



## ILCE' HOST FAMILIES EXPERIENCE

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### Guidelines

- ILCE' s Host Family Experience is a **unique opportunity** that allows students to dive headfirst into Spanish culture and learn the habits, customs, and traditions of a Spanish family. It's a unique experience in that every student and family is different, which means that the student has the opportunity to live an experience that no one else on the program will have. All the activities involved in family life during ILCE's Host Family Experience are geared toward creating a special synergy between student and family that lasts a lifetime.
- Experience has taught us that student satisfaction with their ILCE Host Family Experience grows proportionately with the time spent interacting with the family, whether it's conversing over modern Spanish politics, having dinner together, taking walks in the mountains or just hanging out together. For this reason, **ILCE has a special interest in fostering and promoting activities** which are conducive to spending maximum time **with the family** and discouraging activities which minimize this time. This, in fact, is one of our missions for the ILCE Host Family Experience.
- Because of this mission, we have created certain guidelines of attitude and conduct to orient the student in order to take the most advantage of their limited time with us in Pamplona. The university is a formal context in Spain whose objective is to educate students. We believe that the only way to do this is by fostering values such as demonstrating **mutual respect** between professors, students and administrators, exercising **tolerance** toward other students and professors, keeping an **open mind** about new experiences and ways of learning, and keeping a **positive attitude** about trying new things, just to mention a few.
- At home with the family as well, cultivating these values is of utmost importance. **Living with a family requires respect, patience, an open mind, tolerance, and a genuine desire to learn how Spanish families live.** This last point is important when one realizes that family life is the cradle of Spanish culture. Spanish culture wasn't born at the *Museo del Prado*, or at a *Tablao de Flamenco*, but rather right there at the dinner table, having a **sobremesa** (long talks after lunch or dinner), or just relaxing talking about the days events. It's through these interactions that students start to learn about how Spaniards see the world, how they think and why they do things the way they do them.

- Apart from spending time with the family, student may want to explore Spanish social life in Pamplona. Spain is in general very safe, and Pamplona is extremely safe. Students may go out on their own or with friends. Bus service is excellent. However, host families expect students under the age of 18 to be back at home for dinner time (between 9-10pm) during weekdays. During weekends, students under 18 will be back at home a bit later if they go out with their friends to the movies, to eat something for dinner or for a walk with their friends (11:30-11-45pm). **As a rule, Sundays through Thursdays precollege students are expected to be at home by 10:00 pm, and 11:45 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.** The legal drinking age for buying alcohol and getting into bars in Spain is 18 years of age. All students at ILCE must abide by all applicable Spanish laws and regulations, including drinking age. To be clear, it is not legal to drink in Spain or to get into a bar and drink if you are under 18. If accompany by their host families, students may drink a beer or wine in a bar, but always supervised by an adult.
- The guidelines mentioned here will have a large impact on the student's stay here in Pamplona. ILCE meticulously recruits and screens the families who host students, and our main criterion is that the family have a true desire to open their homes and lives so that foreign students can learn about their beautiful culture. The families who host students do so because they have something to share, and feel that the students who will eventually stay with them also have something uniquely theirs to share. , These few guidelines were created in order to provide the best possible service to the students, the host families, and the students' families in their home countries.

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