

Spanish Courses

in Salamanca, Spain
2015





ISLA

Spanish Courses
Cursos de español



BIENVENIDO

A ISLA





At **ISLA** we are committed to offering our students excellent Spanish stays with a special touch. Last year **100% of our students** said in feedback they would recommend **ISLA** to a friend.

Why pick ISLA for your Spanish course?

ISLA was set up in 1990 by Dieter Wiggert and Amanda Wiggert McCarthy. In a city famous for its Spanish teaching, our aim was to stand out with our team, location and commitment to students.

This means lovingly cared for and decorated school spaces, an extremely dedicated and long standing staff and a school community in which newcomers are quickly integrated and start enjoying the vibrant international atmosphere of the school and the beautiful city of Salamanca.

You might be interested to know:

- ▶ You can start any Monday of the year, whatever your level. Lesson quantity is never reduced from that booked for any reason.
- ▶ **ISLA activities** are in-house and adored. Cristina's Cooking, Dieter's Drives, Rosana's Walks and ISLA's seminars are just a few things you will look forward to.
- ▶ We have free tutorial sessions and courtesy classes for strugglers.
- ▶ All levels at **ISLA** are rigorously guaranteed. Students are never "shoe-horned" into groups.
- ▶ We will help you fix transfers, hotel bookings, flight confirmations, visas & university applications, cell phone, weekend adventures and so on.
- ▶ Our accommodation is extremely carefully selected but if for some reason you aren't completely happy, you will be changed, accompanied by a member of the ISLA-team.
- ▶ If you need the doctor or dentist we will send a member of the team along with you to translate. A team member is on hand 24 hours a day for emergencies.
- ▶ In 2013, 100% of students who filled out feedback said they would recommend ISLA to a friend.

“

ISLA is a real island of adventures, strong emotions and first class Spanish in Spain's most famous university city. Maybe that first phrase sounds a bit of a cliché but for me it really was like this. I've been to ISLA twice and I always remember these holidays as being full of new experiences, discoveries and good friends. The staff and the teachers at the school are always so nice and help you with everything from a sprained thumb to information about Salamanca and the rest of Spain. ISLA's team organizes lots of activities: day trips, visits to exhibitions, salsa, movies - just take your pick. And the most important thing is your Spanish. I swear that I learned more in one month than after a whole year in Russia. The secret is that you have 24 hour Spanish which you can't really get away from. I dream about going back again and immersing myself in the atmosphere. Try it yourself!

”



**Anna Kirik, Student,
Moscow, Russia**

The **ISLA** offices are open Monday to Friday from 0900 til 2000, so you can wander in for help, an activity, a chat. It is a *home from home*.

 **ISLA**
Quality Spanish Courses Spain

ROBERTO VERINO

Authentic ISLA photo ©

Timetables

Lessons

- ▶ **Intensive:** 10:00 - 13:50
 - ▶ **Power Intensive:** 09:00 - 13:50
 - ▶ **Intensive Plus:** 09:00 - 13:50
 - ▶ **Power Plus:** 09:00 - 13:50, 16:00 -17:00
 - ▶ **Premium Courses** as **Power** but with an extra one-to-one in the afternoon.
- In high season there are occasionally lessons in the afternoon.


Activities

- ▶ **Cristina's Cooking, Rosana's Walks, ISLA Seminars:** 18:00 - 19:30
- ▶ **Wine tasting, Pot Luck Dinner, Tapas Tour:** 20:30 - 23:00
- ▶ **Day trip:** 09:00 - 19:00
- ▶ **Dieter's Drive:** 14:00 - 22:00





ISLA stands on a lovely square in the historic centre of Salamanca. The centre, which was fully renovated in 2013, is attractive and modern.



*Pintor
Dionisista
Málaga
Período azul
Guernica
Pacifismo
Minotauro
Surrealismo*

Movimiento cubista





Location & Facilities

ISLA is blessed with an enviable location on one of Salamanca's loveliest squares, the Plaza de los Basillios. It is tucked behind the city's main street, the Gran Vía, and is only a few minutes walk from the famous Plaza Mayor.

The square has tall trees and is bordered on one side by the beautiful San Esteban Convent. It was here that Columbus signed his historic deal with the Catholic Kings and Dominican friars which culminated in the discovery of the Americas. During class breaks students enjoy sitting in its shade, or going to a nearby cafe. There is a small newsagents next door and a supermarket just up the road.

In addition to the main school buildings where lessons take place, we have an attractive space on the plaza for dance lessons, cooking workshops, interactive seminars and parties.

The ISLA premises were fully renovated in 2013 and we think you will really like the way everything looks.

- ▶ **600 m² over 3 spaces** in fully renovated traditional Villamayor Stone buildings.
- ▶ **10 fully equipped classrooms:** Smart Boards, projectors, laptops at disposal of visiting staff, library, computer room.
- ▶ Overflow classroom facilities in **magnificent neighbouring seminary.**
- ▶ Attractive independent space for **cooking, parties, dance lessons and more.**



Salamanca is the ideal place to study whatever your age and stage.



Salamanca, picture postcard on every corner, is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. In the old city, where ISLA is located, churches, palaces and cathedrals jostle for space and the jewel in the crown, the Plaza Mayor, is considered the finest square in the Spanish speaking world. Students quickly become fond of it as a meeting place and the focus of Salamanca life.

Surprisingly, however, Salamanca is not touristy. It is quite easy to get to, but far enough away from the capital to put day trippers off. This means the city's character is preserved intact.

A beautiful city

Salamanca in brief

UNESCO World Heritage City since: 1988

Altitude: 802 m

Population: 160,000.

Students: 30,000.

Distance from Madrid: 200 km (2.5 hours by train or coach).

Airport: regular flights to Barcelona only (nearest international airport: Madrid Barajas).

Temperature: From 8° (January) to 30° (Summer)
Average Days of rainfall: 7 (Winter) 2 (Summer)

Name of people: Salmantinos, Charros.

The University is the oldest in Spain and the 4th oldest in Europe.

It is the designated site of the **Civil War archive**.

In Salamanca:

1492: Columbus signed his agreement with the Catholic kings to embark on his voyage of discovery to the Americas in San Esteban (viewed from ISLA).

1493: Antonio de Nebrija published the first Castilian grammar.

San Juan de la Cruz, Miguel de Cervantes, Fernando de Rojas, Juan Meléndez Valdés and Hernán Cortes were all students of the University of Salamanca. Miguel de Unamuno, Fray Luis de León were **teachers**. Diego de Torres Villarroel, José de Espronceda, Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, Carmen Martín Gaité were Salamanca citizens.

A safe city

The city is extremely well looked after and, unlike some of Spain's larger cities, practically free of crime. Parents of younger students can be reassured that their children will be able to walk around, after dark as well, and feel relaxed and confident. There is no need for cabs or public transport as nothing is more than 20 minutes walking distance away.

A city where they speak excellent Spanish

The Spanish that Salamancans speak is accent-free making its people a bit easier to understand than those from other regions with strong inflections or even competing local languages.

A city of learning

Hosting visiting students is somehow in Salamanca's blood as scholars have flocked to its famous university since its founding in the 13th century. Today students feel part of this long tradition and revel in the atmosphere of this ancient city.

ISLA offers a full on, compelling Spanish experience for students of all ages and levels. ISLA instructors pitch classes to be effective and inspirational.



Exam Revision

For those requiring official certification of their level, ISLA is a specialist in preparation of students for DELE examinations in May, August and November.

We also prepare individual students and school groups for the UK A level and AS exams and the International Baccalaureate.

What does it cost?

	Prices in euros (€)		
	1 wk	2 wks	4 wks
Intensive (20 hrs/week)	215	342	602
Intensive Plus (25 hrs week)	247	393	669
Power Intensive (20+5* hrs/wk)	355	622	1162
Academic Year (36 wks/20 hrs wk):	3858 euros		

* These hours are individual lessons

For a full price list and special offers, please go to:

www.learningspanish-spain.com

Spanish Courses for everyone

Whether you are a university student, at high school or a senior there is a course at ISLA to suit you. Courses are serious but enjoyable and lessons fly by. ISLA is renowned for the quality of its teaching staff. Most of our staff have been with us for over 10 years and many are teacher trainers.

If you have studied Spanish before, you will take a placement test before lessons on your first day and will be carefully placed into the best learning group. You will be constantly evaluated through weekly testing, homework assignments and your teachers' assessment of classroom performance.

The Courses

The 20 hour per week Intensive Course combines study of the grammar according to your level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages * with the four skills: listening, reading, writing and, especially, speaking.

The 25 hour per week Intensive Plus has an extra Culture component pitched to the student's level and will include Spanish History, Literature, Art, Music and Current Affairs.

If you are to be with us for a short amount of time or are a senior we highly recommend the Power and Premium version of the Intensive Course, which include an extra one or two individual lessons each day.

And if you are to be with us for a long time, we have a special Academic Year Course which means you pay 8 months but receive 9 months tuition!

* The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
A1 – Beginners • A2 – Low Intermediate • B1 – Intermediate • B2 Upper Intermediate
C1 – Advanced • C2 – Fluency.

Ages & Seasons

School age learners often come at half term breaks and in school holidays. These are busy periods as we are popular with groups (please request our special program if you have an enquiry from a school).

University students favour their semester vacations during the academic year when Salamanca buzzes with Spanish students or in the summer when the city has a vibrant international atmosphere.

Post university age learners and especially seniors appreciate the calm and gentle weather of May, June and early Autumn.

There are popular festivals in Salamanca at Easter and in September.



ISLA
Quality Spanish Courses Spain

ISLA families are especially warm and patient. Accommodation is meticulously selected and reviewed. No home or residence is more than 20 minutes walk away, most are within 10 minutes of ISLA.

Which option to pick:

Under 18?:

You will be living with a homestay. You will have house-keys ... but a curfew too :) This way we can be sure you are being taken care of!

Student or young professional?

Spanish families offer the most spoken practice. You get a key but do need to fit in for meals and refrain from having overnight visitors. Flat-shares are fun and good value. Residences are a good chance to meet Spaniards between September and June.

Senior?

The homestay option can be very rewarding and we are very careful to place seniors in families we think they will get on well with. Otherwise, private apartments or hotels or B&B's are the best options.

“

I had a really lovely host family to live with. Pilar and Felix were so generous and kind for my two weeks. They both took interest in my learning, helping me with homework and talking so much to me so that silence simply wasn't an option. Neither was laying in if I had come in too late the night before. Pilar was there knocking on my door and getting me out of bed to make sure I was on time for school! On the day I was due to leave and come home to the Holland, they got up at 5am and insisted on driving me to the train station. That's care and consideration for you.

”



Maarten Zonneville, Student Wemeldinge, Holland

Accommodation

Families: Single and double rooms, full and half board (from 21 euros/day)

Apart from being reasonably priced, a stay with a family offers you the chance to have an insight into Spanish home life. This is an overwhelmingly positive experience that you will remember...

ISLA families are carefully selected according to the family's welcome, the quality of the home, its proximity to the centre and so on. They come in all shapes and sizes but all are patient, caring and understanding of the Spanish learner's needs. Most of our families have been with us for a number of years and thus form an integral part of ISLA.

Student residences: Single and double rooms, full and half board (from 23 euros/day)

Some students prefer the idea of living in residences which offer more independence and also the opportunity of meeting Spanish university students (if their visit is to be during the Academic Year). We work with several university residences, some offering rooms with ensuite bathrooms and others sharing.

Self Catering Flats: Single and double rooms, no meals included (from 85 euros/week)

For those who seek ultimate independence, a room in a self-catering flat is the answer. Our flats are carefully maintained, close to ISLA, have WIFI and usually comprise 3 or 4 bedrooms with 1 or 2 bathrooms, a kitchen and a sitting room.

Private Apartments & Hotels (from 200 euros/week)

We have a limited selection of 1 and 2 bedroom private apartments close to the school and city centre.

We also have preferential rates at local hotels and B & B's.



Activities are designed to engage and embrace.

We love Spain and giving you our insiders' view is a pleasure.



“

ISLA is a great school for those that want to excel their Spanish study. The teachers are friendly and very professional. I learned more in 3 months than I could have learned in 3 years in university. The school provides an array of social opportunities including the always enjoyable tapas crawls (tours) and Dieter's drives out to the countryside. The experience at ISLA starts to feel like a close-knit family perfect for developing authentic friendships and a more functional ability in Spanish. As an American I had an amazing experience learning along side students from many different countries. If you want a unique and rewarding experience choose ISLA not one of the monster language school that will treat you as another check.

”

**Jeffrey Stone, Student,
Iowa, USA**



Freetime activities and outings

We regard a Spanish Study experience as being about more than just learning the language. This is your chance to have a passionate connection with a country very different from your own.

To this end, ISLA designs activities to help you engage with Spanish life, and even fall a little in love with it.

A step on from traditional classroom lessons are our interactive seminars and Rosana's city walks. In these, you are required to participate and share your new knowledge, perhaps by taking part in a role play or guiding for your peers. It is thrilling for students to walk through the historic streets of Salamanca and imagine their literary heroes pounding the same cobblestones.

Food features quite large among our extra-curricular offerings. We organize our own tapas tours, paella evenings, cooking workshops and so on and also encourage students to make their own discoveries. Our Wine-Tastings with food pairings are especially popular.

ISLA's own guides offer memorable and expert tours of Madrid, Segovia, Ávila, Toledo, El Escorial & Valle de los Caídos, with all the historical background to help you truly engage with what they are experiencing.

And Dieter's Drives to the beautiful countryside around Salamanca, so different to anything back home, are special days of vistas, river-bathing, sun-downers and friends.

Finally, students wishing to travel to other cities will find in ISLA an extremely reliable helping hand. We will book all cars, hotels and attractions free of charge. This is not only considerably cheaper than public transport but means you won't miss out on that lost beach or secret village.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ISLA

(or what to expect!)

Breakfast in Spain happens at 0800 or 0900 depending on which course you are doing. Don't expect a fry up though! It is usually cookies, muffins, toast and hot chocolate, tea or coffee.

A short walk to ISLA and lessons all morning. They are 50 minutes long, but there is a break mid morning when you can pop up the road to one of the bars beside ISLA to have a coke and a well deserved slice of "tortilla de patata", or perhaps a "paloma", a "tosta con lomo"...you'll have to come here to find out what these things are!

Lessons end at 1400 and it's time to go home for lunch. Your residence or host family will have fixed a meal with three courses. For your appetizer, perhaps pasta, paella or a delicious pulse broth and then meat or fish as an entree, and fruit or yoghurt for dessert.

Next, a rest! Yes, in Spain really do have a siesta, either dozing on the sofa or a proper sleep!

Afternoon activities depend on the season and where you are in your ISLA program. So you might go to the pool, take part in a city visit, seminar or cooking workshop, perhaps have an extra class to take or have the afternoon to catch up with friends, go shopping or do an "intercambio" (meet up with a Spanish person so they practice their English and you your Spanish). And don't forget your homework.

A light supper follows, around 2100. Perhaps "tortilla", potato salad, typical Spanish cold cuts and so on.

After dinner you might well go out and experience Salamanca by night with your friends. There is really nothing like the atmosphere of this beautiful university city after the sun goes down. Not too late to bed though. There's a lot to do tomorrow.

ISLA's optional extras:

- ▶ Tapas Tour: €10
- ▶ Paella Supper: €15
- ▶ Chocolate con Churros: €3
- ▶ University or Cathedrals Visit: €3
- ▶ Flamenco Dancing Lesson: €2
- ▶ Wine-Tasting: €9
- ▶ TCristina's cooking workshop: €3

Day Trips including coach, guide and entrance tickets:

- ▶ Segovia & Ávila Day Trip: €35
- ▶ Sierra de Francia Trip: €20
- ▶ El Escorial & Valle de los Caídos Trip: €40
- ▶ Dieter's Drive: €15

And also:

- ▶ Baguette: €0.60
- ▶ Beer or Wine & Tapas: €2
- ▶ Cafe con leche: €1.30
- ▶ Taxi Station to home: €6
- ▶ Menu del Día (Set lunch) €8



“Bored” is NEVER a word one can use to describe an ISLA student. Students can easily pass their recreation time travelling around the region with new friends or relaxing in a Salmantino bar with the locals (my personal favourite being a little joint near the school called ‘Centenera’). However, Amanda and co-director/husband Dieter as well as dedicated office staff organise a variety of weekly activities, many with cultural overtones such as the walks with Rosana or cooking tapas. One of my favourite activities is the Friday night tapas tour. I was on one within my first four hours in Salamanca and never looked back! Amanda and Dieter spend what could easily be considered ‘their own time’ organising activities to ensure students relish their free time and create special memories out of school hours.



**Jordan Goulding, Student
Canberra, Australia**



At ISLA we are extremely service minded and **care very much** about our students. No opportunity is lost to do that small favour...

How to book yourself in:

To learn more about ISLA and all your different options, full prices and much more, visit our website: www.learningspanish-spain.com.

You might be ready to book straight away and on the website you'll find an online booking form to fill out and send off.

You might have a few more questions. Pictured is Sara who deals with student enquiries and bookings. You can write to us in Spanish, English, German or Italian and we will be delighted to help you.

Once you have booked and received your confirmation you can pay your 100 euro booking deposit (deductible from final fees) via the online secure payment system, bank transfer or over the phone. Full fees are due 2 weeks before for your arrival when you will receive the address of your accommodation.

Getting to Salamanca:

You will need to get yourself a flight to Madrid Barajas (let us know if you need help with this) and it should not arrive in Madrid after 2000 or leave Madrid before 1300. There are direct coaches from the airport to Salamanca which ISLA can pre-book for you. ISLA will advise whether you should go straight home, pick up keys or are to be met.

First day

Show-up time on Monday morning is 08:30 for those with Spanish knowledge and 09:30 for beginners. There is a welcome coffee, then lessons and an orientation meeting. In the evening there is a welcome drink.



“

It is always difficult to choose a language course, especially if you are a mature student, and, after one bad experience in another city, I only booked for a week at ISLA in Salamanca. Bad mistake – because it was SUPERB! I made real progress and two weeks would have been too short! From the initial friendly welcome (and the inevitable test!) it felt right. The teaching was outstanding – and as an ex-headteacher I have spent a lot of time observing lessons! Four hours of Spanish every morning seems daunting – but it was challenging, fun, well paced and always interesting. The group I was in was small (7 students from 7 different countries) and everyone was encouraged to take part all the time. I was staying independently but I know, from talking to my class mates, that the care and concern for the students in flats and families was exemplary. When I come next time – and I will be back – I will ask to stay with a family and I am already looking forward to another visit to the beautiful city of Salamanca and the friendly school.

”



**Lindsey Wharmby, Student
Ilkley, UK**

We do hope you have found this brochure helpful.

As previously mentioned, we have a big website with plenty of additional information about the school, Salamanca and also lots of online resources for Spanish learners so you can get going before coming down to see us.

You might also feel like doing a few Skype lessons. Contact skype@academiaisla.com about this.

If you are a thinking of coming with a school or university group, or a group of seniors please contact amanda@academiaisla.com.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you in Salamanca.

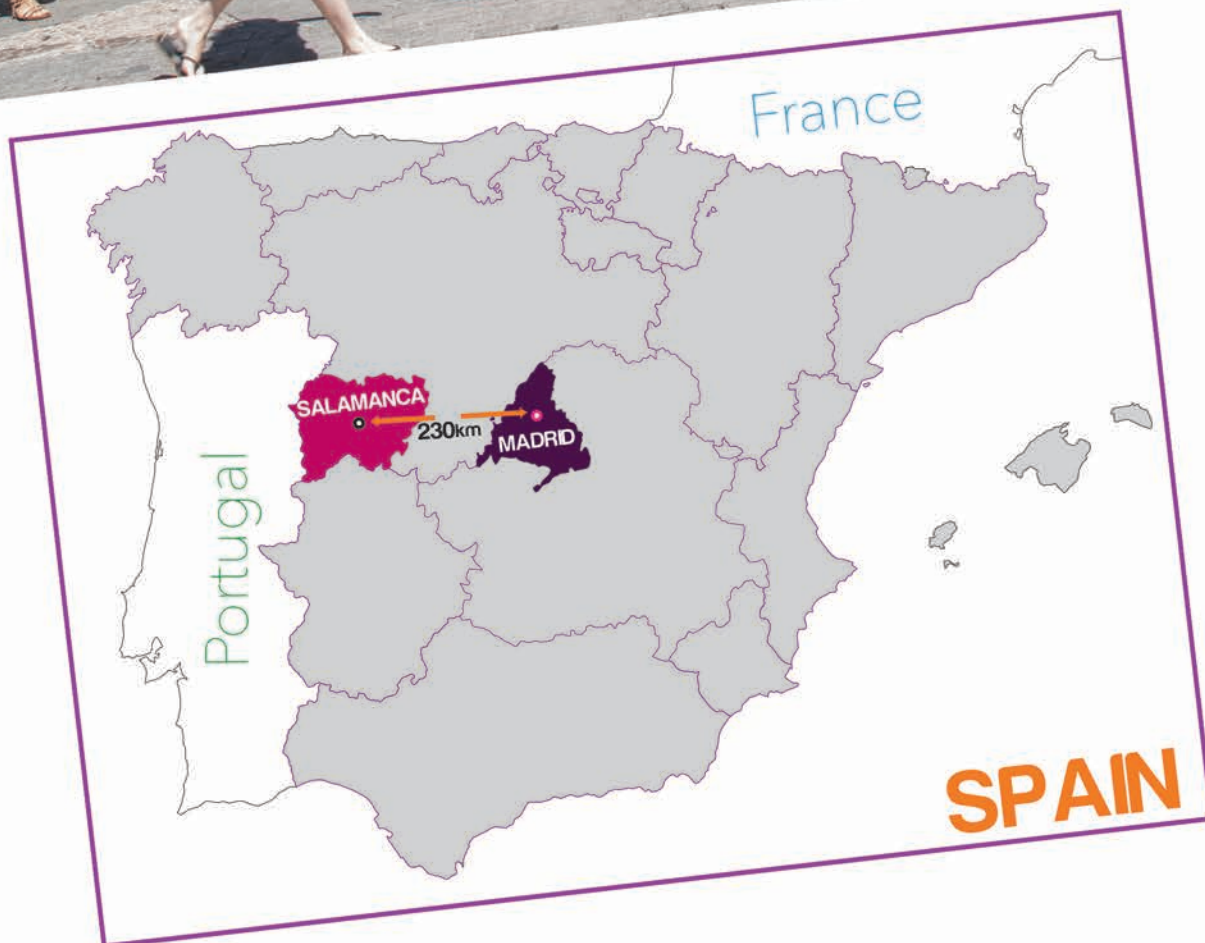




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