



# Berklee Valencia



## Pre-Departure Guide

Berklee Study Abroad and First Year Abroad

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# Student Services



The Student Affairs team in Valencia offers many services and activities to ensure the success and well-being of all students. Services include medical assistance, personal counseling, accessibility resources and housing. Activities include day trips, health and wellness programs, cultural events, and concerts.

Learn more about [Student Services](#) at the Valencia campus.

## Courses and Faculty

First Year Abroad students will be registered for their courses after the placement assessments have been completed. You will receive your schedule during Orientation in Valencia. Review the First Year Abroad [courses](#) and [faculty](#).

Study Abroad students will register for their courses during Berklee College of Music's registration period, which is typically in April for the fall semester and in November for the spring semester. Review the Study Abroad [courses](#) and [faculty](#).

## Important Dates

For program dates, including move-in, orientation, and holidays, refer to the [Valencia academic calendar](#).

# Life in Valencia



Welcome to Valencia! Your new home is the epitome of the Mediterranean lifestyle: sunny weather, great food, picturesque scenery, and a welcoming, friendly community. Get to know Valencia by reviewing the content of the [Valencia Student Handbook](#). This handbook contains the most accurate information available and is reviewed annually. Watch out for the latest version coming soon!

Additionally, here are some facts, tips, and recommendations we've gathered:

## Fast Facts

- The city is home to over 800,000 people.
- Valencia is located on the southeast coast of Spain.
- It is the third-largest city in Spain, after Madrid and Barcelona.
- The city has two official languages: Spanish and Valencian.
- The currency is the euro (€).
- In 2022 Valencia was designated World Design Capital by the [WDO](#).

## Arriving to the Student Residence

The easiest way to get from the airport to the residence is by taxi. The residence address is:  
Livensa Living Valencia Marina Real  
Calle Francesc Cubells, 7  
Valencia, Spain 46011

Early move-in is not permitted. If you will arrive in Valencia before the move-in period, you may consider [short-term housing and hotels](#).

# The Valencia Campus

To learn more about what's going on at Berklee's campus in Spain, follow the Valencia campus on Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and Twitter.

Read more about [campus facilities](#) and check out the [virtual tour!](#)

## Housing and Transportation

Students are required to stay in housing arranged by Berklee. Bed linens, towels, room cleaning, and internet are included.

Meals are not included with housing. Many students buy food at local supermarkets and cook at their residence. There are also many great cafes and restaurants near the campus and the residences.

Please note that, due to a recent update in the terms and conditions of Livensa Living Marina Real, students are required to submit a €250 security deposit to Livensa Living directly, prior to their arrival in Valencia. Information on how to submit this security deposit will be provided by the residence management team directly to students once rooming assignments have been notified to you. This security deposit should be refunded in full to students during the checkout process of the designated room at the end of their stay at the residence hall, with the exception of instances where the student is found to be responsible for damages to the room, related objects, or any of the common spaces of the residence hall. The costs of these damages will be deducted from the security deposit as needed.

Read more about [First Year Abroad Housing](#) and [Study Abroad Housing](#) on our website. (First Year Abroad and Study Abroad students live together at the same residence.)

Many students use Valencia's public transportation system, including bus, metro, and bike rental (Valenbisi). You can walk almost anywhere in the city.



# Valencia Neighborhoods

## Ciutat Vella: Historic Downtown

In el Carmen you will find the history of Valencia as well as leisure activities, art, restaurants, and lots of shops. If you want to explore, you can visit la Lonja de la Seda (the Old Silk Market); the Plaza de la Virgen, adjacent to Valencia Cathedral; or el Mercado Central (the Central Market), which is one of the most vibrant places in the city.

## Ruzafa

If you are interested in experiencing Valencia's nightlife, then Ruzafa is your place. This is the most active neighborhood in the city, with its own market and plenty of exquisite food—a mix between new trends and old traditions.

## Gran Vía

Right next to Ruzafa, this neighborhood is characterized by its modern architecture, numerous restaurants, and high-end boutiques.

## El Cabanyal, El Canyamelar

Due to its location on the Mediterranean coast, Valencia's old sailing and fishing neighborhoods have long flourished with cultural, social, and historic initiatives. El Cabanyal offers singular architecture and is one of the most traditional neighborhoods in the city.

## Patacona

La Patacona beach is your best option if you want to have a relaxing day at the seaside while staying in the city. It is the perfect place to breathe and recharge. You can also bike, play sports, and walk along the ocean.

## Mestalla

If you like soccer, this is the place you will want to hang out. In this neighborhood, you'll find the stadium that is home to the Valencia FC team. If you're a fan of European soccer, you'll know that Valencia won the European UEFA Super Cup in 1980 and 2004.

## Places You Shouldn't Miss (You'll thank us later.)

- Albufera National Park
- The Cathedral and Miguelete Tower
- Serranos and Quart Towers
- Lonja de la Seda (declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO)
- Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (The City of Arts and Sciences)
- Museo de Bellas Artes de Valencia (Museum of Fine Arts Valencia)
- Chinatown
- Valencia's Central Park

# What To Pack

- ✓ Berklee ID card (Continuing Berklee students only): Bring your ID, otherwise you'll need to get a replacement in Valencia for which there is a fee. First Year Abroad students and students from other schools will get their Berklee ID in Valencia. *Note: In Valencia, you cannot use your ID card to make cashless purchases on campus or at area businesses. (This service is only available at the Boston campus.)*
- ✓ Computer: You must bring your laptop. You will have wireless access at the Berklee campus and the student residence. It's a good idea to bring your Mbox if you use it often.
- ✓ Medications: We strongly encourage you to bring enough medication to last your entire stay. If that is not possible, please email the Berklee Medical Assistance Team in Valencia at [berklee@upromedes.com](mailto:berklee@upromedes.com) to discuss options for getting your medication in Valencia. We do not advise having medication sent to you by mail or courier. It may incur taxes and take a long time to go through Customs. (We also advise against sending food and cosmetics by mail.)
- ✓ Plug Adapters (for electronics): You'll need plug adapters that match the shape of the outlets in Spain. The voltage is 220 (vs. 110 in the U.S.) but most modern appliances, including cell phones and laptops have a voltage converter built in. If your device says 100-240V, you just need a plug adapter so that the plug fits into the wall.
- ✓ Money: Exchange some money before going to Valencia. You'll want enough cash (Euros) to get a taxi from the airport to your residence and to purchase essentials for the first few days. A taxi from the airport to your residence may cost around 30 Euros.
- ✓ Clothes: Layers are best! It can be quite warm during the days and get chilly at night. If you plan to travel, plan for that too, as weather varies greatly through Spain and Europe. See [weather.com](http://weather.com) for average temperatures.

## What Not To Pack

- ✗ Bedding and towels: Sheets, pillows, blankets, and towels will be provided upon arrival at the student residence.
- ✗ Textbooks: You will find out what books you need once you get to Valencia. Textbooks and supplies can be purchased at the library at the Valencia campus.

## Health and Travel Insurance

Students must be enrolled in a health insurance plan that provides comprehensive coverage and is compliant with state and federal regulations, even while studying abroad. Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee students are automatically enrolled in Berklee's Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). You may waive (decline) participation in the SHIP if you can demonstrate comparable coverage. Students from other schools must meet the health insurance requirements of their home institution. Berklee provides all students with supplemental Spanish health insurance. Read more about [First Year Abroad Insurance](#) and [Study Abroad Insurance](#).

## Flights

It's best to fly directly into Valencia. The airport code is VLC. Some students fly to Madrid or Barcelona and take the train to Valencia, but that can be difficult, especially with luggage and instruments. Some good places to check for flights are [studentuniverse.com](#) and [kayak.com](#).

## Phones

Having a working cell phone while abroad is important. In Valencia you can buy an inexpensive "pay as you go" phone. During Orientation you will receive information about local phone providers. Many students also use their current smartphone to access the internet wherever there is free wifi—on campus, at the student residence, etc. You may be able to put your current phone plan on hold for the time you will be abroad (check with your phone company.)

## Money

Students can use their debit cards to withdraw money at ATMs in Valencia, and most major credit cards, including Visa, Mastercard, and American Express are accepted in Spain. We recommend checking with your bank and credit card company to find out what fees may be charged when using your card abroad. It's also a good idea to let them know you will be traveling so they do not freeze your account when you use your card while abroad.

You do not need to open a bank account in Spain, however some students staying in Valencia for more than one semester choose to do so. More information will be provided during Orientation in Valencia.



# Instruments and Equipment



Students should bring their own instruments and equipment, taking into consideration the following policies and guidelines. More information about reserving instruments and equipment will be provided during Orientation in Valencia.

Instruments and equipment available for use on-campus: Standard drum sets and pianos are available in the rehearsal facilities (i.e. ensemble/teaching/practice rooms). The campus has cymbals, electric guitars, acoustic guitars, semi-acoustic and electric basses and three upright basses (two acoustic and one electric Yamaha Silent Bass.) There's a wide array of small percussion and electronic instruments (midi/keyboard controllers, MPC's, Push, EWI's, Keytars, etc.). Microphones are available for rehearsals and small recordings in the rehearsal facilities (although singers are expected to bring their own microphones). These instruments and equipment are available by reservation via the Intranet, and can be booked multiple times per day, depending on availability.

Instruments and equipment available for use off-campus: There's a drum set (cymbals are not authorized), guitar amp, keyboard amp, bass amp, small mixer (no PA speakers), and a limited number of microphones, XLR cables, and instrument cables. The Silent Bass (upright electric) is also available. Additionally, some percussion can be authorized, including shaker, cajon, and congas. These instruments and equipment are available by reservation via the Intranet.

# Transporting and Renting Equipment

## Air Travel

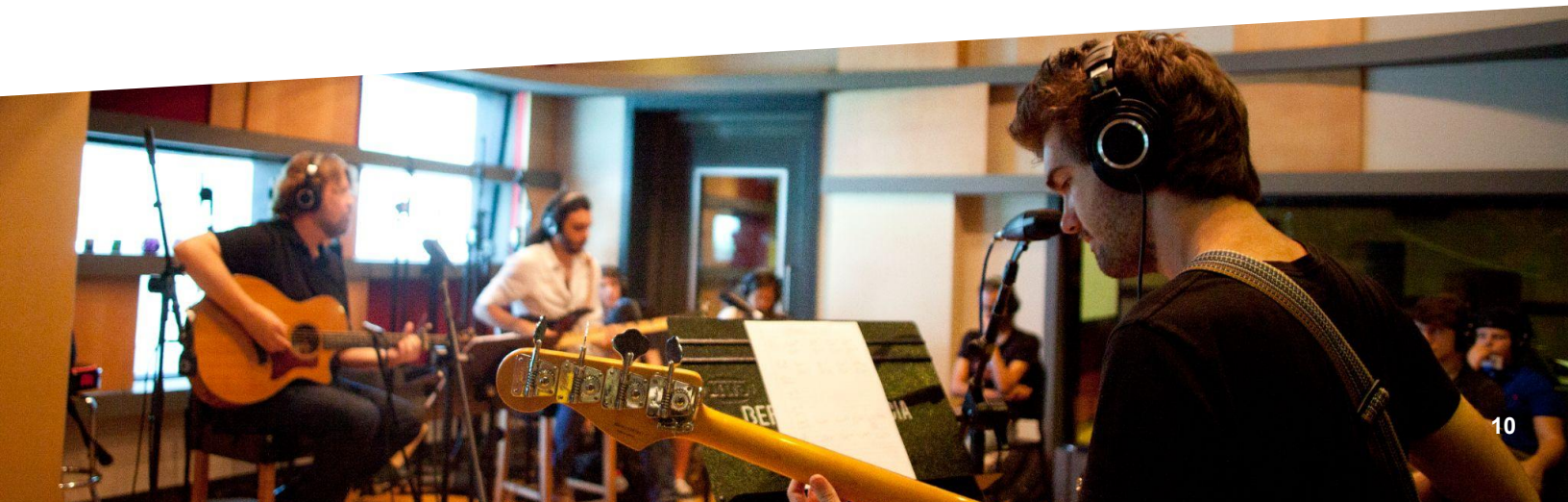
When purchasing your flight, contact different airlines and check their policies for flying with musical instruments. Airlines should allow a smaller instrument to be brought on the plane as carry-on baggage. For a larger instrument, you may be required to purchase an extra seat or check your instrument at the gate and have it transported in the cargo area of the airplane. Find some helpful tips at [chamber-music.org](http://chamber-music.org), [sonicbids.com](http://sonicbids.com), and [transportation.gov](http://transportation.gov).

## Shipping

If flying with your instrument is not possible, consider shipping it. Some options include [UPS](http://UPS.com) and [FedEx](http://FedEx.com), and [vermontviolins.com](http://vermontviolins.com) has some tips.

## Renting

Students do not typically rent instruments in Valencia, but if you would like to consider it, one option is [Call and Play](http://CallandPlay.com), which has a location in Valencia and offers [students discounts](#). There may be other options depending on your instrument and duration of rental.



# What To Bring

- ✓ **Laptop, Software and Audio Interface:** Please check the [Technology Requirements for Entering Students](#) page for details.
- ✓ **Cables:** In addition to your laptop and audio interface, we recommend that you bring the appropriate cables to connect your setup to a P.A. system.
- ✓ **Headphones:** All students are required to bring their own headphones.
- ✓ **Vocalists:** Bring your own microphones.
- ✓ **Guitarists:** Bring your instrument, tuner, patch cable and accessories (i.e. extra strings, picks, etc.) The campus does not provide cables, but has amps in the ensemble and practice rooms.
- ✓ **Bassists:** There are several basses at the Valencia campus (see above). Students may also wish to ship their bass or rent one in Valencia, but these options may be difficult and/or expensive.
- ✓ **Piano and Keyboard Players:** Pianos and keyboards will be provided during classes and are available in reservable practice rooms. You may wish to bring your own keyboard for practicing off-campus. A small selection of MIDI keyboards are available for up to 24h off-campus reservations via the Intranet.
- ✓ **Horn and String Players:** Bring your instrument, accessories needed for maintenance, and your microphone if you have one.
- ✓ **Drummers:** Bring your stick bag and practice pad. You should bring your own cymbals and hi-hat clutch if you want to play off-campus. Standard drum sets and cymbals are available for use during classes and reservable for on-campus use.
- ✓ **Percussionists:** There are congas, timbales, cajons and bongos available on campus during classes. Bring your bells, sticks, cymbals, and any other accessories you might use. Vibraphones and marimbas are also available at the campus.



Berklee Valencia



## Contact Us

### First Year Abroad

For questions about your application, acceptance, and next steps, email [ad@berklee.edu](mailto:ad@berklee.edu).

For questions about passports, visas, and travel, email [studyabroad@berklee.edu](mailto:studyabroad@berklee.edu).

### Study Abroad

For all questions, email [studyabroad@berklee.edu](mailto:studyabroad@berklee.edu).