



ARRIVAL & FIRST DAY

Factsheet 2024

DESCRIPTION

Arriving in a foreign country for the first time can be a difficult experience. Therefore, Expanish provides several services that will make the first few days in Madrid as smooth as possible. If there are any problems upon arrival either at the airport, in the city, or at the selected housing, Expanish staff are always available at the 24/7 emergency number.

AIRPORTS IN/NEAR MADRID

There is one major airport in Madrid:

- **Madrid-Barajas Airport (MAD):** This is the main airport in Madrid and is easily accessible by public transportation. In general, it takes about 40 to an hour via public transportation or 25 minutes by taxi to get to the city center.

AIRPORT TRANSFER SERVICE

A secure and reliable airport transfer by private car is available through Expanish. After picking up their baggage and passing through the customs checkpoint, students will enter the terminal where they will find a driver with an Expanish sign with their name on it. The driver will take them directly to their housing. Instructions for the airport transfer service will be sent out 2 weeks before arrival. The school also offers a return transfer service.

GETTING TO THE CITY

Expanish also recommends the following forms of transportation from the Barajas (MAD) airport:

- **Taxi** - Taxis are the most convenient way to get to your final destination in the city. Taxis are white with a red stripe. Taxis have a flat rate of €30 to get to the city center. If you are going to a destination outside of Madrid, they will use the meter. It is about 20 minutes to the city center with a taxi.
- **Metro** - Line 8 has stops in Terminal 2 and 4 and can connect to lines 4, 5, 9, and 10. A one-way ticket is €1.50 and it runs from 6 am to 1:30 am.
- **Train**: The above-ground train lines of C1 and C10 connect the airport to multiple points in the city and beyond. The train costs from €2.60 and runs from 6 am to midnight.
- **Bus** - Students can take the 101 or 200 buses from the airport into Madrid for the low cost of €1.50 but it can take a while. Alternatively, for €5 you can take the yellow express bus that gets to the city faster. The yellow express bus runs 24/7, it can be paid with cash or credit card, and takes about 50 minutes to get to the city center.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

During the first days of class, the school will organize a welcome activity for new students. They are designed to help students meet each other and explore a bit of the city before formally starting class. Activities include visits to explore different neighborhoods and parks, going to street fairs, and arranging coffees and meals. Current students are also invited. You can see upcoming activities [HERE](#).



PLACEMENT TESTS

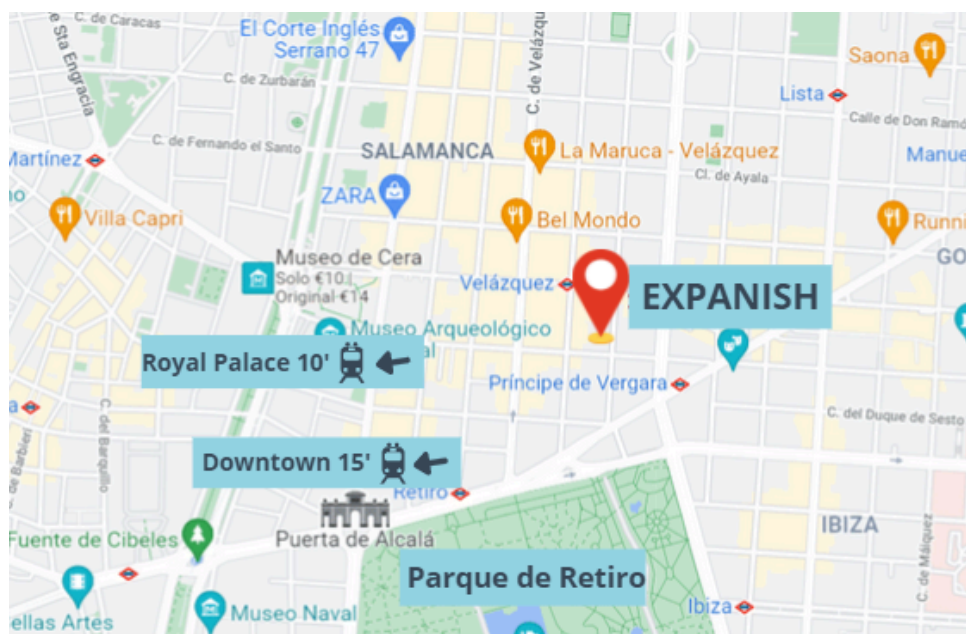
Each student should take an oral online Spanish test. The link is provided in the confirmation email prior to arrival. Students who do not complete the online test will need to complete it in person on the first day of class.

FIRST DAY AT THE SCHOOL

If a student has completed the oral level test online, they should arrive at the school at **8:45 am** on their first day. If a student has not completed the test, they should arrive at **8 am**. Punctuality is important, students who arrive late for the test will miss part of their Spanish class on the first day.

LOCATION

Our school is located in the neighborhood of Salamanca, just two blocks from the famous Parque de Retiro. Our location is ideal as it is quite easy to commute from anywhere in the city via subway or bus.



HOW TO GET TO THE SCHOOL

We always recommend that students can use public transportation to get to school on their first day.

Subway - Expanish is one block from the Velázquez station (Line 4).

Public Transportation Pass For Those 26 and Under

Students who are staying in the city for longer periods should register for a bus pass for young people (“abono joven,” in Spanish), which is 20€ per month and offers unlimited rides in Madrid as well as to Toledo and Guadalajara. Students can register online [HERE](#), however, it can take 3 to 4 weeks to arrive this way so we recommend applying in person and an in-person appointment can be made [HERE](#). The cost to emit the pass is 4€.

WELCOME PACK

All students receive a welcome pack on the first day at the school, which includes a folder, a notepad, a pen, and an Expanish eco-bag to store class materials.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

On the first day of classes, the Expanish staff will provide all new students with a short orientation that covers information about Spanish classes, activities, excursions, and Barcelona in general. This orientation is also a great way to meet fellow students and our friendly staff. We also have a separate orientation about staying safe in Madrid.



SCHOOL DETAILS

School Address:

Calle de Castelló 23

Madrid 28001

Spain

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