

CHID San Sebastián: The Basques and the "Glocal"
San Sebastián, Spain

Program Terms: Spring Quarter

Homepage: [Click to visit](#)

Dates / Deadlines:

There are currently no active application cycles for this program.

Fact Sheet:

Field of Interest: Art History, Humanities, International Studies, Language & Cultural Studies
Affiliated Department: CHID

Program Description:



Comparative History of Ideas San Sebastián: The Basques and the "Glocal"

Location: San Sebastián, Spain

Department: Comparative History of Ideas

Dates: March 29 - June 7, 2014

Estimated Program Fee: \$7,000

Credits: 15

Program Director: María Pozueta (Spanish), Henry Staten (English)

UW Study Abroad Program Manager: Karleigh Koster

Application Deadline: November 8, 2013

Information Session(s): CHID Study Abroad Fair: October 24th, 11:30 -2:30, Allen Library Research Commons. Come talk to CHID International Programs staff about all of CHID's overseas programs.



Program Description

At the same time that the world is moving toward larger political and economic integration—the process of globalization—we are seeing a resurgence of ethnic nationalisms that threaten to fragment the

nation-states within which they occur. As global networks dissolve time and space, people create a feeling of cultural identity by calling on group memory and anchoring themselves in the locales their group has historically called home. This phenomenon is driven by contradictions: on the one hand, there is the evident benefit of the feeling of self-assertion and communal belonging that is created by these “post-nationalisms,” as they are called; on the other hand, the threat of “balkanization,” of disintegration of the established nation state into its constituent ethnicities, threatens the members of these entities with the loss of all the benefits that the nation state has brought.

This program studies post-nationalism with a focus on the Basque country of northern Spain and southern France. The Basque language, Euskera, is unrelated to Spanish or French (or any other known language); today there are estimated to be 600,000 speakers of Euskera, and there is among the Basques of Spain a strong movement of Basque nationalism. We will travel to one of the centers of Basque nationalism, the city of San Sebastian (called Donostia by the Basques), to study this movement in all its complexity. Some Spanish Basques consider themselves simply Spanish, others Spanish-Basque, and others simply Basque; some Basque nationalists seek autonomy for the Basque country within Spain, others want it to be an independent state, the most radical seek a state that unifies the Basques of Spain and France.

During the 40 year dictatorship of Franco, which ended in 1975, the Basque culture and language were officially repressed, but the death of Franco and the ensuing re-integration of Spain into modern Europe sparked a process of cultural and linguistic renewal among the Basques. Even the casual visitor to San Sebastian can see the signs of resurgence of Basqueness: street signs in Basque as well as Spanish, TV channels in Basque, including cartoon channels, Basque spoken by the children on playgrounds. In the public schools children receive instruction in Basque as well as Spanish. The Basques are already building a bilingual and bicultural society, in which global elements are integrated with a vernacular culture. The energy that is driving this project can be felt on the streets of San Sebastian, one of the most politicized places in Europe, with a city government headed by a separatist leftist coalition.

San Sebastian is also one of the most charming smaller cities in Europe—chosen a cultural capital of Europe for 2016, it is world famous for its cuisine and chefs, and a magnet for tourists. The city center is laid out around a beautiful bay on which lie three first class beaches, on one of which is the setting of the final scene of Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*. It is a very livable city, with 47 kilometers of bike track, including a stretch that runs along the edge of the beach.

One of the especially significant places in the Basque country that we will visit is Gernika, the first town ever completely destroyed by modern aerial bombardment (by the Nazis allied with Franco), which became the subject of the famous painting by Picasso, and which survives as a tragic example of Franco’s efforts to suppress Basque independence. We will travel to the nearby French Basque country to understand the arbitrariness of borders, as well as to a variety of Basque towns and cities: the historic town of Estella, with its history of independence that dates back to the Middle Ages; Bilbao, historically the center of shipbuilding, banking, and industry, and today home of the world famous Bilbao Guggenheim museum; and several typical Basque towns, where Basque remains the dominant language and traditional Basque music and dance can still be heard. There will also be a tapas tour in the historic part of San Sebastián.

Our classes will meet at the San Sebastian campus of the University of Deusto, a highly regarded Basque university. In addition to the various activities planned directly through the program, Deusto provides opportunities for program participants to mix in activities with the locals, and will help them find partners with whom to trade off language classes. Program participants will have first class one person rooms with private bath at a modern residence hall located about three hundred yards away from the main beach. Students will have access to the services in the residence hall and on campus (computer room, common study areas, athletic facilities, library, advising, etc.) and can participate in the lively campus life. Breakfast and dinner are included in the program fee. The university is accessible by walking, biking, or public transportation.

Students will be placed in Spanish-language courses according to their knowledge of Spanish. The program director will assist with placing them at the appropriate language level (beginning, intermediate, advanced).



Location

San Sebastián, Spain

Housing

The students will stay in a university dormitory (Colegio mayor Olarain: <http://www.colegiomayorolarain.com/>). Our spring 2013 group of students stayed in the dorm and was very happy there.

Academics

Pre-Requisites/Language Requirements

There are no prerequisites or language requirements, though a basic knowledge of Spanish is desirable. The site and cultural visits make no special physical demands on students.

Credits

15

Courses

CHID 471A - Basque Transnational Identity (5 credits)

The ancient Basque people of northern Spain and southern France have managed to maintain an independent identity for many centuries. Not only do they speak a language unrelated to Spanish or French, but they have a very distinctive culture, going back to the Middle Ages and before, that emphasizes independence, equality, and co-operativism; for example, the Basque provinces were never submitted to the feudal system. Without ever forming into a single “nation,” up until the late 19th century, the Basque cities and provinces fiercely defended their autonomy from the centralized power of Spain, whether under republic, king, or dictator.

This course will provide students with a global perspective on how Basque culture has evolved in times of crisis and how this nation has preserved a prehistoric language and is using it to develop high standards of technology in the twenty first century.

We will focus in particular on two aspects of Basque culture: the language, Euskera, which is the most ancient language in Europe, unrelated to any other European language; and Basque co-operativism—their tradition of sharing equally in the responsibility and reward of group or corporate enterprise. We will also devote concentrated study to the Spanish Civil War of 1934-36; the terror bombing of Gernika about which Picasso made the most famous painting of modern times; the period of the Franco dictatorship (when it was made a serious crime to speak the Basque language); the post-Franco era of ETA terrorism; and the present situation of Basque society.

The analysis of the Basque case gives the opportunity to discuss:

1. Issues regarding the definition of culture and transnational identity
2. Contemporary issues regarding cultural genocide and other problems arising from the clash of diverse national identities.
3. Formulas for conflict resolution and the engineering of coexistence in complex identity frameworks.
4. Cultural rights and democratization in a global transnational world.

CHID 471 B - What is a Nation? (5 credits)

This course will look at races, tribes, and aspiring nations in the United States and around the world to develop a broad theoretical framework around the question: are the Basques a nation?

The concepts of “state” and “nation” are not synonymous, but they are closely related. Peoples like the Kurds, Palestinians, Jews, Catalans, and Basques claim their right to form an independent state on the basis that they are nations. But if a people doesn’t have its own state already, what constitutes it as a nation? Is it racial ties? A common culture? A common language? A common history? In practice, it always turns out to be some mixture of these elements; but defining any one of them is difficult, and establishing a principle that tells us how the mixture is to be evaluated is perhaps impossible. The readings for this course explore these problems of definition, so that by the end of the quarter you should be prepared to intelligently address them on your own. Obviously, the political consequences of the answers one gives to these questions are immense: the Basque country, for example, is only a few years removed from a wave of

terrorism and political violence that lasted for decades, and the threat to the unity of Spain from Catalan and Basque nationalisms remains alive.

These are the topics we will consider:

- The concept of a nation. How do we explain what holds a people together, beyond the fact that they happen, or happen not, to have an independent state of their own?
- The history of the idea of a “nation.” This idea is only a couple of hundred years old. How did the idea of nation evolve, and why does it seem so “natural” today?
- The concepts of “tribe” and “race.” What do they mean in themselves, and what do they contribute to our understanding of “nation”?
- The attempt by an American Indian group (the Mashpee of Massachusetts) to persuade the government of the U.S. to recognize them as a tribe.
- The shifting definitions of what it means to be “black” in the United States and in other countries around the world, and of what it means to be “Mexican” in the United States and in Mexico. How are such groups defined, and to what degree do such definitions correspond to reality? Recent avant-garde theorists have held that group identities are fundamentally illusory (it is widely held, for instance, that there is no such thing as “race”); this argument will be a central focus for our own investigation.
- The development of Basque national consciousness in tandem with that of Spanish national consciousness in the nineteenth century
- The issue of immigration into the Basque country, and the shift in the definitions of Basqueness that immigration has caused in the last fifty years, particularly as manifest in the ideology of the terrorist group ETA
- The way in which Basque punk rock and punk identity in the 1980s became intertwined with shifting ideas of Basqueness

SPAN 199 or 299 - Spanish Language Skills (5 credits)

Instruction in speaking and writing the Spanish language. Students will be placed in a class appropriate to their current Spanish language abilities.



Program Leaders

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Program Expenses

Estimated Cost

\$7,000 - This includes two meals a day (breakfast and dinner). The program fee does not include the Study Abroad Fee (\$300), airfare, lunch, Study Abroad Insurance (\$40/month), and personal spending money.

Average Airplane Ticket Price

\$1,500* roundtrip *Subject to when & where you buy your ticket

Payment Schedule

Program fees will be posted to your MyUW student account and can be paid the same way that you pay tuition and other fees. A \$350 non-refundable program deposit and \$300 non-refundable Study Abroad Fee will be charged to your MyUW Account once your signed contract has been processed by the Study Abroad Office.

Payment Type	Payment Amount	Payment Due Date
Non-Refundable Program Deposit	\$350	Charged Upon Processing of Contract
Non-Refundable Study Abroad Fee	\$300	4/18/2014
Program Fee Balance	\$6,650	4/18/2014
TOTAL FEES CHARGED	\$7,300	-

Orientation

To be eligible to study abroad, all program participants must attend an in-person pre-departure orientation facilitated by the Study Abroad office as well as your program-specific orientations, offered by your program director.

You must register for orientation through your online study abroad account in order to attend scheduled orientations. You can visit the [Orientation section](#) of our website to view the current orientation schedule.

Orientation must be completed prior to the enrollment deadline for the quarter that you are studying abroad.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Most forms of financial aid can be applied to study abroad. You can verify that your financial aid award will apply to your program costs by contacting the Financial Aid Office. Financial aid or scholarships awarded as tuition waivers or tuition exemptions may not apply so you will need to verify that these funds are eligible for use with study abroad by contacting the funding office.

Please remember that financial aid and most scholarships will be disbursed according to the UW academic calendar (at the beginning of the quarter). If your program starts before the start of the UW quarter, your financial aid will not be available to you until after you have left the country. If your program starts after the first day of the quarter, your financial aid will be disbursed on the first day of the program. In either of these cases, you will have to finance any upfront costs such as airfare and health insurance and the start of your time abroad on your own. Please take this into consideration when you plan your foreign study.

Please visit the [Finances section](#) of our website to learn more about disbursement, revising your aid package, short-term loans, and scholarships.

Application Process

The application includes a Personal Statement, three short answer questions, one faculty recommendation, and electronic signature documents related to university policies and expectations for study abroad. Following the on-line application process students may be contacted by the Program Director for an in-person interview. Once admissions decisions have been regarding your application, you will be notified by the study abroad system via email.



Disability Accommodations

The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, and education for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation for this program, contact Disability Resources for Students at least 8 weeks in advance of your departure date. Contact info at [Disability Resources for Students](#).

Withdrawals

The \$350 program deposit and \$300 Study Abroad Fee are **non-refundable**. Students withdrawing from a program will be responsible for paying a percentage of the program fee depending on the date of withdrawal. More details about the withdrawal policy will be included in your payment contract. No part of the program fee is refundable once the program has begun. The date of withdrawal is considered the date (business day) a withdrawal form is received by the Study Abroad Office. Notice of withdrawal from the program must be made in writing, completing the following steps:

1. Provide notice in writing to the program director that you will no longer be participating in the program for which you have signed a contract and accepted a slot.
2. Submit a signed withdrawal form to the Study Abroad Office, 459 Schmitz Hall.

Please visit the [Withdrawals section](#) of our website for more information.

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