OUR SCHOOL

We would like to introduce our school, which, since 1995, has offered Spanish language and cultural courses to students from all over the world. Our teachers have dedicated the majority of their careers to teaching Spanish and we are very proud to present our school to you. We are a small and specialized school, offering programs for schools and individual students. We can offer tailored programs to meet the objectives of students and teachers alike.

We are a proven, dynamic and innovative school. Our courses, which run throughout the year are taught by true and qualified professionals and our aim is to ensure that our students maximize their time with us, learning the language, the culture and experiencing their time with us to the maximum.

Location and facilities are key. We are located in the city centre, close to all amenities and shops. The school itself occupies the first floor of a modern building with spacious classrooms with plenty of natural light. We have free internet and WIFI, film and book library, a patio and student area and full facilities for our disabled students.

GROUP PROGRAMS

We have over 18 years experience in working with school groups from all over the world. Personalized and innovative group programs can be prepared within 24 hours for groups of 15 + students. We can offer help and guidance with every aspect of the group’s program from arrival to departure. We will handle all logistics and provide example programs with clear and simple, competitive pricing with no hidden costs or charges and no price changes.

Our objective is to maintain long term relationships and provide the best experience possible.

We work with schools from: UK, France, Germany, Norway, Holland, USA.

WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SUPPLY REFERENCES ON REQUEST.
CLASSES

What you will find in your class

We work to combine our students needs with the following methodologies:
- Introduce and facilitate the use of Spanish grammar.
- Direct teaching methodology – teacher directed program.
- Communicative methodology
- Focus using authentic tasks and real life situations
- Maximum of 6 students per class.

What you won’t find in your class

We don’t work with just one course book or teaching manual per class. Our teacher will adapt your class to your needs using a variety of the best materials available, incorporating the linguistic and communicative needs of our students. Grammar, conversation and culture are integral in the classroom and interactive skills-based activities take a precedence.

We don’t believe in using different teachers for different learning areas, nor do we mix teachers within our groups. Our teachers are trained and experienced so that they are able to incorporate and manage all the necessary materials and teaching methods to cover all aspects of the course.

We don’t create our own material! We make use of only the best course books from reputable publishers.

We use a range of different materials carefully chose to adapt to individual needs. We haven’t invented a unique teaching method. We simply adapt and combine the most efficient teaching methodologies according to the requirements of our students.
ACTIVITIES

Included

A program of (group) activities at no extra cost (2 per week) for all courses are organised by the staff and teachers. Visits to monasteries, the cathedral, the Arabic quarter, the weekly Tapas Tour, Sevillianas classes, a literature workshop, Spanish cinema workshop or culture workshops are an example of what we hope will enhance our students language learning.

Optional

Given the location of Granada, we are able to offer a wide variety of year round activities. We are happy to create a program based on a specific activity for groups or individuals, from sporting activities such as mountain biking, climbing or skiing in the Sierra Nevada mountains, to sailing or water sports in the Tropical Coast, or a weekend trip to Morocco..... and much more!
ACCOMMODATION

- Carefully chosen families • Quality accommodations for our students • Peace of mind for parents •

As Granada is a university city, with over 70,000 students, many families rent rooms to students. We avoid placing our students with these families as there tends to be less personal contact – which is one of the most important aspects of lodging with a Spanish family.

We ensure that any other students lodging with the same family are of a different nationality and that the accommodation is less than a 15 minute walk from the school. We recommend living with a family, to those students who wish to immerse themselves totally and experience Spanish culture and the renowned Mediterranean diet. Their rooms will be cleaned for them and they will have their clothes washed, as well as some or all of their meals being provided within the home. They will be totally independent, as they will have their own key to go in and out at their discretion.

If the students/teachers prefer a different type of accommodation, we can arrange for them to stay in a guest house, a hostel, hotel, residency or shared flat. (all within 15 minutes walk from the school) with provision made for cleaning of accommodation with towels and laundry provided.
GRANADA

Granada is a smaller, safer, city which makes it easy to discover! With a lively atmosphere, Andalusian welcome, history and ambience rich city centre and surrounds and a privileged location at the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains yet only 45 minutes from the Tropical Coast, Granada offers a practical choice for combining city based language learning and combining easily with a programme of year round activities.

HISTORY OF GRANADA
The first settlements in Granada dated back to 1500-2000 BC, where small tribes lived close to Granada. At this time, the region was inhabited by the Phoenicians and subsequently the Carthaginians. From the 5th century, when Visigoths conquered the city, establishing it as a military stronghold. It was from that time that Granada started to become a more significant city. During the same period, a small Jewish community lived in the region, calling it “Garnata al-Yahut”, which was probably the origin of the city’s name.

In 711 the Moors took over the city of Granada and developed it during the next 300 years. At the beginning of the second millennium, the city was almost completely destroyed, because of fights between the ruling clans. Finally, in 1013, the dynasty of Ziries came to power converting the region into an independent kingdom. The expansion of Granada was sustained under the regime of Nazari dynasty, one of its greatest periods. The Nazari family controlled Granada until 1492, when it was incorporated to Castilla by Ferdinand and Isabel which marked the end of the last Muslim kingdom in Spain.

During the next centuries the Moorish population was baptized by force and all the signs of the Arabian culture were prohibited. This led to rebellions and riots and as a consequence, most of the Moorish were expatriated.

Until the middle of 20th century, Granada was in economic depression. Some years after that it became an important Spanish university city and also artistic centre, with Federico García Lorca and Manuel de Falla living here. Now Granada is a thriving and growing modern city which enjoys a wonderfully rich history and great atmosphere as Spain’s third largest university city.
USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW

Weather
The weather in Granada is seasonal and can be extreme. Winter can be cold with temperatures below zero, although there is generally more sun and brighter cold days than rain and snow. December and January are the coldest months. During summer, temperatures can rise to over 40 degrees centigrade, into the 100s Fahrenheit. July and August are the hottest months.

You can normally guarantee good weather from June to the end of September. October is great but it can rain also, generally “winter” starts in November and ends in March...spring is short here and the heat comes quickly!! Granada has a dry climate

There are many options to enjoy Granada and the beautiful countryside that surrounds it, such as mountain climbing, biking, trekking, horse riding or rafting...

In Winter
The obvious sport in winter is Skiing and during your stay in Granada you can make the most of having the Sierra Nevada ski resort just 45 minutes away... The skiing is fantastic, with some great slopes and runs for ski or boards. The Sierra Nevada has been voted one of the top ten ski resorts in Europe by Conde Nast Traveller.

Skiing is not the only sport that you can enjoy in Winter, due to the dry climate, there are many sunny winter days where the temperature hits 15-20 degrees easily. Mountain biking, trekking and mountain climbing are very popular with locals and visitors alike. It’s a good way to meet people and get to know the surrounds of the city....

In Summer
During the summer in Granada, temperatures can rise into the 40s. The city is generally quieter as the schools and Universities are on holiday from June through to at least September. August is the quietest month when a lot of people choose to take their summer holidays also.

The Tropical coast (Granada’s coast line) is a popular resort for those wishing to escape the heat in July and August. However, city life continues, albeit at a slightly slower pace! Granada always comes to life at night and summer nights are no different. People enjoy evening strolls, city bars with terraces and of course the wonderful Albaicin which has many open air restaurants with the most spectacular views imaginable.
PLACES OF INTEREST

Alhambra & Generalife Gardens
Dating back to the 9th Century and soaked in history, the Alhambra is a world famous monument and is a must see during your stay in Granada. Spring is a fantastic time as the Generalife Gardens are spectacular at this time of year.

The Alhambra offers a summer programme of theatre, music and dance – all at night in the amazing surrounds of the Generalife gardens. It is a wonderful experience and as you would expect, tickets sell out extremely quickly.

Albaicin
The Albaicín isn’t just Granada’s oldest district - it’s also the largest and most characteristic of Spain’s surviving Islamic quarters! The rambling white-washed web of intertwining cobbled streets will take you back to the years of Islamic splendour. Practically unchanged, the Albaicín, which is also a World Heritage Site, emanates Arabic culture from every street! Amongst the intimate squares and original Islamic fountains, you’ll find Arab baths, Islamic palaces, and many interesting places to pass the day or night....

Cuesta de los Chinos
Located at the end of the Paseo de los Tristes and looking up to the Alhambra Palace, this place is a meeting point to relax, read a book, sell artifacts, watch the world go by or paint.

Parque de García Lorca
What was once the countryside surrounding the home of famed poet, author, and playwright Federico García Lorca is now an enchanting park named after him. Perfect for a lazy late afternoon stroll or a relaxed picnic lunch, or a pit stop at the bar. Perfect for strolling, walking or jogging... take the opportunity to revel in its footpaths lined with trees, bushes, and
blossoms. Be sure to head to the García Lorca Park’s "rosaleda," where hundreds of species of roses come together for unbeatable visual and aromatic pleasure. It is a great place to chill out in the middle of the city.

Sierra Nevada

The Sierra Nevada is a dramatic, rugged and extensive mountain range, the highest in Europe after the Alps. The protected area encompasses torrential rivers, sheer-sided gorges, stony slopes, glacial lakes between snowy summits and, in the foothills of the Alpujarras, cultivated terraces of almond trees and vegetables. Designated a national park in 1998, it is one of only two in Andalucia. It was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1986, in recognition of its exceptionally diverse plant, bird and animal species.

As we mentioned before, in the Sierra Nevada you can enjoy a wide range of activities such as skiing, mountain climbing, hiking, mountain biking and horse riding to name a few. Any activity can be arranged by the school with qualified professionals.

Las Alpujarras

Las Alpujarras is a 70km long collection of valleys along the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. It is a mixture of dramatic mountains, deep ravines, sloping hillsides, huge gorges, and the most breath-taking views. It is full of many clusters of beautiful white villages, often seemingly clinging together on the side of a steep mountainside, which are a traditional feature of this area.

Las Alpujarras has often been described as 'oddball', 'kooky' or 'strange' due to its uniqueness, and olde-world quality. It has a sense of timelessness and its own pace of life. It is extremely picturesque and beautiful and once seen, never forgotten. The Alpujarran people are very welcoming; everywhere you go you are greeted with a friendly 'Hola' and are soon made to feel part of the community. There is a strong emphasis placed on family life; you will often see several generations of the same family sat down enjoying a meal together.

It is a particularly delightful area to explore on foot and there are many well-signposted walking routes, ranging from a short stroll, to day long hikes into the Sierra Nevada. For the really serious walker there are two famous long-distance foot paths that cross Las Alpujarras. One is the GR-7, which begins in Tarifa in Cádiz province and crosses Europe all the way to Greece. The other is the GR-142 which runs from Lanjarón to Fiñana on the northern side of the Sierra Nevada in Almeria province.

Las Alpujarras, and in particular Granada, is famous for its delicious tapas. These are small snacks served (free) with an alcoholic drink and cover
a wide range of imaginative dishes. The town of Trevélez is famous for its 'jamón serrano' (cured ham). The well known 'Alpujarras' or 'Costa' wine can also be sampled.

**Granada Beaches and Coastline**

The Costa Tropical, situated between the Costa del Sol in Málaga and the Costa de Almería, is a rich strip of coastline which boasts the very best conditions and attractions necessary to provide an excellent holiday. Its situation on the Mediterranean, its closeness to Africa and to the Sierra Nevada, with the highest peaks on the Peninsula, protect the Costa Tropical from the cold northerly winds. The result is a subtropical micro-climate, with 320 days of sunshine a year and an average temperature of around 20°C, where all kinds of tropical fruit is grown, such as Kiwis, avocados, bananas. Winter temperatures are usually between 15-18 °C and in Summer between 25-30 °C.

With six tourist centres - La Herradura, Almuñécar, Salobreña, Motril, Castell de Ferro and La Rébita – the Costa Tropical boasts a good tourist network where countless sports can be practiced: windsurfing, surfing, scuba diving, fishing, sailing, waterskiing, golf, tennis, squash and horse-riding.
HOW TO GET TO GRANADA - TRANSPORT

Granada is easily reached by train and coach, with connections from both stations arriving only a few minutes walk from the school.

National and International flights arrive to Granada (Iberia, Vueling, Hispania, Spanair) and Malaga (over 50 international airlines) airport.

Granada airport is located 15km west of the city centre with buses and taxis readily available with a transfer time of approximately 20 minutes.

Malaga airport is located 135km from Granada, which is approximately 90 minutes by car or 2 hours by coach.

As part of our service to our students and teachers, we offer advice and information to help plan the most cost and time effective travel to and from Granada. We will also arrange transfers to and from the airport, bus or train station.

Centro de Idiomas SHM
Calle San Anton 41, 1a
Granada, 18005
SPAIN
Tel: +34 958 010 172
Email: info@shm.edu
Web: www.shm.edu
Skype: languageschoolgranada