

The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

APRIL 2025 EDITION

THIS MONTH

CULTURAL VISIT & TRIPS

Read about the Cathedral visit & Granada trip that our students took this month.

EXTRACURRICULARS

Learn all about this month's cooking and Sevillanas dance classes.

STUDENT CORNER

"Immersion in Seville's Culture", by Victoria Gamarra (U. of Mount Saint Vincent), and "Beyond the Bubble", by Renita Chen (U. of Hawaii at Manoa)

ICS SOCIAL MEDIA

Listen to our latest podcast broadcasts.

UPCOMING NEWS

Read about what our students yet have to look forward to for the remainder of the semester.

To view all of our student blogs, visit: ics-seville.org/blogs.

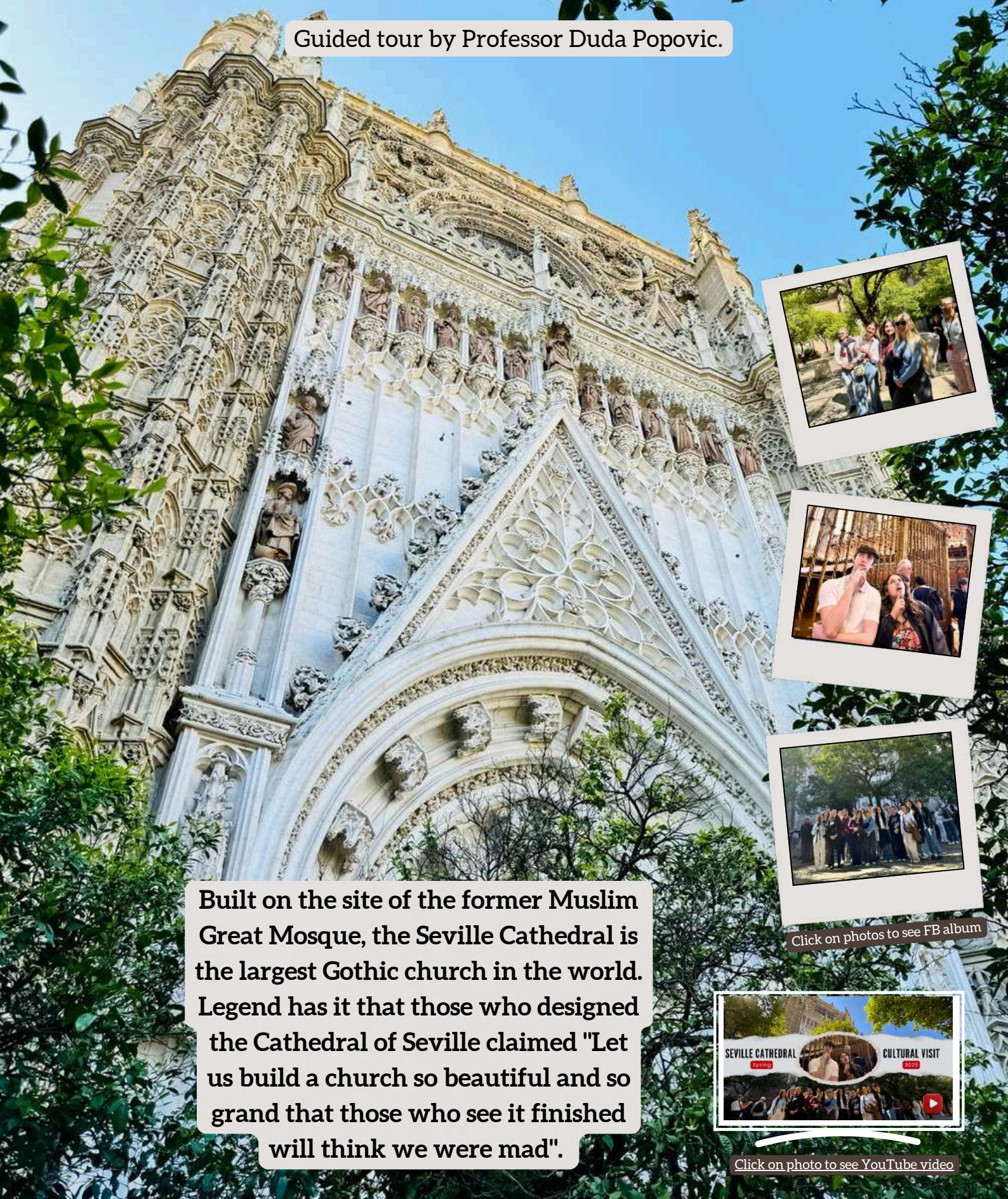


THE CATHEDRAL



Spring Cultural Visits

Guided tour by Professor Duda Popovic.



Click on photos to see FB album

Built on the site of the former Muslim Great Mosque, the Seville Cathedral is the largest Gothic church in the world. Legend has it that those who designed the Cathedral of Seville claimed "Let us build a church so beautiful and so grand that those who see it finished will think we were mad".



Click on photo to see YouTube video



WEEKEND IN GRANADA

The last vestiges of Al-Andalus



In Granada we toured a most compelling city of serene Islamic architecture and Arab-flavored street life at the foot of the Sierra Nevada.

[Click on photos to see FB album](#)



[Click on photo to see YouTube video](#)



Spanish Cooking Class



This month we had our last session of *Paella Mixta* and moved on to *Tortilla Española* with *Fruity Sangría!*



Check out the video of our *Tortilla Española* and *Fruity Sangria* class!



ICS COOKING CLASSES

MAKING SPANISH TORTILLA

Spring 2025

Click on pictures to see Facebook albums



Sevillanas Dance Class



In preparation for Seville's iconic April Fair we offered Sevillanas dance classes to our students at the Rocío Albéniz dance studio. See how well they've learned!



Check out our video of our Sevillanas dance classes!



Click on pictures to see Facebook album



Immersion in Seville's Local Community



Hello! My name is Victoria Gamarra and I am a junior at the University of Mount Saint Vincent majoring in Psychology and Spanish with a minor in Education. In the past 2 months in Spain with ICS, I have had a blast getting to know new people, having new experiences and learning a new culture. My involvement on a local soccer team and interning at a language exchange school has only added to the joy of studying abroad.



With my teammates of Azahara FC



With team captain, Raquel



With Azahara FC coach, Michael

Soccer has been a cornerstone in my life for countless years, so it was a no-brainer for me to inquire about playing soccer in Seville. Before coming to Spain, I spoke with my college coach about my desire to play during my time abroad. Knowing everything was going to be new for me, it provided me a sense of comfort that I could still have the sport that has been my constant for years. In my first practice I was introduced to the team and they welcomed me right away. Being an outsider from not only the team but the country, everyone treated me with respect as a player of this beloved sport. From the start I could tell that they were a close knit team which reminded me of my team's dynamic. In attending practices I have learned a slightly new style of play and practice approach from what I know in the States. Despite all the cultural differences and language barrier that my Spanish teammates and I have, we share the common language of soccer which spans across culture.

At my internship at the BLS Language Exchange school, I substitute and assist teachers in helping students of all ages learn English. As an aspiring future educator, I knew that I could not pass up on a golden opportunity like working in a language exchange school during my time abroad. Every week I enhance my teaching skills and learn new ways of engaging the students in their language journey. It is amazing to witness the different



At the BLS Language Exchange school



Immersion in Seville's Local Community *Part II*



With teaching colleagues at BLS

stages of language development in each classroom which has provided me with a greater understanding of the language learning process. It has also opened up a new pathway in teaching for me that I now can consider as another possibility in my future. Ultimately, it has been such a joy collaborating with all the teachers and working with each child as they grow in their language skills each week.

From both of these amazing experiences, I have learned and grown in a multitude of areas. My communication skills in Spanish continue to advance as I learn new words and ways of living. While a language barrier continues to exist, having a positive attitude spans across languages. Connecting with the local community has shown me a side of Spain that I would not have been able to experience otherwise. Studying abroad has been a fantastic experience in itself, but with the immersion addition of playing on a local soccer team and interning at a language school, I have had a cultural fulfillment beyond my expectation.



Fully enjoying my immersion!



Kicking it with ICS student, Victoria Gamarra



Beyond the Bubble



I've had a great experience during my study abroad in Seville. I've made new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. The ICS Study Abroad program is very unique because we are a small group of students who do homestays in close proximity. Though this is great and convenient, and I enjoy frequently running into my ICS friends and classmates, sometimes you just need to step out of the ICS bubble.



At a local language exchange



Out with the running club

Stepping outside of the ICS bubble has helped me create new friendships that I never would have been able to make otherwise, especially with the local community. I think everyone should challenge themselves not to get too comfortable during their study abroad, as it can limit the opportunity to form new and exciting friendships and memories.



Evening running club

Here are some tips on how you can step out of your comfort zone, connect with new people, and make the most of your study abroad experience:

Join a sport or club.

Towards the beginning of the program, I joined the Seville Run Club and did a few runs with them. People of all ages, nationalities, and occupations participated. This was really fun, as I got to meet and see new people not only outside of the ICS program, but from all different backgrounds, including locals.

Another one of my classmates, Victoria, joined a local soccer team. She has expressed how that experience helped her fully immerse herself in the local culture in a way that would not have been possible by just going to her classes. I highly recommend that students find local communities to join.



Enjoying our weekly Sevillanas dance classes



Beyond the Bubble

Part II



Attend activity nights or the Intercambio Language Exchange.

ICS plans many activities at night throughout the program. I want to specifically highlight the language exchange at Cafe Tarifa. The people who attend are a mixed group of all ages and nationalities. Since it is a language exchange, people are very open to talking to new people, and it is a relaxed and easy way to meet a bunch of them. I have personally made new friends and connections here from the local Seville community and recommend others attend with an open mindset.



Making new friends at the intercambio



Hanging out with the locals

Interact with the locals.

This may seem like obvious advice, but I have a funny story to go with this one. There is a restaurant around the corner from my homestay that I started going to almost daily. I slowly started talking to the staff there, and over time, even with my really limited Spanish, I made friends with them. My ICS friends also built friendships with them, and we have all hung out outside of the restaurant. This is a great example of how being friendly and open can lead to meaningful and unique friendships.

I think it is not only exciting and fun to meet new people and step outside of your comfort zone, but also extremely refreshing. By doing this, you can enhance the experiences you have within the ICS bubble too, as it will not start to feel repetitive or stale.

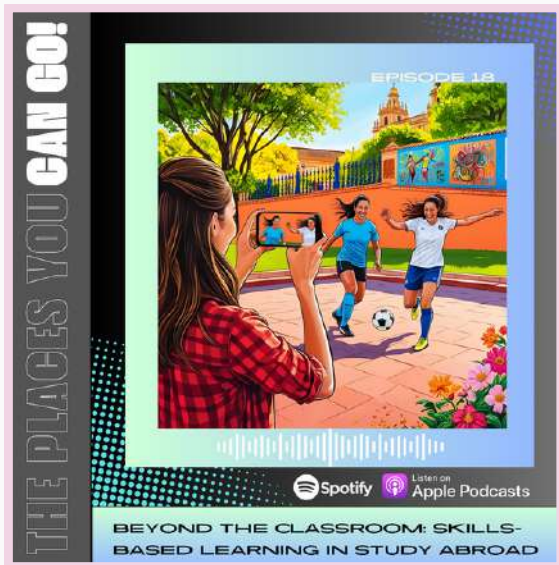
At the end of the day, stepping outside of your comfort zone does not just lead to unforgettable experiences. It also helps you grow in ways that make your time abroad even more meaningful and fulfilling.



The Places You Can Go

Beyond the Classroom: Skills-Based Learning in Study Abroad

Episode 18



29 Minutes

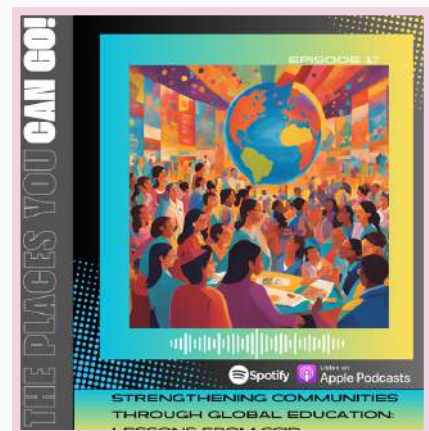


In this episode, we sit down with two current ICS students, Victoria Gamarra and Chanalei Bartholomew, who found unique ways of immersing themselves in the Seville community. From working as a social media intern at the International College of Seville to playing on a local Spanish soccer team and tutoring English, these students are embracing unique opportunities to connect with the community.

Did you miss our last episode?

Catch up with the podcast by giving this previous episode a listen. After a recent trip to Washington, DC for the CCID conference, Evan Kindle, ICS Director of Comms, connects with the attendees and the CCID Executive Director to discuss the importance of global collaboration in higher education.

37 Minutes



UPCOMING AT THE ICS

Visits & Trips.

The last visits and trips of the semester will take our students to Seville's magnificent Fine Arts museum, on a day trip to the breathtaking town of Ronda and on a three-day tour of North Africa!

Activities.

We will wrap up both our cooking classes and our *Sevillanas* dance classes. And what surprises await our students at Seville's glorious Holy Week & April Fair!

Follow us to stay updated and visit our website to learn more about our programs!



c/ Porvenir, 15 , 41013 Seville , Spain

Phone: (+34) 95-423-3838

Email: info@ics-seville.org