

Spain Feedback

Central and Eastern European students were far more numerous in this year's Feedback survey on Spain. Meanwhile, agent usage remains low and average length of stay dipped a little.

Spain Feedback at a glance	
Total number of students: (female 52, male 36, unknown 1)	89
Average age in years:	33
Average length of programme in weeks:	8.8
Average number of students in class:	5
Average number of hours of language tuition per week:	19.2
% of students who found out about their course through an agent:	17
% of students who booked through an agent or adviser:	29
% of students who had been on another language programme:	46
% of students who would recommend their school:	97

Student nationality

Although Western Europeans continue to dominate Spain's incoming student market, as a whole, this world region is showing signs of decline. Just 65 per cent of survey respondents hailed from this region in 2008 – down eight percentage points on last year's result (see LTM, August 2007, pages 16-17) and 15 percentage points on 2006's findings (see LTM, May 2006, pages 16-17). Instead, Spanish schools attracted more Central and Eastern European students this year with countries such as Poland, Bulgaria and Russia accounting for a seven per cent share of the nationality mix, six percentage

points more than last year. Interestingly, Portuguese-speaking South American students also made their presence felt, representing three per cent of all student enrolments. Overall, 23 different nationalities were represented this year.

Student motivation

More respondents this year indicated that they were learning a language for future or current employment purposes – up nine percentage points to 48 per cent – and a further 30 per cent of students were learning a language for recreational purposes – compared with 25 per cent in 2007. The least common reason for students to learn Spanish

was for study purposes, down 14.5 percentage points to just 21.5 per cent this year. Spanish schools attracted an older clientele this year (43 per cent were aged between 25 and 51 years) and consequently the average age of students was higher than last year, 33 years compared with 25 years. The older average age was also reflected in the occupations of survey respondents. Twenty-five per cent indicated that they were business professionals, 10 per cent said that they were teachers and 14 per cent were retired.

Student enrolment

The average length of stay for respondents

Spanish in Málaga





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Bob Burger, Marketing Director
Malaca Instituto
c/Cortada 6,
Cerrado de Calderon
29018 Málaga, Spain

Tel. + 34 952 29 32 42
Fax. + 34 952 29 63 16
bob@malacainstituto.com
www.malacainstituto.com

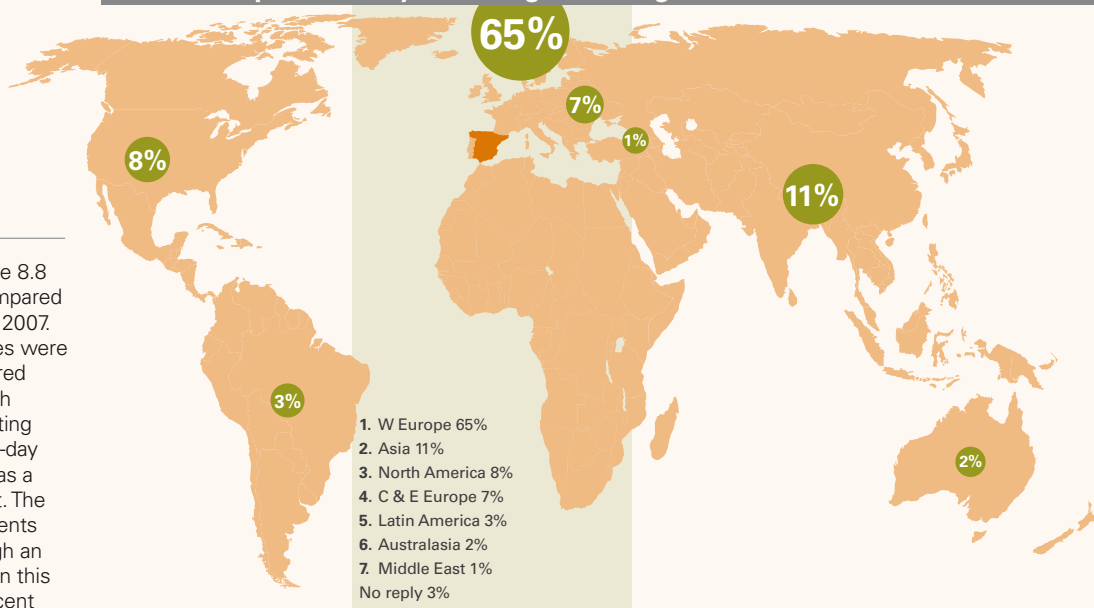
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Student respondents by world region of origin



was estimated to be 8.8 weeks in 2008, compared with 13.1 weeks in 2007. Shorter programmes were certainly the preferred choice this year with one respondent noting a "weekend" three-day intensive course was a particular plus point. The percentage of students who booked through an agent was low again this year at just 29 per cent (30 per cent last year). The higher age range of clients may be one explanation for this. And 46 per cent of respondents said that they had been on a study abroad trip before; 32 per cent of whom had already studied in Spain or another Spanish speaking country.

Standard of the schools

This year, class sizes ranged from one to 11 students per class, averaging out at just five. Consequently, many respondents were content with both class size and nationality mix (80 per cent) – up from 65 per cent in 2007. Many respondents were also satisfied with the standard of academic programming with 88 per cent saying they thought the programme to be either excellent or good. Overall, student satisfaction rates remain extremely high with 97 per cent saying they'd happily recommend their school to others compared with 94 per cent previously.

Living in Spain

The cost of living in Spain was seen to be lower than in their home countries by 34 per cent of respondents, up from 30 per cent last year. When we asked students what aspects they enjoyed most about their study abroad experience, language, people and culture all scored highly. Meanwhile, sport, shopping and the nightlife were not so popular with students.

Top nationalities

13%

1. British

11%

2. German

3. Dutch 10%
3. French 10%
5. Swiss 7%
6. Japanese 6%
6. Korean 6%
6. Swedish 6%
9. Canadian 4%
10. American 3%
10. Brazilian 3%

How did you find your programme?

41%

1. I found it on the Internet

31%

2. Recommended by a friend/relative

3. Recommended by an agent 17%
4. I saw it advertised 9%
- No reply 2%

In my class there are...

80%

1. The right number of students

9%

2. Too many students

3. Too many students from one other country 4%
4. Too many students who speak my language 3%
- No reply 4%

How easy is it to practise Spanish with native speakers?

49%

1. Quite easy

29%

2. Quite hard

3. Very easy 13%
4. Very hard 7%
- No reply 2%

Student reasons for school selection included:

"Friendly people in the office. Mix of classes, dance and language"

"For its facilities and on-site residence"

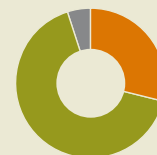
"Thanks to its location on the Costa del Sur, it gives good opportunities to combine learning and holidaying"

"They offered weekend courses and there were good flights available"

"A new, modern school with a good price"

Did you book your course through an agent or educational advisor?

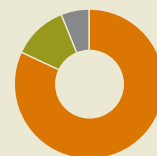
- Yes 29%
- No 66%
- Unknown 5%



Before looking for your course, did you know where you wanted to study?

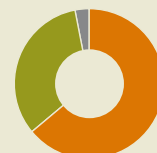
Country

- Yes 82%
- No 12%
- Unknown 6%



City/town

- Yes 64%
- No 33%
- Unknown 3%



School

- Yes 38%
- No 54%
- Unknown 8%



Thank you to the following schools for participating in our survey: Andalusi Instituto de Español, Malaga; Camino Barcelona, Barcelona; Carmen de las Cuevas, Granada; Castelar College, Murcia; Centro de Enseñanza de Español La Herradura, Granada; Ceran Lingua International, Madrid; Enforex, Madrid; Escuela Montalban – Tandem, Granada; IH San Sebastian – Lacunza, San Sebastian; Instituto Internacional de Idiomas, Ibiza; International House Barcelona, Barcelona; Malaca Instituto, Malaga; Malaga ¡Si!, Malaga; Spanish Institute – Audio Gil, Castellón; The Spanish Course, Madrid; UCO Idiomas Universidad de Córdoba, Córdoba.