

Live the Experience: *Be Part of a Spanish Family*

Living with a Spanish Host Family is at the heart of your experience in Spain. It is your chance to discover the country from the inside: through traditions, home-cooked meals, and daily life shared with people who welcome you.

Host Families are connected to the school and appointed by its principal. They host you because they are interested in cultural exchange and want to learn about your language and culture, not simply offer a room.

You will become part of their family. That means sharing meals, joining conversations, and taking part in everyday life. Of course, you will have your own free time to travel, meet friends, or relax, but it's important to find a balance. **You are now part of their family and will need to adapt to their routines and lifestyle.**

If you happen to be teaching for less than 23 weekly hours at school, there are two possible scenarios. You may have your teaching hours spread out over four weekdays — these days might not be consecutive. Alternatively, your schedule could include teaching hours on five weekday mornings, leaving your afternoons free.



Language and *Activities*

Use of Your Native Language

It is a true two-way exchange. They learn from you, and you learn from them. As part of your daily routine, **you'll use your native language for at least 50% of the time you spend together**, giving the family a chance to practice and learn. How this works can vary: you might speak Spanish with the parents and your own language with the kids, spend some days in Spanish and others in your language, or find another arrangement that works for everyone.

Feel free to speak Spanish and improve your own skills during the rest of the time. Other languages may be spoken at home. If you would like to practice your Spanish, let the family know in order for them to adjust.



Planned Activities

For a better experience **and included in that 50% of the time together in your native language, both of you will schedule six hours of activities each week**, ideally fun and playful. You might play games, cook together, or help the kids with their language homework. **We recommend agreeing on routines from day one and setting activities in advance** so your Host Family can plan accordingly.

Communication is key. If something is not working, speak up, talk openly with your family. They cannot help if they do not know. You can also reach out to your Program Coordinator if needed.

Living *Together*

Keep in mind that you are joining a family, following their routines and schedules, while also fulfilling your internship responsibilities at school. Out of respect for the family, the following curfew applies:

- **Sunday to Thursday:** 11:00 p.m.
- **Friday and Saturday:** no curfew

Being part of a family also means contributing like any other member:

- Keep your space clean and help with small daily tasks.
- Respect family routines, mealtimes, and house rules.
- Do not invite guests without permission.
- Be a positive role model for the children; your behavior matters inside and outside the home.

Families open their homes because they want to experience cultural exchange. They expect the same curiosity, kindness, and respect in return. Remember, **this is not a hotel, it is a shared experience.**

Since you will be considered an integral part of the family, flexibility and cooperation regarding small additional household tasks are highly appreciated.



Tasks

On any given day, helping to set the table, run small errands, go grocery shopping with the parents, and/or help them cook.

Planned activities at home: playing with the children (Pictionary, football, guessing games, etc.), watching films in your language and providing explanations for better understanding, crafting, doing art projects, or completing language homework.

Planned activities outside the home can include going with the parents and children to play games outside or going on an excursion while speaking your language.

Other Non-Compulsory Tasks

Ironing or cooking for the family. Babysitting at night while the parents are out.

Teaching or helping host siblings with other school subjects.

Taking the children to the park or for a walk without parental supervision.

What the Host Family *Provides*

Your Host Family will:

- Meet you upon arrival at the city's airport, train, or bus station.
- Provide lodging during the entire program period, including school holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and long weekends.
- Cover all meals, except those provided by the school or when you choose to eat out.
- Provide an individual room for your use as a bedroom and study area.
- Respect your privacy and personal property.



Only if the host school is 2 km or further from the home of the Host Family and you are unable to use the school bus due to your schedule or route issues, and the transportation to and from the school entails an additional cost, then this expense will be covered by the school. This only covers buses or metro. If this happens to be your case, it is essential that you discuss it with your tutor in advance.

A Shared *Commitment*

When you choose a placement with a Host Family, you agree to live respectfully and participate in family life. If serious issues arise, such as disrespectful behavior or breaking the agreement, the school may end the placement.

