

Barcelona, Spain (architecture and design)

ELISAVA Escola Superior de Disseny—Universitat Pompeu Fabra Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura—Universitat Internacional de Catalunya

fall / spring ☀️ 🏠 🏢 📄

architecture / art history / design / graphic arts / internship / spanish language



program snapshot

- Study art, architecture, and design in the dynamic metropolis of Barcelona
- Participate in educational activities designed for architecture and design students including visits to some of the city's iconic buildings and to architecture and design studios
- Explore the Catalonia region and enjoy excursions to Madrid, Bilbao, or Seville
- Enjoy trips through the city with CIEE Guardian Angels who help you feel at home
- Get credit and real work experience through an internship

what you'll learn

Drawing on a wealth of resources in the city, the Architecture and Design program offers students a unique cultural perspective on the history and practice of architecture, design, and other visual disciplines in contemporary Barcelona. Its goal is to bring students together to focus on the intersections and collaborative possibilities between such normally distinct fields. Partnerships with ESARQ School of Architecture at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya and ELISAVA School of Design at Universitat Pompeu Fabra offer students a microcosm of those correlations within an international educational environment.

thoughts from abroad

Few cities in the world offer modern art, architecture, and design lovers as engaging a combination of assets as Barcelona. Like an artist's muse—"the great enchantress," art critic R. Hughes calls it—Barcelona has provided inspiration to many, from Catalan-born architect Antoni Gaudí, to Andalusian painter Pablo Picasso or *Valencian* designer Javier Mariscal. Their work, like that of so many others, is inextricably linked to Barcelona.

Barcelona's welcoming and, as a consequence, cosmopolitan character doesn't end there. In the last 20 years, the city has experienced a radical change in many aspects, and some of the most renowned international artists and architects—Roy Lichtenstein, Norman Foster, Frank Gehry, and Jean Nouvel—have played a leading role in the reshaping of the city's image. They have all left an unmistakable trace in the city. I am sure this is exactly the kind of lasting imprint Barcelona will leave on you.

— Magdalena Bernaus, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Magdalena Bernaus has an M.A. in Art History and is currently completing a dissertation in Architectural History at the Universitat de Barcelona. With extensive experience teaching art and architectural history to Spanish and American university-level students, she has collaborated as a researcher with the Museu Nacional de Catalunya and the Museu d'Història de la Ciutat de Barcelona, and currently participates as a member of two research teams based at the Universitat de Barcelona: Ligna. cat, dedicated to the study of the Mediterranean coffered ceilings, and Magna Ars, with a focus on the art and architecture of the 15th century in the Crown of Aragon.

About Other CIEE Staff

Center Director Clara Rodes holds an M.B.A. from DePaul University and has extensive business and academic experience. She has worked in the financial, consulting, and education sectors in Argentina, Spain, and the U.S. Prior to joining CIEE, Clara worked for more than eight years at the European campus of The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, where she held the positions of Academic Advisor and Director of Administration. In addition, she possesses relevant teaching experience, previously teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She currently teaches at Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

In addition, students interact with Nicola Heath, Housing Coordinator; Tali Leizerovitz, Internship Coordinator; Dionisio Sánchez-Loring, Language Coordinator; Rebeca López, Administrative Coordinator; Elizabeth Pogoloff, Cultural Activities Coordinator; Anna Sánchez and Laura Mora, Registration and Grades Coordinators; Rosalía Tuñón, Student Services Coordinator; and Darcy York and Fernando Janeiro, Program Assistants.

about barcelona

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, a region in northeastern Spain with its own distinctive history, culture, and language. Its metropolitan area has a population of 2.8 million and is set between the mountains and the Mediterranean. Walking through the city, one can observe 2,000 years of architectural history—Roman remains, the network of narrow streets in the Old Town, the 19th century *Eixample* district with its original examples of *Modernista* architecture—contrasting with the ultramodern showpieces that continue to redesign its skyline.

academics

Academic Program

The Architecture and Design program started in 2007. The program has a thematic focus, and it accommodates students at many language levels—from low to advanced—with varying majors within the visual arts. The program is divided into two tracks: Architecture—with ESARQ as its host institution—and Design—with ELISAVA as its host institution. While CIEE-arranged courses and ESARQ courses are taught both in Spanish and in English, classes at ELISAVA are only taught in Spanish.

Academic Culture

The CIEE Study Center is located in a historic building located in Passatge Permanyer, a historic passageway near Plaza Catalunya, Barcelona's main square. ELISAVA courses are held at ELISAVA School of Design in the Rambles, and ESARQ courses are held at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya. Both campuses are well connected to the CIEE Study Center by public transportation.

While CIEE courses are designed to follow the American academic culture, courses at the host institutions are characteristic of the local university system. Syllabi are not as detailed as American syllabi and students are often expected to decide for themselves which readings from the syllabus they need to study to fill in gaps missed during the lectures. It is common to share notes with Spanish students and study together, which can benefit students in their language learning as well. Relatively less emphasis is placed on participation and much more on papers, projects, and exams.

Classes at ELISAVA and ESARQ have between 20 (studio classes) and 40 (regular classes) students. As a small, private school, ESARQ places special emphasis on providing students with highly individualized attention. It is the perfect match for CIEE students, who are able to attend architecture courses in Spanish or in English with local students while also benefiting from private tutorials with ESARQ

instructors. ELISAVA is a top design school in Barcelona associated with the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. The atmosphere is dynamic, creative, and multidisciplinary, also creating an ideal environment for CIEE students.

Nature of Classes

CIEE classes are with CIEE students only. ELISAVA and ESARQ classes are with Spanish students. Typically, there are a few other international EU (Erasmus) students in the class, but very few, if any, other Americans.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Spanish, Resident Staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the greater their development of Spanish language proficiency and understanding of Spanish society.

Grading System

In CIEE courses, students are graded on the basis of class participation, in-class activities, homework assignments, examinations, papers, and oral presentations, similar to U.S. standards. Architecture students are evaluated on weekly assignments and on a critique of their work by a panel of local architects. In ELISAVA and ESARQ studio courses, assessment is generally based on several course projects and a final project. In ELISAVA and ESARQ theory courses, assessment is generally based on course papers and a final exam. Mid-term exams are rarely given. Spanish professors grade on a ten-point scale, which is converted to a letter grade.

Students must check with their professors to obtain important exam and other due dates. Under no circumstances will CIEE alter the deadline for a student who has booked travel on a day that an exam is scheduled or an assignment is due.



where you'll study

Students on the Architecture and Design program take classes at ELISAVA Escola Superior de Disseny and Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura as well as the CIEE Study Center. Read more detailed information on the following page.

living

Housing and Meals

Students can live in either Spanish homes or in a student *residencia* (residence hall) with other Spanish and international students. Students living in a homestay have breakfast and dinner at home, while lunch is at the students' expense, and many eat at the several university-run cafeterias. Meals are not included in the student *residencia* option, but students share fully equipped kitchens where they can prepare their own meals. All homestays and *residencias* are located in the city of Barcelona, and students take public transportation to their classes; the average commute to the city center, by metro or bus, is 30 minutes.

As space in the *residencias* is limited, students who request to live in a *residencia* but cannot be assigned a place are placed in a homestay. Students who are not assigned the housing option of their choice will be notified by the Resident Staff prior to arriving in Barcelona.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Barcelona before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

A three-day orientation conducted at the beginning of the program introduces students to the country, culture, and the academic program, and also provides practical information about living in Spain and, in particular, Barcelona. Topics covered include the Spanish university system, safety, how and where to shop, cultural adaptation, and many others. A diagnostic language examination is also conducted during orientation, and students are placed in the appropriate language courses based on the results. Orientation includes both structured cultural activities and independent sightseeing, and ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students have wireless Internet access at CIEE, as well as at ELISAVA and ESARQ facilities. In addition, students can use the computer room at the CIEE Study Center. Student *residencias* are equipped with Internet access for laptop hook-up. There is also Internet access provided in homestays. Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is complemented with a series of lectures and field trips and visits designed specifically for students of architecture and visual arts. Examples include visits to Jean Nouvel's Agbar Tower, Mariscal Design Studio, or Jordi Bernadó Photography Studio. Students also have access to the cultural program offered to all CIEE students in Barcelona. This program includes gastronomy-based activities such as a *tapas* night with their Guardian Angels or a hike in the mountains followed by a local meal, as well as trips to places and monuments of cultural or historical significance, such as the Dalí Museum in Figueres or the city of Tarragona. In addition, CIEE includes two overnight trips to sites of major artistic and architectural interest. These may include trips to Madrid, Valencia, Seville, or Bilbao and San Sebastian.

Guardian Angels

Guardian Angels are local University students who accompany CIEE students on group activities and also participate in field trips and other events. Guardian Angels are like Spanish brothers and sisters, helping students make friends at the University, introducing them to the city's culture, and generally helping them adapt to life in Barcelona. The Guardian Angels Program is a unique feature found at the CIEE Study Center in Barcelona.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 3.0
- Architecture Track: Architecture or related major or minor
- Design Track: Design or other art-related majors and minors and 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent

language

Catalan

Castilian Spanish and Catalan are both official languages in Barcelona and the region. Catalan is regularly used in all aspects of life, but not imposed on non-Catalan speakers. Taxi drivers, shopkeepers, service representatives, professors, and homestay families all speak Castilian whenever a Spanish speaker is present. Spanish is widely used at the University, and CIEE students are advised on which classes are taught in Spanish. While it is not necessary to speak Catalan to survive in Barcelona, learning a few words can be an enjoyable experience and open doors to making friends with your hosts.

host institutions

ELISAVA School of Design, an independently operated branch of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, is the leading Spanish design school. It was founded in 1961 by a group of architects, designers, and theoreticians with the goal of teaching design with a cross-disciplinary approach. ELISAVA offers undergraduate degrees in *arquitectura técnica* [a hybrid between construction management, building engineering, and architectural design], design [graphic, industrial, and interior], and technical engineering in industrial design. The school has more than 1,500 students and over 500 teachers and collaborators.

Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura is the School of Architecture of the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC). UIC is a private, non-profit institution founded in 1997 with the aim of providing individualized university training with an international approach and a focus on research. ESARQ provides instruction oriented towards innovative professional practice with the main priority of providing architects with international training while also giving them a good working knowledge of the most innovative technology. At present, ESARQ offers an undergraduate degree in architecture as well as several Master's in architecture.

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$15,900
Spring 2012: available 8/15/2011

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, two meals per day in the homestay option, orientation, organized cultural activities, local excursions, field trips, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2011)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,350
Personal Expenses	\$2,800
Additional Meals* (homestay option)	\$ 985
Books and Supplies	\$ 300
Local Transportation	\$ 400
Visa Fee	\$ 140
Potential Travel to Consulate for Visa	\$ 400
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 6,375

*Students living in the *residencia* are responsible for all meals estimated at \$2,500 per semester.

Check our website for current fees.

duration

Fall

14 weeks: early September–mid-December

Spring

16 weeks: early January–late April



coursework**Program Requirements**

The program is divided into two tracks: Architecture and Design. All students in both tracks enroll in a semester-long Spanish language course at their level (4 credits) and a specially designed core course in English or Spanish, *The City in Visual Culture* (3 credits). Students in the Architecture track also take a CIEE-arranged Architecture Studio at their level (6 credits) and choose an additional elective, at ESARQ (in Spanish or English; 2–4 credits) or at CIEE (in English; 3 credits). Students in the Design track also take several electives, in Spanish (at ELISAVA; 2–4 credits) and/or in English (CIEE courses; 3 credits).

Students from either track with at least five prior semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent may choose the CIEE Internship (3 credits) as an elective. See the course description for additional prerequisites.

Credit

Recommended credit for the semester is 14–17 semester/21–25.5 quarter hours.

Contact hours for CIEE courses are 45 hours with recommended credit of 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours, unless otherwise indicated. ELISAVA and ESARQ courses are worth the equivalent of 2–4 semester/3–6 quarter hours. Contact hours vary.

Languages of Instruction

Spanish, English

Faculty

All regular ELISAVA and ESARQ courses are taught by faculty from the host institutions. Language courses are taught by experienced professors who specialize in Teaching Spanish as a Second Language. CIEE courses are taught by local university faculty or members of local institutions of higher education and/or research.

courses**Required CIEE Language Courses****SPAN 1001 BAAD****Beginning Spanish**

This course, designed for students with little or no prior experience in Spanish, has a communicative approach, which means it emphasizes what students can do with the language as much as what they know about the language. By the end of this course, students understand phrases and expressions of common use, communicate when carrying out everyday tasks, know how to describe aspects of one's own past and surroundings, as well as issues related to one's most immediate needs. The course seeks to provide a basic repertoire of linguistic elements and sufficient vocabulary to meet these communicative goals; students should be able to use simple grammatical structures and pronounce, generally, in a clear and comprehensible way. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

SPAN 2001 BAAD**Intermediate Spanish**

This course has a communicative approach, which means it focuses on what students can do with the language as much as what they know about the language. By the end of this course, students understand the principle points of clear texts and writings in standard language; produce simple and coherent texts about familiar themes in which there is a personal interest; and describe experiences, events, wishes, and aspirations, as well as justify one's own opinions or plans for the future. The linguistic elements and vocabulary that are acquired prepare students to deal with non-frequent themes and unpredictable situations. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

SPAN 3001 BAAD**Advanced Spanish**

This class is designed to challenge students with a higher level of language ability to improve on the skills they have already acquired. The syllabus is organized functionally around objectives that students need to adjust to living and studying in the Spanish culture. The course covers all four communicative skills (listening comprehension, oral communication, reading, and writing) with special emphasis on complex aspects of the language that are particularly challenging for English-speakers. The course covers abstract functions of language such as expressing opinions, resolving conflicts, formulating complaints, making an argument, or negotiating with another party. Grammatically, emphasis is placed on the correct use of the tools needed to achieve these aims: complex aspects of the various past tenses, the full range of subjunctive and conditional moods, and formal and informal registers. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

SPAN 3007 BAAD**Advanced Spanish Grammar, Composition, and Conversation**

This course is designed for advanced students with a strong background in Spanish language. The course places special emphasis on complex aspects of grammar, such as the subjunctive and conditional modes, indirect speech, and the passive voice. Students also learn how to handle different registers or styles of Spanish (e.g. formal and informal) necessary to communicate effectively in all types of cultural situations. The course covers all four modalities: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It is specifically designed for students who take University courses in Spanish. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

SPAN 4002 BAAD**Advanced Spanish for Heritage Speakers**

This course is designed to meet the needs of heritage students. Heritage students include native speakers who learned Spanish at home, but who have had little or no formal education in the language. The course helps students develop a formal understanding of grammar, enrich their vocabulary, facilitate their ability to speak about a wider range of topics, and use different registers (formal, informal, etc.) in both written and spoken Spanish. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

Required CIEE Core Course—Architecture and Design Tracks**AHIS 3006 BAAD/ARCH 3005 BAAD/VART 3003 BAAD****The City in Visual Culture/La Ciudad en la Cultura Visual**

This course examines the interrelations between the disciplines of architecture, design, and art history within the framework of the contemporary city. The debate about the contemporary city has been of principal concern within Barcelona, making it an ideal place to study such issues. While examining the theme of the contemporary city generally, specific examples from the context of Barcelona, Spain, and Europe are discussed. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.



(courses continued from previous page)

Required CIEE Course—Architecture Track

Students in the architecture track are required to take one of the two CIEE courses listed below.

ARCH 2001 BAAD

Foundations Architecture Studio

This course is for pre-architecture students without previous design experience who are interested in expanding their knowledge and experience of architecture as a practice of design and critical thinking. It is for liberal arts students and design students with one semester of design.

This studio provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of architectural design, including the fundamentals of analysis, representation, and formal principles. Tutorial and lectures introduce students to graphic and model making skills, as well as site survey and mapping. Students gain experience with the basic tools of the designer, methodologies, and the craft of design. This studio addresses such architectural concepts and determinants as the human body, scale light, and circulation as well as site, program, and materials. Students begin with the survey, representation, and analysis of an existing work of architecture in Barcelona. The final project is for the design of a small structure on an urban site with singular characteristics. Contact hours: 90. Recommended credit: 6 semester/9 quarter hours.

ARCH 3004 BAAD/ARCH 4001 BAAD

Architecture Design Studio—Intermediate Track

Architecture Design Studio—Advanced Track

Design studio tracks can accommodate intermediate and advanced architecture students, who are placed in studio tracks based on their prior experience. Advanced students are architecture majors of junior or senior standing with two to three years of previous design experience. Intermediate students have one to two semesters of design experience. Students at different levels sometimes work together; however, the projects, expectations, and evaluations relate to the standing of the individual students.

The focus of this Design Studio is on an area of the city of Barcelona that is undergoing change. The semester-long design study addresses urban strategies, architectural precedents, methodologies of analysis, design process, and program. Advanced and intermediate students may conduct site and program analysis as a group. Design projects are adjusted to the level of the students. Throughout the term, students explore a complex urban site condition and architectural program dealing with an actual local issue, from conceptual analysis to developed project. Contact hours: 90. Recommended credit: 6 semester/9 quarter hours.

CIEE Electives

AHIS 3002 BAAD

Catalonia and Spain Through the Arts

This course teaches students about Catalan and Spanish culture within the context of art history. We study some of the fundamental issues of the history and character of Spain and Catalonia, such as the Spanish Civil War and the Catalan independence movement through the eyes of privileged witnesses: Velázquez, Goya, Gaudí, Picasso, Dalí, Miró, and more. Relevant study tours are arranged. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

AHIS 3005 BAAD/ARCH 3003 BAAD

Gaudí and his Contemporaries: Art, Architecture, and Design around 1900

This course examines the work of the main artists, architects, and designers of the western world during the times of the Art Nouveau style. Special attention is paid to Antoni Gaudí, Lluís Domènech i Montaner, and Josep Puig i Cadafalch, whose creations turned Barcelona into “a living museum of Art Nouveau architecture.” Other contemporary architects and designers whose works are studied are Victor Horta, Henry van de Velde, Hector Guimard, Louis C. Tiffany, and more. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

HIST 3001 BAAD

Past and Present in Barcelona

Barcelona is an attractive European and Mediterranean city known for its rich history, artistic heritage, and welcoming attitude towards visitors. This course is an interdisciplinary approach to the history of Barcelona. Students learn the history of the city from its foundation up to present day, with a special emphasis on the contemporary period. Urban development of Barcelona is analyzed using historical maps, videos, documentaries, and academic and literary texts. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

INSH 3003 BAAD

Internship

(Prerequisites: Students must have five semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent, and must submit a portfolio, website, Flickr, or other, with examples of their design work and graphic abilities in PDF format. Architecture track interns must have knowledge of architectural design software [Autocad], although they are mainly assigned manual modeling tasks. Design interns must have knowledge of at least the following graphic design software: Photoshop, Illustrator, and Freehand.)

Qualified students have the opportunity to pursue an internship in the field of architecture or design in a local organization or company. Students complete a total of 100–120 hours at their internship placement. In addition to on-site business experience, students participating in the internship program have a weekly classroom component, taught in Spanish and English, which provides academic and intercultural support to their practical experience. Total hours: 135–160. Recommended credit: 3 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours.

MKTG 3001 BAAD/COMM 3001 BAAD

Marketing Cultural Heritage in the Global Age

This course examines how countries, cities, and local institutions market cultural heritage to attract more visitors and donor support. The course defines cultural heritage as an important resource for a local economy and then examines ways to apply marketing theory and communication strategies to cultural tourism. These include e-commerce, e-business, licensing, and merchandising. Taking Barcelona as a case study, the course examines ways in which the city has reinvented and repositioned itself over the past hundred years. Through major events including two World Fairs, the 1992 Olympic Games, and the 2004 World Forum of Culture, Barcelona has exploited its artistic and architectural heritage, balancing the often conflicting goals of preservation and exploitation of visual and artistic resources. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

ELISAVA Courses in Art and Design

Elective courses in Spanish are available to students on the Design Track at the ELISAVA Escola Superior de Disseny. Please note that not all courses are offered each semester, and that some courses have prerequisites. Students must have a minimum of three or four semesters of Spanish, depending on the course. Listed below are some of the courses that may be available:

Art History: Ancient and Medieval Periods
Art History: Renaissance and Baroque Periods
Design, Architecture, and the City
Design History: From the Enlightenment to World War I
Digital Media
Domestic Space and Furniture
Expression of Interior Design and Furniture
Expression of Product and Environment
Graphic and Interactive Expression
The Periphery of the Object: Art, Production, and Design
Projects: Graphic Design
Projects: Industrial Design
Projects: Interior Design
Sketching: Fundamentals
Sketching: Objects and Human Figures
Technical Drawing
Videographic Experimentation

ESARQ Courses

Elective courses in Spanish and in English are available to students on the Architecture Track at the Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura (ESARQ). Please note that not all courses are offered each semester, and that some courses have prerequisites. Listed below are some of the courses that may be available:

Accessibility
Analysis of Forms
Architectural Composition [1, 2, 3, 4]
Architectural Projects [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
Artists and Architects: Constructing Culture (in English)
Cad/Cam
History of Art and Architecture: An Introduction
International Cooperation and Architecture
Workshop: Architectural Models