

# Spain feedback

An increasing diversity in the classroom and high levels of student satisfaction characterise this year's Spanish Feedback Survey. However, agent usage among students has decreased year-on-year.

## Spain feedback at a glance

Total number of students:	female 70, male 26 (unknown 1)	<b>97</b>
Average age in years:		<b>25.3</b>
Average length of programme in weeks:		<b>14.8</b>
Average number of students per class:		<b>3.5</b>
Average number of hours of language tuition per week:		<b>20.3</b>
% of students who found their course through an agent:		<b>29</b>
% of students who booked through an agent or adviser:		<b>35</b>
% of students who had been on another language programme:		<b>12</b>
% of students who would recommend their school:		<b>96</b>

### Student nationality

The proportion of US students taking part in our Feedback Survey increased again this year to 24 per cent of the total student body. This upward trend for US student numbers has been noted for the past two years. Spanish schools' dependence on western European student markets is still apparent, with 53 per cent of students coming from this world region, but its share is down from 67 per cent last year (see *Language Travel Magazine*, May 2003, page 16-17). An increase in students from Asia and North America

has also helped diversify the student mix.

### Student age and motivation

At 25.3 years, the average age of students in our survey was quite high compared with other destinations, but was in keeping with last year's average age of 26.8 years. A higher number of students were learning Spanish for their college programmes at home this year, with 30 per cent giving this reason compared with only 19 per cent last year. Overall, 52 per cent of our US respondents were learning Spanish for

their studies at home as well as 57 per cent of British respondents and 29 per cent of Japanese students. Fewer students were going on to further study in Spain, with just six per cent choosing this option, compared with 13 per cent last year.

### Student enrolment

Agent usage was comparatively low among our respondents, with 29 per cent of students finding out about their course through an agent or adviser and 35 per cent booking through an agent. In last year's survey, while the same percentage of

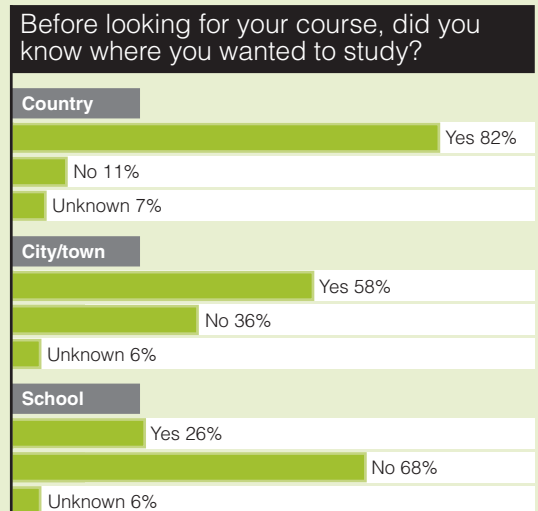
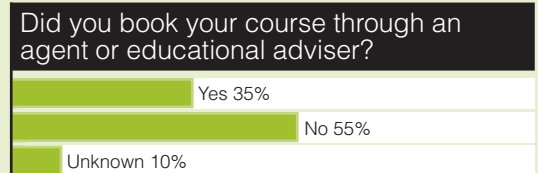
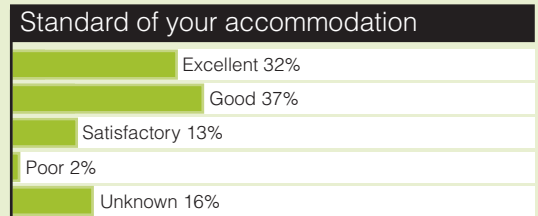
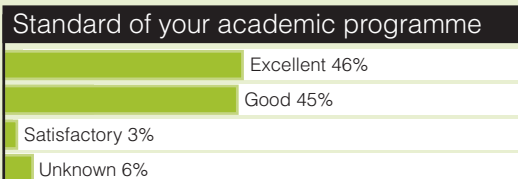
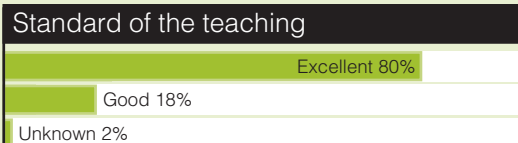
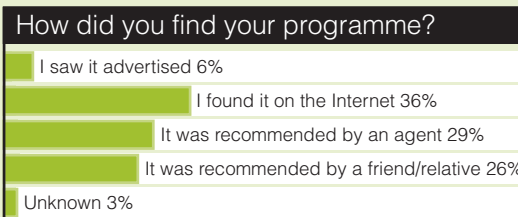
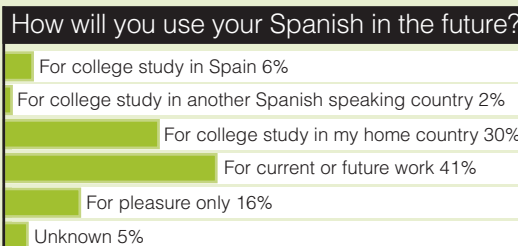
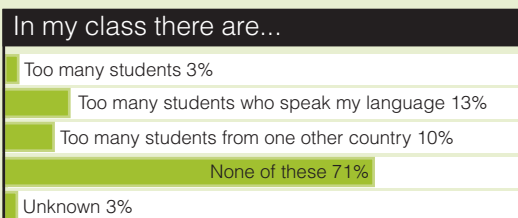
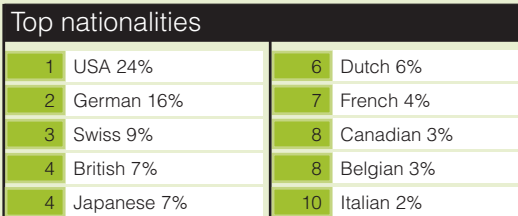
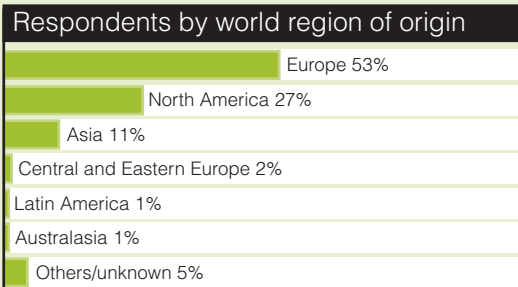
students found out about their school through an agent, 46 per cent booked via an agency. Our survey found that a relatively low 22 per cent of US respondents used an agent to book their course this year. One explanation for this is the high percentage of US students studying in Spain for their college studies at home, as such study trips are usually organised by the college.

### Standard of the schools

Our respondents gave a resounding thumbs up to the standard of their schools. Ninety-six per cent of students said that they would recommend their school to others while the other four per cent declined to reply. With a very low average number of 3.5 students in each class, 71 per cent of students agreed that the nationality mix in their classrooms was just right. Of the 13 per cent who said that there were too many students who spoke their language in their class, 75 per cent were from an English-speaking country and 89 per cent of these were from the USA.

### Living in Spain

Spain boasts comfortable and welcoming living conditions, according to our survey. Sixty per cent of respondents found talking to the local people either easy or quite easy while only five per cent found this hard. The majority, 86 per cent, also found that the cost of living in Spain was either lower or the same as their own country. Of those who found living costs to be more expensive, 46 per cent were from the USA, which reflects the rising value of the euro against the dollar.



**Thank you to the following schools for participating in our survey:** Abaco Instituto Hispanico de Murcia, Murcia; BCN Languages, Barcelona; Centro de Idiomas Quorum, Malaga; Don Quijote, various; Escuela CF Idiomas, Aranda de Duero; Escuela Internacional, various; Escuela Montalban, Granada; International House, Barcelona; Malaca Instituto, Malaga; Spanish Language Centre, Marbella; Universidad de Alicante, Alicante; University Studies Abroad Consortium, various.