



Gap Year in Spain: Teach English & Learn Spanish

A structured gap year in Barcelona, run by
TEFL Iberia since 2012.



Welcome to your gap year!

At Gap Year in Spain, we believe that the most successful people embrace new challenges, seek personal development and thrive in unfamiliar environments. Our programs in Barcelona combine intensive Spanish courses, world-class teacher training and immersive cultural experiences to help you step out of your comfort zone and grow.

Spanish classes take place 10 to 20 hours per week, building your confidence in real situations so you can communicate naturally in everyday life. On the Semester and Double Semester programs you'll also prepare for and sit the internationally recognized SIELE Spanish exam.

Every program includes the Trinity CertTESOL, a college-level teaching qualification recognized internationally. It gives you practical skills and opens the door to teaching opportunities around the world.

Outside the classroom, students take part in cultural activities that build intercultural awareness, new friendships and a deeper understanding of Spanish life. With visa guidance, accommodation and ongoing support, our team is there to help throughout.

¡Nos vemos en Barcelona!

Richard Davie
Founder & Director

Who is this program for?

Our Gap Year programs are designed for young adults who want to gain international experience before university or during a break from their studies.

Typical participants include:

- » High school graduates taking a gap year before college.
- » University students taking a semester abroad.
- » Recent graduates looking to live and work internationally.

Most students are 18 to 22 years old, although participants in the TEFL training course may be slightly older.



UNIVERSITIES OUR STUDENTS GO ON TO ATTEND



Gap Year in Spain helps students thrive. Here's how:



Small Group Sizes

Our classes are limited to a maximum of 12 students, so nobody gets lost in the crowd.



Professional Development

Join our work experience program and teach English to local students during your time in Spain.



Internationally Recognized Qualifications

The Trinity CertTESOL on every program, plus the SIELE Spanish exam on the Semester and Double Semester.



Accommodation & Visa Support

Share an apartment with your classmates and get support with Spanish paperwork.



Dedicated Coordinator

You'll be in regular contact with a dedicated coordinator, who is on hand to help whenever you need it.



Learn Spanish

Progress from beginner to a confident conversational level within months.



Fun Cultural Activities

Everything from mountain trips and flamenco shows to paddle boarding on the beach.





What Our **Alumni Say**



I'm in the final month of my program in Spain and I've absolutely loved it. I've made so many good friends, had countless new experiences and done things I didn't think I was able to do. I got a part-time job in a language academy and have taught groups of students English, and learned so much as I interacted with them. I'm also really pleased with how much Spanish I can speak, it's really opened up a whole new perspective for me.

Ciara, Ireland



Coming to Spain to do a gap year was one of the best decisions I ever made. The entire staff was so friendly and welcoming, and the classes were organized and super enjoyable. The location was also a great bonus! It was around a 5 minute walk to La Sagrada Familia, with many cafes and stores all around. I recommend this to anyone looking to spend time in Spain and learn Spanish.

Abhinav, USA



My experience taking part in the gap year program surpassed all expectations. The teachers were so knowledgeable and helpful and Kaitlin was always so friendly and quick to reply. I particularly appreciated the focus on practical speaking skills and now I feel much more confident communicating in Spanish. This course has opened my eyes to what is out there and I'm keen to come back after college.

Amy, USA

Earn a Globally Recognized English Teaching Qualification

The Trinity CertTESOL is considered the most complete course for new English teachers and is recognized around the world. You'll be prepared and qualified to find work here in Barcelona, or wherever your travels take you.

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON
Validated Course Provider 64165

01

Expert Instruction

Methodology tutorials, grammar and language awareness, classroom management and other high-quality course content.

02

Guided Lesson Prep

Work with our experienced team to learn how to prepare effective lessons from the textbook and how to develop your own lesson plans from scratch.

03

Real Teaching Practice

Alongside the coursework, you'll teach real students, then get valuable feedback from your peers and senior trainers.





Trinity College London

Amy Blair

Head of Centre

CertTESOL

Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Sarah Hoggins

Head of Centre

Trinity

ofqual
REGULATED

Trinity College London

Leah Hanke

Head of Centre

CertTESOL

Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Sarah Hoggins

Head of Centre

Trinity

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REGULATED



Spanish Courses

at Iberia Language Academy, our sister school

Key features of all our Spanish courses

- 01 12 students maximum per group
- 02 Fun, communicative, practical classes
- 03 All levels, beginner to proficient
- 04 Native, experienced teachers



Spanish classes are taught at Iberia Language Academy, a centre accredited by the Instituto Cervantes.



10 TO 20 HOURS PER WEEK

You'll study for 10 to 20 hours per week, for up to six months, progressing from beginner towards proficiency. Planned study breaks and holidays keep you focused and motivated.



REAL PRACTICE

You'll learn hands-on, with real-world practice. Our practical approach prepares you to use Spanish naturally in everyday situations, at school, with friends or while exploring the city.



CULTURE

Go beyond textbooks and experience Spanish in action. From local festivals to everyday conversations, our courses bring in real cultural experiences, so you learn the context, traditions and customs behind the language.



FOCUS ON SPEAKING

We prioritize conversation and practical communication. Through speaking exercises, group discussions and real-life scenarios, you'll quickly build the confidence to speak Spanish fluently.

How Quickly **Will I Learn?**

Your Spanish level follows the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Use this table to estimate how long it typically takes to progress through each level.

	BEGINNER			
	A1.1	A1.2	A2.1	A2.2
20 h/week	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
10 h/week	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks

	INTERMEDIATE			
	B1.1	B1.2	B2.1	B2.2
20 h/week	3 weeks	3 weeks	12 weeks	12 weeks
10 h/week	6 weeks	6 weeks	24 weeks	24 weeks

	ADVANCED			
	C1.1	C1.2	C2.1	C2.2
20 h/week	12 weeks	12 weeks	12 weeks	12 weeks
10 h/week	24 weeks	24 weeks	24 weeks	24 weeks



Cultural Activities

Get involved inside and outside the classroom with our cultural activities. Our focus is on real Barcelona culture, which means less sangria and more castañadas! We'll show you how locals interact and how to connect with the culture through the language.

Our social calendar mixes the best of what Barcelona has to offer with chances to meet locals and join in local events. It can include Spanish cooking classes, trips to the market, cheese tasting, open-air cinema, beach yoga, flamenco classes, weekend excursions and more.



Choose Your Path

All our programs include the college-level **Trinity CertTESOL qualification**, and the Semester and Double Semester add the **SIELE exam**, giving you an internationally recognized English teaching certification and a Spanish language certification.

Each program combines international education, professional development and life-changing cultural experiences.

You'll get a head start in life by immersing yourself in the culture of Europe's most vibrant city, where you'll develop intercultural awareness, **learn to communicate in Spanish**, get job interview practice and gain a college-level professional teaching certification. The Trinity CertTESOL is internationally recognized and never expires.

You'll also learn to live independently, make lifelong friends and connections and, above all, have a great time along the way.





Summer Program: 5 weeks in Barcelona

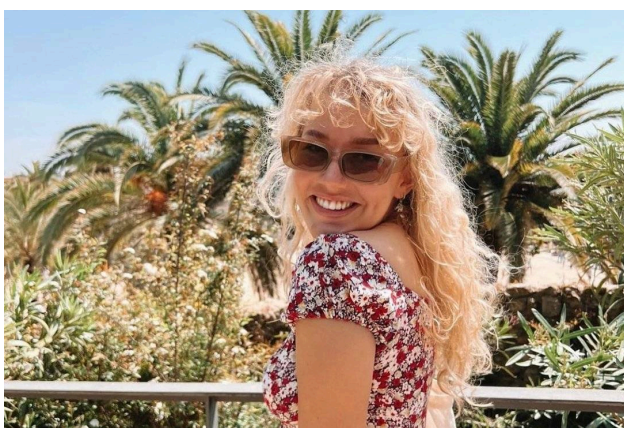
- Orientation week and cultural activities.
- 4 weeks of Trinity CertTESOL teacher training.
- 1 week of Spanish classes (10 hours).
- 2 weekend day-trips in Catalonia.
- Airport pickup.
- Accommodation in Barcelona, sharing with other students on the program.

Forge your path with teacher training, Spanish immersion and regular cultural adventures. Perfect for those ready to explore, learn and gain transferable skills for college and their future career.

Full price: €3,300

(about \$3,850)

Does not include flights or daily meals.





Long Summer: 10 weeks in Barcelona

- Orientation week and cultural activities.
- 4 weeks of Trinity CertTESOL teacher training.
- 6 weeks of Spanish classes (20 hours per week).
- 4 weekend day-trips in Catalonia.
- Airport pickup.
- Accommodation in Barcelona, sharing with other students on the program.

Combine teacher training, Spanish immersion and regular cultural adventures. Perfect for those ready to explore, learn and have an unforgettable summer.

Full price: €4,950
(about \$5,740)

Does not include flights or daily meals.





Semester Program: 12 weeks in Barcelona

- Orientation week and cultural activities.
- 4 weeks of Trinity CertTESOL teacher training.
- 7 weeks of Spanish classes (20 hours per week).
- SIELE Spanish exam and preparation.
- 4 weekend day-trips in Catalonia.
- Airport pickup.
- Accommodation in Barcelona, sharing with other students on the program.

Combine teacher training, Spanish immersion and regular cultural adventures. Our most popular program: long enough to settle into Barcelona life and leave with two qualifications.

Full price: €6,400
(about \$7,450)

Does not include flights or daily meals. Optional add-ons: work experience and US college credit.





Double Semester: 24 weeks in Barcelona

- Orientation week and cultural activities.
- 4 weeks of Trinity CertTESOL teacher training.
- 20 weeks of Spanish classes (20 hours per week).
- SIELE Spanish exam and preparation.
- 8 weeks of English teaching work experience (3 hours per week).
- 8 weekend day-trips in Catalonia.
- Student visa and Spanish paperwork support.
- Airport pickup and accommodation in Barcelona, sharing with other students.

Dive deep into professional development with teacher training, Spanish mastery and English teaching work experience. Ideal for those ready to embrace a new culture and build lasting connections.

Full price: €10,900
(about \$12,700)

Does not include flights or daily meals. Optional add-on: US college credit.





What does a typical day look like?

Your gap year in Barcelona is structured to balance learning, professional development and free time to explore one of Europe's most exciting cities.

Arrival and Orientation

Your journey begins with airport pickup in Barcelona, and our team helps you settle into your accommodation and your new surroundings.

In the first week you'll take part in our orientation program: practical "survival Spanish" lessons in the mornings to help you navigate everyday life, and cultural activities in the afternoons. You'll also meet your fellow students and get to know the school and the neighborhood.

Teacher Training

After orientation, your focus for the next four weeks is the Trinity CertTESOL. This intensive course combines workshops, lesson preparation and supervised teaching practice with real English learners. The timetable is typically 09:30 to 18:30.

Spanish Classes and Daily Life

Once the TEFL course is complete, your schedule shifts to Spanish, with 10 to 20 hours of classes each week, typically in the mornings.

That leaves your afternoons free to enjoy Barcelona. Many students use the time to:

- Explore the city's neighborhoods, markets and beaches
- Take part in cultural activities with other students
- Complete teaching work experience at the school
- Work on their optional college credit coursework

Weekends in Barcelona and Beyond

Weekends are the perfect chance to see more of Spain. The program includes organized excursions around Catalonia, and plenty of time to travel independently with the friends you make.

From mountain villages to Mediterranean beaches, every weekend offers something new.





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I have been taking Spanish classes at TEFL Iberia for a month, and I've learned so much! My teacher, Raquel, is so fun, engaging, and such a patient teacher. I feel like my knowledge has already improved so much through these weekly classes. I highly recommend these classes if you are wanting to improve your Spanish fluency!

College Credit: Optional Add-On

Make your Semester or Double Semester count even more by adding our **Life Skills Foundation Course**, an optional online program that lets you earn up to **9 US college credits** alongside your gap year.

What's included?

- Up to 9 US college credits
- Official academic transcript
- Fully online, flexible study, completed alongside your gap year
- Approximately 100 hours of study
- Practical, real-world learning focused on life and career skills
- No exams: continuous assessment through projects and reflections

Price: €2,100 (optional add-on)

Contact us at coordination@tefl-iberia.com for more information.





Student Visas

Studying Spanish can qualify you for a long-term student visa. We have extensive experience guiding students through the Spanish student visa process and aim to make it as easy as possible. Full visa support is included in the Double Semester.



Do I need a visa?

If you are not from the European Union and plan to stay in Spain for more than 90 days, you'll need a student visa.



What are the requirements?

You'll need to enroll in a course with at least 20 hours of study per week. You'll also need a valid passport, a criminal background check, a medical report, proof of financial support for your stay, medical insurance and an enrollment letter from the school. For a detailed guide, contact us at coordination@tefl-iberia.com.



What are the benefits?

- Stay in Spain legally for up to a year, with the option to extend
- Travel freely within the Schengen area
- Work legally up to 30 hours per week
- Get your NIE (identity number) and access local services

Contact our coordination team at coordination@tefl-iberia.com for more information

Accommodation

Safety and comfort are our top priorities. All our apartments are within 30 minutes of the school, on foot or by public transport.



Share an apartment with your classmates

You'll have your own room in a shared apartment, normally with 3 to 4 bedrooms. Every apartment is fully equipped and ready to move into, with space to study, bedding, a shared kitchen and bathroom, and all bills included: electricity, water, gas and wifi.



A resident assistant in every flat

To help keep you safe, each flat has a resident assistant. They're a few years older, speak Spanish and have lived in Barcelona for at least a year, so there's always someone on hand if you need help at home.



Work Experience

What is the work experience?

You'll teach a small group of learners (maximum 10) twice a week, normally from 14:00 to 15:30. It's **included** in the Double Semester and **optional** on the Semester program.

Will I get any support?

Yes. Our teachers, course tutors and coordination staff are always around to help. You'll have just completed your Trinity CertTESOL, so you'll already know the students, the classrooms and how things work. It's a smooth step from studying to teaching a few hours a week.

Will I get paid?

No. This is a 3-hour-per-week teaching internship, with a senior tutor always available to help and give feedback.

Where will I work?

At Iberia Language Academy, Barcelona: our sister school, in the same building where you'll take the TEFL course.

FAQs

This is my first time living away from home. Will I have support if I'm finding it hard to adjust?

Yes. Most of our students are living away from home for the first time, in a new country. It's an exciting time, but it can also feel daunting. With our 24/7 support line, dedicated Gap Year coordinators and a full orientation week, you won't be doing this alone.

Can I get college credit for my courses?

Yes. On the Semester and Double Semester programs you can earn up to 9 US college credits through our optional Life Skills Foundation Course. It runs online alongside your gap year and builds practical skills in international living, personal development and career readiness.

What will a typical week look like?

During the TEFL course, your week is morning workshops, lesson preparation and supervised teaching practice with real students. Once the course is complete, a typical week includes:

- Spanish classes (10 to 20 hours per week)
- Cultural activities and excursions
- Free time to explore Barcelona
- Teaching experience with local English learners

I learned Latin American Spanish at school. Is the Spanish taught in Spain very different?

No. Like American and British English, Latin American and Spain Spanish are the same language. In Spain it's often called *castellano* (Castilian) rather than *español*.

How old will my peers be?

Most Gap Year participants are 18 to 22, so you'll be with people at a similar stage of life. On the TEFL course itself, trainees come from around the world and are typically 18 to 30.

Can I bring my pet?

We love pets, but we can't accommodate them in student housing, including emotional support animals.

How will I get around?

On foot and by public transport. Barcelona is very walkable and well connected, so you won't miss having a car.

I'm Jewish. Is it safe for me in Spain with the current political climate?

Yes. Barcelona is a cosmopolitan city with people of many backgrounds and faiths, and people here are generally open-minded and accepting. The city also has a rich Jewish history: please visit [Shalom Barcelona](#) for more information.



Meet the Team



Raquel Rojo, Academic Director

A Barcelona native, Raquel is fluent in Spanish, Catalan and English. Driven by a passion for helping people from all backgrounds settle into Spanish culture, she is committed to making every student's experience enriching and transformative.



Richard Davie, Founder & Director

Originally from Scotland, Richard fell in love with Barcelona and made it his home. He set up TEFL Iberia in 2012 and has since built a successful school running teacher training and language courses in Barcelona.



Brianna Rivera, Admissions

Originally from California, Brianna has made Barcelona her home. She loves guiding students through their journey to Barcelona, so they arrive feeling supported, confident and excited about their adventure abroad.



Claire Stancliffe, Program Manager

Claire is from England and has called Barcelona home for over a decade. With a natural talent for student support, she makes sure every student feels welcomed, supported and able to make the most of their time in Barcelona.

The **TEFL Iberia** Story

TEFL Iberia was founded in 2012 by Richard Davie, an Edinburgh University graduate who came to Barcelona in search of adventure. What began as a simple journey quickly turned into a passion for teaching English and helping others find their own paths to success.

Motivated by a desire to make English teacher training accessible, enjoyable and professional, Richard created TEFL Iberia to offer world-class training in a supportive environment. Small-group learning, modern facilities and personal support set it apart from the beginning.

TEFL Iberia's flagship course, the Trinity CertTESOL, is a college-level qualification accredited by Trinity College London. Since opening, the school has trained thousands of teachers from over 60 countries, giving them transferable skills and the confidence to teach English professionally, in Spain or abroad.

Over the years, TEFL Iberia has grown into more than a teacher training center. With Spanish courses at our sister school, Iberia Language Academy, students can now reach Spanish fluency and earn the SIELE qualification, and the experience is rounded out by cultural activities, job support and a strong community. Gap Year in Spain brings all of this together in one structured program.

We're still driven by the same mission: to provide exceptional teacher training, encourage personal development and help students thrive in a new culture. If you're ready to teach, learn and grow, we'd love to welcome you to Barcelona.







Make an enquiry



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Run by TEFL Iberia
Carrer d'Aragó 403-405, Entresuelo 1
08013 Barcelona, Spain
+34 932 494 676
coordination@tefl-iberia.com

gapyearinspain.com