



***The Institute for American Universities (IAU) &
The American College of the Mediterranean (ACM)***

**COVID-19 Student Preparedness Guide
Informed Consent Form & Behavioral Commitment
Spain, Spring 2021**

Last Update: January 19, 2021

Introduction:

IAU-ACM's goal is to provide a safe learning environment for its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. This guide will illustrate how Spain is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and describe the COVID-19 procedures and policies you should follow while in Spain. At the end of this guide is an informed consent form you should sign and return to IAU-ACM.

Spain has an excellent public health system and put into place a robust response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus is still active in Spain but at present most businesses are open, and schools and universities are open for in-person teaching, supplemented in some cases by remote teaching. Mask use is widespread and is required by law inside any public space such as stores, offices, schools, and places of worship. It is also required outside in places frequented by the public. Spain has put into place strong testing and contact tracing procedures to manage clusters of COVID-19 when they emerge. Testing is widely available.

The following guidelines will help you have a safe and productive stay in Spain. Keep in mind that as knowledge of COVID-19 develops guidelines may change. IAU is in regular contact with local and national authorities and will update guidance on a regular basis.

COVID-19 Testing and Tracking: Anyone coming from the U.S. is required to have a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours *prior to arrival in Spain*. IAU recommends that students also verify with their airline that their COVID-19 test meets all requirements and will be taken within the requisite time frame, especially if they have flight layovers. Any student already in Spain or arriving from another location is required to show a negative COVID-19 test result within five days prior to the start of their program (program start date is January 31, 2021). IAU will also facilitate testing of all students two weeks after the start of the program. After the two-week mark, students showing COVID-19-related symptoms will be tested following consultation with a doctor. All staff and host families were tested prior to your arrival. If you receive a positive test, IAU will enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials and you will be required to remain in quarantine until cleared by a health professional. You may be relocated during the quarantine, and if so, you will not incur any costs for the relocation unless the cost of relocation exceeds the total program/housing fees paid to IAU. During quarantine, you will be able to continue your studies remotely and the Center Director and US Office of Admissions will provide instruction on the virtual learning format.

Taking Your Temperature/Health Monitoring: IAU recommends that you take your temperature every morning prior to coming to campus, and that you keep track of your temperature. In addition, thermometers are available at the IAU Center.

Regularly self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms.

Symptoms of COVID-19



If You Feel Ill: If while at school you feel feverish or exhibit COVID-19-related symptoms, alert a member of staff immediately. If in a host family, alert your host. In all cases, if you feel ill, you should consult a doctor and follow their advice. IAU staff can help make arrangements to consult a doctor if you need help. If the doctor recommends a COVID-19 test, make sure you get a prescription. If you are charged for the test, the prescription will ensure you are reimbursed by your health insurance.

Health Guidelines in the Community: In Spain, masks are required inside any public place, such as stores, offices, schools, and places of worship, as well as in all outside areas where the public gathers. Masks are required for all public transport. Failure to wear a mask when required may subject you to a fine of 135 Euros from the local authorities, for which IAU is not responsible.

Health Guidelines at IAU: Masks and social distancing are required in all IAU buildings and classrooms and students should not congregate while in the Center. Congregating on the outdoor terrace is permitted as long as social distancing protocols are followed. Classrooms have been set up to maintain proper social distancing. Please do not move desks in classrooms. There are posted occupancy limits and social distancing indicators in IAU classrooms and libraries. You should wash your hands frequently and use the sanitizing gel and wipes available throughout the IAU Center.

Health Guidelines in Host Families: IAU pre-screened your host family prior to your arrival to ensure they had a recent negative COVID-19 test and follow proper sanitary procedures. You should follow best practice as well, washing your hands regularly and self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms. Hosts will follow a set of guidelines for keeping their home clean and disinfected, and students will also have access to laundry services once per week. Masks in your host family residence are not required unless someone exhibits COVID-19 symptoms. If someone in your host family contracts COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19 at any point during the semester, IAU will remove you from the homestay and place you in an alternative homestay, residence hall, or apartment and you will not incur any costs. IAU will work with the host and enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols, as necessary. If you are required to quarantine, you will be able to continue to follow classes remotely. Guests will not be permitted in host families.

Health Guidelines in Apartments: Apartment capacities will be limited to 4 students maximum, and each student will have their own room. Each student will receive their own copy of COVID-19 protocols and health-related information, and protocols will be posted in each apartment. All apartments include bi-monthly cleaning services of towels, linens, and common areas. Apartments are also equipped with laundry services for students to use. Masks in your apartment are not required unless someone exhibits COVID-19 symptoms. If you test positive for COVID-19 at any point during the semester, IAU will consult with local authorities to determine if you should be temporarily relocated. If it is recommended that you be relocated, this will be at no expense to you unless the cost of relocation exceeds the total program and housing fees paid to IAU. If you are required to quarantine, you will be able to continue to follow classes remotely. Students will not be permitted to bring visitors to their accommodations.

Social and Cultural Life: As previously noted, masks and proper social distancing are required in all establishments receiving the public, and in outside public areas. Most businesses are open with some schedule limitations such as curfews after 10:00pm or reduced person capacity. These restrictions will be lifted once the Rate of Transmission COVID-19 is under 1 (currently at 1.4).

Travel: COVID-19-related travel restrictions exist in Europe, including within the Schengen space of the EU, and can change at a moment's notice. IAU recommends you not make any travel plans until after your arrival in Spain, so that you can be fully informed on any restrictions. Always check with IAU personnel and relevant authorities before traveling. Always use the IAU [travel tracker](#) so that we can contact you if necessary. IAU recommends you limit travel to within the region and avoid travel that crosses international borders. Each country has set its own travel restrictions and students are responsible for obeying them. International travel and/or re-entry to Spain may be affected by these varying restrictions. You should be aware that any delays to your return, required quarantine periods, or sustained economic damage is fully your own responsibility and IAU cannot be responsible for any of these adverse effects. Depending on circumstances IAU may at times prohibit travel outside the region or to specific destinations. Failure to follow IAU travel guidelines may result in a mandatory quarantine upon your return.

Communication: The COVID-19 officer at IAU is Barcelona Center Director, Dr. Ignasi Perez. Do not hesitate to contact him (ignasi.perez@iau.edu) with any questions or concerns. IAU will regularly update this guidance. IAU's full COVID-19 Plan is available on IAU's website (www.iau.edu). This guide is also posted in the [Spring 2021 Students: Barcelona Team](#).