Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at
BARCELONA-EL VALLÈS

iasap·bv

ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
The Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at Barcelona-El Vallès [IASAP•BV] is a comprehensive international learning experience available to undergraduate students enrolled at the Illinois School of Architecture (ISoA) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Continuing the long-standing tradition and reputation of the School's year-long program of studies overseas, IASAP•BV has the unique advantage of providing the extraordinary opportunity for living and studying one full year in a historically and architecturally rich overseas environment while simultaneously offering a curricular structure that is fully equivalent—in content and academic rigor—to the courses offered on the Illinois campus. Thus, the IASAP•BV allows participants to pursue their normal path toward graduation while gaining and enjoying a lifelong rewarding and enriching international experience. The program also offers a wide range of extracurricular activities including joint undertakings with faculty and students from the host institution, lectures, field trips, workshops and exhibitions.

Committed to a holistic, creative and open-minded approach to architecture through courses and a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities, the program’s goal is to provide students with a multicultural and cross-national approach, fostering integration in a different academic and cultural setting that contributes to enrich their education and professional development. At the same time, the experience of living abroad for an entire year provides opportunities for personal growth, learning from direct interaction with different peoples, environments and cultures.

In an increasingly globalized professional world, the exposure to different practices and approaches to the discipline provides students with a knowledge acquired through direct personal experience that enriches their education at the personal, academic and professional levels. Traveling independently or as part of the program’s activities, as well as participating in cross-national and cross disciplinary projects, helps students assimilate new experiences and acquire skills that are essential in today’s professional world.
Location

The IASAP-BV is part of an overarching agreement between the Schools of Architecture of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) that provides for a significant and long-term academic collaboration. The program is hosted at the Escola Tècnica Superior d’Arquitectura del Vallès (ETSAV), one of the two architecture programs of the highly ranked UPC.

The ETSAV (www.etsav.upc.edu) is one of the top architecture schools in Spain, a teaching/research institution with an enrollment of approximately 1,000 students. Its courses and research are organized around the topics of architecture, urban planning and public housing, structures, history and theory. Experimental and practical activities are proposed as part of the curriculum.

The ETSAV is housed at an off-campus facility in Sant Cugat del Vallès, a small and beautiful city of 80,000 inhabitants that is part of Barcelona’s larger metropolitan area. A prosperous and affluent city with a rich history dating back to the medieval period, Sant Cugat is known for the quality of life it provides, including shopping, banking, health care, entertainment and recreation. Located just eight miles from downtown Barcelona, Sant Cugat is connected to the metropolis through a modern and safe railroad system with trains which, running at a frequency of 6-to-10 minutes, link Sant Cugat with Barcelona’s center in less than half an hour.

Barcelona and its area of influence is one of the most cosmopolitan and attractive regions of the world. A sophisticated cultural landscape in a wonderful seaside location with an ideal blend of architecture, urbanism, and culture, Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain and the second most important tourist destination in Europe. The wealth of cultural and recreational activities is immense, from world class museums and exhibitions, to natural and man-made parks, restaurants, theaters and shopping, and the beauty of its natural attractions, the Mediterranean seashore and the nearby Pyrenean mountain range.

Most importantly, Barcelona (and its environs) is one of the most vibrant architectural cities worldwide, rich in architectural landmarks from various historical periods such as the Greco-Roman antiquity and the medieval Romanesque and Gothic. Without doubt, the stunning and unique Modernisme Catalán represented by the work of architects such as Antonio Gaudí, Domenech i Montaner, Puig i Cadafalch and Josep Maria Jujol, constitutes one of the highlights of Barcelona’s (and Catalunya’s) architecture. Closer to our times, in the last four decades the city has attracted world-class architects who, along with contributions from a brilliant generation of local architects, made Barcelona a model of contemporary architecture and urbanism.
Academic Structure

The IASAP-BV operates within and in close collaboration with the ETSAV; however, as an integral part of the Illinois School of Architecture, is administratively autonomous from the host institution. The program of study follows the senior-year curriculum for BS in Architectural Studies majors on the Urbana-Champaign campus. Specially designed to guarantee that participants continue their path toward graduation without delay, the courses offered in the IASAP-BV program are fully equivalent both in academic credit and general content to senior-level courses offered at the Urbana-Champaign campus. Their specific content is, however, adapted to take advantage of the program’s extraordinary location in one of the world’s richest architectural cities.

All courses are offered in English by faculty from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and/or visiting professors, lecturers, and guest instructors who come to participate in the program from various locations in Europe and the United States. Some courses and/or course-related activities are offered jointly with the ETSAV and are attended by Illinois’ students as well as by students regularly enrolled in the ETSAV, including a large population of international exchange students from other European institutions. In addition to program-required courses in areas of Architectural Design, Architectural History and other areas of the Illinois School of Architecture’s curricula, the program offers a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities such as field trips to significant architectural landmarks, thematic seminars and workshops, and a series of lectures delivered by invited guest speakers.

The program’s calendar is crafted to allow students to travel independently to other European destinations, expanding their horizons and exposure to the rich architectural history of Europe. In short, the Barcelona program is rigorous, intense, challenging, and broadening as it exposes students firsthand to the architecture of Western Europe and provides a wealth of opportunities for professional and personal growth. Sant Cugat and Barcelona are the program’s home, Europe at large is the classroom.

Faculty and Staff

The IASAP-BV is administered by a Director (a full-time, tenured faculty member of the School of Architecture) and a Program Coordinator; both of whom are in-residence members of the School’s staff.

Alejandro Lapunzina, ISoA Full Professor and Director, is a graduate of the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina (1983) and Washington University in St. Louis (1987). He joined the Illinois School of Architecture in 1991 and has served as Director of the School’s Study Abroad
Program in Europe since 2002. He teaches Architectural Design and coordinates the program’s curricular and extracurricular activities.

Magalí Veronelli-Lapunzina, Program Coordinator, has degrees in Political Science and Public Administration (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico, 1984) and Public Health (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1986). She has been the Program Coordinator of the School’s Study Abroad Program since 2007. Among many other tasks, the Program Coordinator provides support to the faculty and handles student issues, notably those related to necessary bureaucratic steps (for instance, registration at the UPC, and completion of the foreign student visa process to study in Spain), their personal well-being (support with healthcare issues), and housing accommodations.

In addition to the two in-residence members, the IASAP-BV team is composed of three-to-five full and part-time professors who teach the program’s core and optional courses, all of whom are appointed by the Illinois School of Architecture and/or through an agreement between the School and the host institution (the ETSAV). The program also hosts numerous guests who offer curricular and extra-curricular activities, such as lectures, seminars, reviews and workshops.

As an integral part of the School of Architecture, the IASAP-BV is overseen by the School's Director, Peter Mortensen, and the International Programs Committee.

Calendar Structure

As mentioned in a previous section, the IASAP-BV’s calendar is crafted to combine rigorous academic content with opportunities for independent travel. The program’s activities begin with the students’ arrival in Barcelona during the first week of September, and end in early-mid May to allow students to return home in time to participate in Commencement ceremonies at Urbana-Champaign.

The first few days are invested in getting settled, attending orientation sessions for international students at the UPC, and completing required bureaucratic steps such as the long-term visa to study in Spain. The year-long course of studies is organized in two typical semesters: Fall and Spring. Coursework in the Fall ends in mid-December just before the winter holidays; classes resume two-and-a-half weeks later with the beginning of the Spring semester.

Throughout the year the calendar of activities is demanding; time and focused dedication are necessary to complete course-related assignments. Thus, the weekly load is intense and filled with various course-related activities in studios, classrooms and field trips to architectural landmarks in Barcelona and its environs. Both the weekly and semester calendars are crafted to provide numerous opportunities for traveling either as part of program-organized field trips and workshops, or independent travel throughout Europe.
The few short study-travel periods allow students to study-travel throughout Europe. However, while study-travel provides wonderful opportunities for enriching experiences, it is important to stress that traveling throughout Europe is not mandatory and it is not a requirement for the activities of the program. In fact, the environs of Barcelona offer a broad range of wonderful places to visit in day-long excursions.

The program ends in early-mid May with a short week of academic activities that mark the official culmination of the year at the Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at Barcelona el Vallès. Students can return to Champaign in time for commencement ceremonies usually scheduled in mid-May.

SAMPLE CALENDAR

(NOTE: study-travel means that during periods of independent travel students are *technically* in class and *not* on vacation; assignments to develop during these study-travel periods are often issued, except during the typical winter break).
**Student Lodging**

The School of Architecture has secured housing at the student residence building adjacent to the ETSAV, thus reducing transportation expenses and commuting time. The residence is managed by the company “UNIHABITAT Habitatge” (UNIHABITAT), which has agreed on a special group rate for IASAP-BV’s participants. Cost of rent at the double occupancy rate is included in the program fee (see Appendix I: Costs and Fees).

This residence houses students from different local schools (medicine, business and architecture) and different nationalities. Inaugurated in 2012, the complex has been praised by the renowned architectural journal “AV” as one of the salient architectural realizations in Spain in 2012-13. It is about 15 minutes walking distance from downtown Sant Cugat and about 10 minutes walking distance from the train station that connects Sant Cugat with Barcelona.

Organized around a central planted courtyard, the housing units of approximately 440 square feet accommodate two students and are equipped with kitchenette, living/dining area, a full shower/bathroom and individual sleeping/study areas. Units are furnished and equipped to satisfy the basic needs of a student during the year of study abroad, including internet access. Additional/Optional items and services are available for an extra charge paid by the student. These include dishwasher, iron and ironing board, sofa, armchair, TV, house cleaning, and changing of sheets and towels.
**Description of units:**

Size: about 41 m² (approx. 440 square feet); each unit offers sleeping space (separated by a closet in double occupancy units), a living/studying space, an eating/kitchen space and a complete bathroom (shower, no bathtub).

![Image of a living space](image1.png)

**Single units** are furnished with the following: 1 bed, 1 closet, 1 table, 2 chairs, 2 lamps, 1 small refrigerator, 1 microwave, 2 hotplates, internet access, 1 desk/chair and individual seat, table and kitchenware, linen, pillow and comforter for one student.

**Double units** are furnished with the following: 2 beds, 2 closets, 1 table, 4 chairs, 2 lamps, 1 small refrigerator, and 1 microwave, 2 hotplates, internet access, 1 desk/chair per student, table and kitchenware, linen, pillow and comforter for two students.

**Common Services in the Residence Hall:**

- Laundry Spaces: Washers and Dryers are available for a reasonable cost.
- Free Bicycle Parking at the entrance of the student residence.
- Free Common exterior social areas with tables, sofas, ping-pong table.
- Free Common room for TV-Movies and other social events (reserved through the office manager).
- Management office with an on-site manager during working days and office hours.

The units are conceived for double or single occupancy; roommates for double occupancy may be chosen from all the residents at UNIHABITAT: either students participating in the IASAP-BV program, or other UNIHABITAT residents. Single occupancy is also possible, but the additional cost is not included in the Program Fee.

*The rental agreement is for accommodating the students only. Visiting friends and families must have other accommodations.*

By University regulations, all student housing is arranged with persons of the same gender – females share living spaces with females, and males with males. There are no exceptions.
School facilities, daily life and traveling

The **IASAP•BV**'s activities take place, for the most part at the ETSAV. The school is student oriented and provides modern classrooms and studio spaces as well as computer labs, a library, and a state-of-the-art model making lab --all of which are available to **IASAP•BV** participants. Students will be informed about rules governing the use of these spaces upon arrival. All **IASAP•BV** students are obliged to respect the rules of operation of all ETSAV facilities.

Students will need to carry or ship their personal supplies necessary for taking the program’s courses in the same way that they do to attend classes at Urbana-Champaign. This includes personal computers, software, textbooks, drawing supplies, etc… A more detailed list with recommendations will be issued in the Spring semester.

Sant Cugat has everything that is necessary for the students’ daily life; there are many places for buying groceries, and a wide range of choices for eating out. Students can also cook in their housing unit and/or eat at the ETSAV’s cafeteria.

**Health Care:** there are plenty of specialists and clinics in Sant Cugat and Barcelona to take care of any necessary medical need. Local physicians are available for routine medical care. The **IASAP•BV** has established an informal agreement with a local clinic to attend the students’ need for regular health care issues such as colds, viruses, etc. For more serious health issues the Hospital General de Catalunya (a full-scale modern health care facility) is located 10 minutes from Sant Cugat by car or train. Many members of the hospital’s medical staff speak English. Information regarding health care will be distributed upon the students’ arrival in Barcelona. Health-care costs are payable by the student at time of service and are reimbursable through the mandatory insurance program managed by CISI (cost of insurance is included in Program Fee).

**Banking:** the **IASAP•BV** has also established an informal agreement with a local bank (Banco Sabadell Atlantico) for students interested in having a bank account in Sant Cugat. While not required, a Spanish bank account may be beneficial managing budgets and facilitating many things such as making reservations for travel in European currency, to name one of the most obvious. Both at Sant Cugat and Barcelona, and throughout Europe, ATM machines are the most convenient way of drawing cash from accounts based in the US. Bringing cash in US currency (dollars) to be exchanged in Europe is strongly discouraged because the exchange rate obtained through this operation is largely more unfavorable than drawing cash from ATM machines. More information on banking issues will be provided in the Spring during one of the mandatory meetings of participants (see below under Application Process).

**Local Transportation and traveling in Spain and Europe:** the public transportation system of Barcelona and its environs is excellent. Trains to Barcelona leave Sant Cugat about every 6-10 minutes. The station is located one third of a mile from the school. The average ride time to downtown Barcelona is 20 minutes.
The possibility of study/traveling in Spain and throughout Europe is one of the obvious opportunities open to participating students. U.S. citizens only need to have a valid passport and a European resident/student visa in order to travel to most other European countries. Non-U.S. citizens may need a tourist visa to some specific destinations, even within Europe. Barcelona is very well-connected with other European and Mediterranean countries, facilitating travel possibilities during study/travel periods built into the program’s calendar.

It should be noted, however, that traveling outside of Spain/Barcelona-Sant Cugat is not a requisite for participation. All school assignments issued during periods available for independent travel can be completed in Barcelona and its environs. The only exception to this is the Traveling Workshop at the beginning of the spring semester. This one-week long workshop offered by specially invited workshop leaders takes place in other European cities. The workshops are financed by the Program but students are responsible for the cost of traveling and lodging in these destinations; therefore, students must consider this within their travel budget. Past workshops have included Budapest, Lisbon+Porto, Rome, Brussels and Copenhagen. Students participate in only one of these workshops per academic year.

The preceding paragraphs provide but a glimpse of information on daily life, transportation and traveling. More information will be provided in the spring semester to interested participants as well as in Sant Cugat during the first few days following the group’s arrival in Barcelona.
Cost and Fees

The costs and fees for participating in the School of Architecture’s IASAP-BV consist of:

- University tuition and fees (mandatory)
- IASAP•BV Program Fee + International Insurance
- Personal expenses

**University tuition and fees:** University tuition and fees can be different for students based on their year of entry. While the tuition is the same as students on the UIUC campus, there is a reduction in the fees for students going to Barcelona (because they are not on campus). Only the general fee and the health insurance fee are charged. See [www.osfa.illinois.edu](http://www.osfa.illinois.edu) for more information on tuition and fees.

**IASAP•BV Program Fee:** the mandatory Program Fee for all participating students includes program costs in three categories: Program Operation, Student Housing, and Group Airfare.

- **Program Operation** covers costs related to the overall operation of the program both in Illinois and in Sant Cugat; it comprises normal operative and administrative costs, the students’ participation in most mandatory curricular and extracurricular activities (i.e., most field trips, workshops and special events) and the cost of obtaining a student residency permit in Spain upon arrival in Sant Cugat. It does not include the cost of obtaining a passport, a student visa to study in Spain, textbooks and regular school supplies, and the participants’ personal and traveling expenses.

- **Student Housing:** includes the cost of rental housing of a shared two-person basically furnished unit at the Student Resident Hall located adjacent to the ETSAV for the period September 1-May 31. Students may choose either double or single occupancy; for those opting for single occupancy the additional cost is added to the Program Fee. The cost of utilities (electricity, telephone and gas) and optional services (laundry, cleaning services, etc.) is not included; those are paid monthly by each student based on his/her unit’s consumption (see additional information under Student Housing).

- **Group Airfare:** Group airfare (estimated at $1,500) is also included in the mandatory Program Fee. This figure is preliminary, based on the current prices; it can be modified as a result of future airfare costs. An increase in actual airfare costs will result in an increase in the Program fee.

**CISI International Insurance:** $350 fee charged directly to student accounts.

**Personal expenses:** personal expenses generally consist of daily living expenses, traveling expenses, and school-related expenses (supplies, textbooks, model-making materials, printing and photocopying, etc…). Largely dependent on the students’ individual spending habits, personal expenses are not collected by the University.

Payments are made through your Student Account. An initial deposit is required in March after accepting admission into the program. Partial payments are due in April, August and January.
Application Process and Requirements

Students interested in participating in the IASAP-BV must comply with the following general requirements:

- Complete junior-level academic requirements by the end of their junior year.
- Complete all University general education requirements by the end of the junior year.
- Complete all minor requirements by the end of the junior year, if applicable.
- Complete one introductory course in the Spanish language at the college or high school level.
- Attend all scheduled meetings to prepare for the program, and complete all required administrative and bureaucratic preparations for long-term study in Spain in a timely manner. Meetings are scheduled in the Spring semester prior to departure (between early February and early May).
- Comply with the schedule of payments shown in Appendix I. (Some payments are due in the spring and summer semesters before leaving; exact dates will be announced in the first meeting of participants.

All students participating in IASAP-BV must have a valid passport and complete all the requirements for a long-stay student visa to study in Spain. The meetings held Spring semester to prepare for the Barcelona program focus on assisting the students through this process, in addition to other preparations.

To apply, visit the study abroad website at www.studyabroad.illinois.edu. Click on Create App if you are ready to apply. Click “Okay” in the pop up box to acknowledge that you will be charged $50.00 on your student account when you apply. This is a non-refundable application fee. You will be asked for your username and password. Your username is your net id. Your password is your active directory password. On the Program Application Page, fill out all required forms.

Students participate in the IASAP-BV as a University of Illinois student, and as such are required to follow the Student Code, and are subject to the same rules and discipline as they are on the Illinois campus.

Acceptance of a student into the IASAP-BV makes it possible for that student to have one of the greatest educational experiences of their career. As in any other educational experience, the optimization of the opportunity depends primarily on the student’s willingness to be involved, to prepare, and to participate.

Application Deadline: January 15

For further information please visit: go.illinois.edu/Barcelona
Committed to providing a holistic, creative and open-minded architectural education the IASAP-BV offers a unique opportunity to study overseas through a proven formula that integrates and combines

- the high quality of Illinois’ Architecture program with opportunities to work with faculty and students from the ETSAV;
- regular required courses and specially organized thematic workshops and seminars;
- guided and independent travel;
- and the opportunity to see firsthand the rich history and architectural heritage of Catalonia, Spain and Europe.

"It is almost impossible to not change your perspective on the world after living in another country for a year. This year I have gotten lost in a maze of alleyways, spoken to locals in another language, climbed to the roof of a cathedral, had dinner with a family in Morocco, and seen places I never thought I would see. There is a lot out there to explore past the cornfields of Illinois."

Ben Feicht, IASAP-BV 2014-2015

"Barcelona strengthened my ability to design by allowing me to analyze and interact with each city and its people more intimately."

Sara Timberlake, IASAP-BV 2014-2015

"Being in Barcelona put me out of my comfort zone in ways that I never would have imagined. I realized the importance of utilizing my resources, patience to fully understand another’s idea or concept, and being able to bounce ideas off of a peer. Barcelona brought me out of my shell in a work environment as well as a social environment."

Jessica Spenner, IASAP-BV 2014-2015

"It takes courage to get out of your own world. But in return, you get a very powerful way to learn, by actually seeing, touching and experiencing."

Lian Ren, IASAP-BV 2014-2015

"Being in Barcelona for a year truly expanded my worldview, but also my ambitions as an aspiring architect. I experienced so many different cultures and ways of living that make me hungry to explore even more. Collaborating with people of different backgrounds who perceive and analyze architecture differently than I do has been the most rewarding of them all. No two people think the same. The more diverse individuals we work with, the more our architecture will improve. Because of this, I have a newfound goal of beginning an international career to continue adding to our collective growth of intellect as architects of the world."

Maya Krolikowski, IASAP-BV 2014-2015
Appendix I

Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program in Barcelona El Vallès
2016-2017 Costs and Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary table of costs &amp; fees</th>
<th>Illinois Resident</th>
<th>Non-Illinois Resident</th>
<th>International</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University tuition and fees (Annual)</td>
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<td>IASAP-BV Program Fee</td>
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<td>CISI International Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses (estimate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>$40,496</td>
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**Personal Expenses Sample Budget:***

Estimated average personal expenses during non-travel periods (approximately 30 weeks): $200/week ($6,000/year; this includes food, personal hygiene, housing utilities, school supplies).

Estimated average personal expenses during travel periods (approximately 6 weeks): $500/week ($3,000/year; this should include normal daily expenses plus lodging during travel periods).

Estimated transportation costs during travel periods (airfare, train, buses, etc...): $1,500/year (this will obviously depend on the mode of transportation, destinations, etc...).

*All these figures can vary with the fluctuation of the exchange rate (the value of the dollar versus the euro).

**PAYMENTS – IASAP-BV Program Fee**

Payments are made through your Student Account. A $500 deposit is required in March 2016 upon accepting admission into the program. Partial payments of the Program Fee are due in April ($3,500), August ($4,000), and January ($7,000).
Contact Information

In Barcelona/Sant Cugat del Vallès

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