

## **BCEA Housing Policy – READ BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS FORM.**

### General Information

All students who participate in the BCEA study abroad program in Barcelona, Spain, are guaranteed housing for the duration of the program. There are 2 options for housing in Barcelona: 1) Students can live in a shared apartment with other BCEA students or international roommates. OR 2) Students can live with a carefully selected Spanish host family.

### Apartment Living

Students choosing to live in an apartment will have the option to live with other American (BCEA) students or to live with international roommates. 2-6 people will share each apartment. Apartments consist of a common kitchen and bathroom and 2-4 bedrooms. Students living in an apartment will be responsible for their own meals and for cleaning their apartments. Students will be provided with one set of sheets and a towel. We recommend that you bring one more set of sheets and a towel, or buy extras upon arrival. **Apartment living in Barcelona requires a great deal of flexibility. Apartments and roommate situations vary significantly; international roommates often come for short periods of time. You may have several international roommates throughout the semester.**

**While living with international students is a great way to learn the language and culture of Spain, students should understand that doing so requires a significant cultural adjustment.** This is generally due to the fact that different cultures and have different living habits and expectations. Try to be patient with the various ways of living and respect the fact that you are in *their* country (if they are Spanish) or at least in *their European Union*. For example, since the cost of energy is much higher in Europe than in the U.S., you will rarely see Spaniards leaving lights on in unoccupied rooms of the house. This is a good habit to adopt; why not give it a try? This is just one of many examples.

While these differences may or may not apply to you, they are real differences that almost always emerge between American and international students. Based on the experiences of past study-abroad students, the least uncertain option - albeit the least culturally enlightening - is to room with fellow BCEA students.

If you request "international housing" on this form, you will be placed – based on availability - in an apartment *designated for international roommates*. This guarantees neither the immediate presence of nor number of internationals living there, as sometimes rooms or beds are vacant for partial months before someone else moves in. Generally speaking, however, the number tends to be between 1 and 4 other roommates. Some of our international housing may have more than one BCEA student and one or more international roommates. The exact combination depends on several factors and cannot be guaranteed in advance.

### Host Families

**Since the host families do not usually speak English, the BCEA recommends that only students with an Intermediate level of Spanish or higher choose a homestay.** If you choose to live with a Spanish host family, the housing staff at the BCEA will select a host family for you that seeks to meet your personal preferences and expectations, based on the information you provide on your Housing Preference Form (BELOW). This is an excellent way to increase your Spanish language skills. BCEA tries to place one student per host family, but this cannot be guaranteed. You will meet your host family during your on-site orientation, after you arrive in Barcelona. You do not need to bring bed linens; your host family will provide them for you. Each student is encouraged to participate with their host family in daily activities to improve their Spanish language skills and increase their knowledge of Spanish culture. The staff at the BCEA will go over host family information with you upon arrival. If available, housing assignments are normally sent out approximately one week prior to the departure date.

### Meals

If you live in an apartment, you will be responsible for your own meals. Host families will provide breakfast and one other meal a day. BCEA cannot guarantee that special dietary requests can be met, but if you have a special dietary need, please note it on your Housing Preference Form (BELOW).

### Telephones & Host Families

You are not allowed to make phone calls using your host family's phone. Direct-dial calls from and within Spain are expensive, and even local calls may cost your host families money. Remember to be courteous and schedule long incoming phone calls around your host family's schedule and try to limit your calls to 5-10 minutes.

### Internet Access

There is no Internet connection in the apartments and homestays. There are many inexpensive Internet cafés throughout Barcelona. Internet is also available at the Universitat de Barcelona and at the BCEA computer lab. Several computers are provided for class-related projects and activities. **The BCEA has wireless Internet, and we do recommend that students bring their laptops.**

**Housing arrangements cannot be changed after arrival in Barcelona, under any circumstance.**

**The BCEA does its best to accommodate requests to the greatest extent possible. There are no guarantees, and housing is based on availability.**



**Barcelona Center**  
for education abroad

**Housing Preference Form**

Please provide us with the following information so that the best accommodation match can be made for you.

Term: (please check one) Fall\_\_\_\_\_ Spring\_\_\_\_\_ Summer\_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Home University: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency family contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Telephone) (Country)

Date of Birth: (DD/MM/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ (It is very important that your handwriting is legible. In addition, if your email address changes at some point, please indicate which one is **current** and which one should be used **while you are studying in Spain.** )

**Medical Information**

Do you have any physical conditions or limitations? NO / YES Please explain:

Are you allergic to or do you have an aversion to any animal? NO / YES Please explain:

Do you have any other allergies, dietary requirements or anything else you would like us to know? NO / YES Please explain:

**Personal Habits**

Please circle any term that generally applies to you (this helps us match roommates):

Extroverted Introverted Quiet Noisy Late-riser Early-Riser Moody Organized

Talkative Shy Studious Flexible Easy-to-please

Picky-Eater Eat-Anything Musical Practical Reader Late-to-bed Religious

Vegetarian Athletic Artistic Independent Tidy Not-so-tidy

Do you smoke? **Yes / No**

Would you be willing to share a room with a smoker? **Yes / No**

Would you prefer to live in a **same-sex** or **mixed-gender** situation? Please circle one.

**Accommodation Request**

**Please rank preferences with 1 being your first choice. Please note that stating preferences does not guarantee that each preference can be met.**

APARTMENT

OR

HOMESTAY

\_\_\_\_\_ Single room

\_\_\_\_\_ Double room

\_\_\_\_\_ With other BCEA students

\_\_\_\_\_ With international roommates

(who may or may not be Spanish)

\_\_\_\_\_ Single room

\_\_\_\_\_ Double room

\_\_\_\_\_ With other BCEA students

\_\_\_\_\_ With international students

(who may or may not be Spanish)

**Homestay Letter – Only for those students staying with a family.**

If you have requested to live with a host family, please write a letter of introduction, in Spanish, to your host family on a separate sheet and include it with this form. Or, you may email your letter to [chelsea@academicstudies.com](mailto:chelsea@academicstudies.com). Begin the letter with “Estimada Familia.” You may want to include details about your own family, your university and studies, hobbies and interests, reasons for studying in Spain and anything else you think might be of interest to your new family. This letter is not used to evaluate your language skills. It is simply a method of providing information to your family. Please attach your letter to this form and return it to ASA.

**IMPORTANT:**

**Housing in an apartment does not include meals. If you are living with a host family, you be provided with breakfast and one other meal a day.**

**If you choose the apartment option, please make sure to indicate if you would like to live with other students from this program or with international roommates. Please be as specific as you can about what environment you would like.**

**The BCEA does its best to accommodate requests to the greatest extent possible. There are no guarantees, and housing is based on availability.**

Is there anything else you would like to let us to know? If yes, please elaborate on a separate sheet and include it with this form.

I understand and accept the Barcelona Center Housing Policy on Page 1.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this form to ASA immediately: Academic Studies Abroad; 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 501, Boston, MA 02118***

**OR**  
***Fax to 617-437-9390***