agreement with CISI are:

- Centre Sanitari Can Mora: www.centrecanmora.com
  The Centre Sanitari Can Mora is useful for minor health problems. They cover: General Medicine, Traumatology, Nutrition, Psychology, and Physiotherapy. They have their own 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.hgs.es](http://www.hgs.es)
  The hospital is the most appropriate health center for emergencies or important health care problems. The hospital provides services in all major specialties and has the 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. There are several ways to get there.

The IASAP-BV is also developing a list of offices which provide services not covered by the two main health care providers, including dental services and physiotherapy services.

It is advisable that students bring their medical information with them. Medical history with the main health events and current problems, allergies, etc. may be needed in the eventuality of having a health problem while in Spain. Vaccination records are also important; especially check for the tetanus vaccination.

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. She 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 in order 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 traveling to other countries.

If you have an emergency after school hours, you should contact the administrative coordinator, Mrs. Lapunzina; 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. 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.
Traveling in Spain and Europe

Whereas traveling during the study-travel weeks built into the program’s calendar is not necessary, the prospect of traveling in Spain and throughout Europe is one of the obvious and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities available to participating students. It should be reminded that study-travel weeks are not periods of vacation and assignments to be developed during these periods of travel are generally issued prior to departure. Traveling during week-ends is possible, however generally discouraged because of the intensity of the work done during periods of class. There are plenty of resources available to help plan these trips (travel guides, books, on-line services, etc.); students should consult them and plan ahead of time. The IASAP-BV faculty can help students in the selection of travel destinations, but the organization (reservations, etc...) of these trips is to be done by the students.

More information regarding traveling will be shared with participants upon arrival to Sant Cugat in September. However, obtaining the following international documents may be useful:

1. A National Student Association International Identity Card

Recommended for American university students studying or traveling in Europe, this card is generally accepted by everyone and entitles the holder to discounts at some theaters, concert halls, shops, and most museums. Holders of the ID card are also eligible for the money-saving services offered by the European national student travel bureaus. Of particular interest are intra-European student charter flights, student hostels, and meals in student restaurants.

The International Student Identity Card can be obtained online at [http://www.isic.org/student-card/the-isic-student-card.html](http://www.isic.org/student-card/the-isic-student-card.html) or through the Campus ID Center located on the 1st floor, 809 S. Wright Street (Illini Union Bookstore), Champaign, 217-244-0135. Students are required to show their current student ID in order to obtain the International Student ID. A $25 fee (cash or check only) and one passport photo must be submitted, as well as verification of birth date (driver’s license or passport). NOTE: If you purchase the card prior to September 1 you will only be able to use it until December of 2015. After September 1 the card will be valid for a year. Make sure your card is validated for this time period. You can also obtain a student ID card in Europe at travel agencies.

This ID card is not essential but it is useful to have one to obtain discounts. Your ETSAV student ID may also get you discounts at museums.

2. An International Driver’s License

This is optional and only necessary for those who intend to rent a car in Spain or elsewhere in Europe. Whereas, a valid U.S. driver’s License may be sufficient for car rentals in Spain, an International Driver’s License is legally required by the Police. Therefore, you may need to get it. Should you choose to get an international driver’s license, it may be obtained locally by applying for it at the AAA Chicago Motor Club (check for requirements and advantages of having this card); you can also check at [www.rac.co.uk/driving-abroad/spain](http://www.rac.co.uk/driving-abroad/spain) (this is the equivalent to the AAA).
FQ&A for prospective participants

This closing section of Handbook 3 was prepared from IASAP-BV’s participants in the 2014-2015 first year of operation of the program. It generally includes much information already provided in this and previous handbooks and some that will be discussed at length upon arrival to Barcelona/Sant Cugat in September; yet, we decided to include the document they prepared virtually untouched.

1. How can I plan in advance for travel breaks?
   Should I look into purchasing an Eurail pass?
   a. The most in advance I’d recommend is to figure out what cities you want to visit and what you would like to see in each city. This is the one thing I found I didn’t have time to do before a trip besides figuring out where I was traveling and how I was traveling. You should give yourself at least a month (preferably more) in advance to book flights and accommodations; the Holidays will require more time to get the best deals on flights. Before getting to Spain, it’s hard to plan WAY in advance, as you won’t know what your workload will be like or if you would rather stay home that weekend.
   b. As for Eurail passes, no matter what others tell you, don’t do it. Essentially, it’s a pass that in theory is supposed to make train travel cheaper, allowing you to take multiple regional/national trains within a 24 hour, multi-day window. That’s something you can purchase when you’re here (with your Spanish residence card, you can purchase an Interail pass, meant for European residents) and it’s really only effective if you know how to make the most use out of it. But for now, don’t worry about it.
   c. A helpful site is www.goeuro.com. It compares the prices for different types of transportation such as plane, train, and bus. The flight prices are usually the same as www.skyscanner.com (another cheap travel site).

2. What kind of credit/debit card should I get?
   a. It would be best to get an international debit/credit card, meaning that there is a chip in the card, as opposed to a magnetic strip that most US cards have.
   b. Do NOT bring a Discover credit card. Mastercard and Visa are accepted everywhere, but Discover is not.
   c. Please refer to Banking section provided in handbooks distributed by the School
      [Note from IASAP-BV: Banking information is included in this handbook].

3. What should I do about a cell phone?
   a. If you can, try and bring a phone from home so that you can buy a Spanish SIM card here. Typically this requires your phone to be “unlocked” so that it can use another cell providers’ SIM card. The unlocking policies will vary between carriers, so check with your mobile carrier. Avoid upgrading your phone before coming - you won’t be able to get it unlocked to bring it (without paying a fortune). Ideally, bring something that if it gets damaged or lost, you won’t be heartbroken (be prepared for that possibility)
   b. The company/provider most used here by students is Orange.
   c. Orange has a variety of plans that you can research before coming.
4. What architecture supplies should I bring?
   a. Any basic supplies can be bought here, but just keep in mind that you will be using the metric system in studio courses, so your inch scale ruler won't have much use here, besides as a straight edge for cutting.
   b. Bring few essentials such as a cutting mat (11x17 or smaller), trace paper, and x-acto knives/blades. Of course these CAN be bought here, but the price will be lower in US, especially if you already have these items- there's no reason to buy them twice!
   c. Microns are cheaper in the US as well. Try to stock up before you come!

5. What does the housing unit at the Student Residence come with?
   a. You will be provided with two sets of sheets (2 duvet covers, 2 sheet to cover mattress, 2 pillowcases), you will also be provided with the duvet and pillowcase
   b. Basic kitchen supplies such as plates and bowls of varying sizes, cups, mugs, a cutting board, colander, silverware and basic cutting knives, as well as a spatula and ladle. 4 pots/panns of varying sizes (with lids), kitchen scissors.

6. Will I need to bring “home goods” or kitchen tools? Where can I buy some at low price?
   a. Any home goods that you feel you will need besides the basics that are provided can be purchased in many stores. There are many “Basars” around Sant Cugat and Barcelona which are analogous to American dollar stores. Of course the quality may not be the highest, the price is good and it “does the job” for the 9 months you are here.

7. Where do I do my laundry? How much does it cost?
   a. There are two washing machines at either side of the residence, on the first floor. Laundry cost 2 euros per wash. There is one drying machine.

8. Should I bring my hair dryer/straightener/curling iron?
   a. **DO NOT** bring any hair care appliances with you!!! Even with power converters, they will fry. All of these can be purchased inexpensively at stores in Sant Cugat or at the popular department store “El Corte Ingles.”

9. Can I bring a power strip?
   a. It depends on the kind of converter you bring. If you have a high-wattage converter (something more heavy-duty) you should be fine. However, if you bring just a plug adapter, it probably won't work.

10. How far is Sant Cugat from Barcelona?
    a. The city is 25-30 minutes from the center of Barcelona by train. The FGC train route runs between the two and trains run to and from the city fairly frequently, much like the Metra between Chicago and its suburbs. Train tickets can be purchased at an economical price, depending on how frequently you need to go into the city. Sant Cugat is in Zone 2 of public transit system, so you will need to purchase a 2-zone ticket of some kind for travel into Barcelona. If you make at least 3 trips into the city per week, it is better to buy the 90 day 2 zone student train ticket, otherwise buying a 2 zone T-10 is the most economical way to go. Another option is the 2 zone T-30/50, which allows you 50 trips within 30 days. It can be useful if you foresee having a busy travel month with trips to Barcelona and back, as well as other places.
11. How is traveling within Barcelona?
   a. Most of Barcelona is well connected through the subway system; most major attractions or
      sites you would visit would be within 3-4 blocks from a subway station. There are also many
      buses throughout Barcelona that you could take that go just about anywhere.
   b. The entire city of Barcelona is in Zone 1 of the public transit system, so a good idea would
      be to have a T-10 1-zone if you will be traveling inside the city (sightseeing, shopping, etc)
   c. More detailed information about the public transit system can be found at
      available in English, Spanish, and Catalan).

12. Is there WiFi at UNIHABIT?
   a. Wireless routers can be obtained inexpensively from the office at the residence complex.
      Each apartment has internet capabilities and ethernet cables.

13. Should I bring textbooks?

   [Note from IASAP-BV: see also page 6 of this document]

   a. Yes! While they are an extra load to carry, it’s worth it to avoid paying shipping costs to
      have things like the AISC Steel Manual shipped internationally as well as go through
customs.
   b. There are some textbooks that will have a PDF version if you are worried about weight, but
      some books, the AISC steel manual in particular, would be better to bring over.

14. How should I prepare myself for the language difference?

   a. Your classes will be taught in English. And many of the tourist attractions, restaurants, and
      cultural institutions have staff that speak English. However, for everyday interaction
      (shopping, asking for directions, etc) it would be best to start learning some conversational
      Spanish terms and important words. Knowing some basic Catalan phrases can be helpful
      as well. Some resources you could look into for basic/conversational Spanish are
      Android/Apple apps such as Duolingo, Memrise, Babbel Spanish, etc. Once you arrive in
      Spain, if you want to learn Spanish, our host university offers Spanish courses through a
      charter school.

   [Note from IASAP-BV: an optional course in Spanish language will be available to 2015-16 students
   at no extra cost; more information will be provided upon arrival in September]

15. Recommendations for International Bank Accounts (for Students)

   [Note from IASAP-BV: see also page 10 of this document].

   a. Banc Sabadell (Banco Sabadell Atlántico)
      - Debit bank account through a Spanish bank which you set up in Spain with the IASAP-
        BV program, if you choose to do so (completely optional).
      - Students found this account very helpful and transfers from banks and Western Union
        (for sending money) was very easy and doable.
b. Chase Sapphire

- [https://creditcards.chase.com/credit-cards/sapphire-preferred-card.aspx](https://creditcards.chase.com/credit-cards/sapphire-preferred-card.aspx)
- It is recommended for students who don't bank with Chase to have their parents open and account and have their name added as an additional card-holder. For those with Chase accounts, the same process is recommended.
- Double points on travel and dining - you can cash in these reward points for cash or discounts in the future!
- The best benefit is you have no foreign transaction fees on all purchases! This means no extra charges for conversion rates. While there is normally a fee, you don't pay it for the first year. If you continue to keep the card after your time abroad, it's $95/year.
- You DO NOT want to withdraw cash with this card (nor any credit card). For those with Chase accounts, specifically Chase debit cards, it's better to withdraw cash through your debit card (for a fee) then use your credit card.

c. Bank of America Student Travel Rewards

- Credit card that has a "chip" (widely used in Europe) and is accepted in Spain, along with many European countries without a problem.
- It is a credit card, but also has a PIN number (because some transactions in Europe require a PIN, such as buying tickets for the trains).
- You receive 1.5 points for every $1 spent.
- NO international transaction fees.
Important names, numbers and addresses

In Barcelona/Sant Cugat del Vallès

Program's address in Sant Cugat
IASAP•BV
[ETSAV]
Carrer de Pere Serra 1-15
08173 Sant Cugat del Vallès
Barcelona, Spain

Program's Office Telephone number¹
calling from Spain: 93 401 2519
calling from Europe: +34 93 401 2519
calling from the US: 011- 34 93 401 2519

IASAP•BV Program Director
Alejandro Lapunzina, Professor IsoA
alejlapu@illinois.edu

(cell phone calling from Spain: 654 462 286
calling from Europe: +34 654 462 286
calling from the US: 011- 34 654 462 286

IASAP•BV Administrative Coordinator
Ms Magali Veronelli-Lapunzina
magali.vl@outlook.com

(cell phone calling from Spain: 657 628 661
calling from Europe: +34 657 628 661
calling from the US: 011- 34 657 628 661

¹ this number may change in 2015-2016; contact the Illinois School of Architecture for updated number

In Urbana-Champaign

School of Architecture Administrator
Lee Waldrep; lwaldrep@illinois.edu
Tel: 217-333-7720 • Fax: 217-333-5240

Barcelona Secretary at UIUC
Rhonda Frank; rfrank@illinois.edu
Tel: 217-333-7720 • Fax: 217-333-5240

Barcelona Accountant at UIUC
Greg Anderson
Tel: 217-265-0930 • Fax: 217-244-2900

UIUC Study Abroad Office Emergency contact number
during business hours (9:00am-5:00pm)  + 1 217 333 6322
outside normal business hours  + 1 217 333 1216