



Senior Travel Scholarship

Pursuant to its mission, the AATSP Exams (NSE), a program of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), is committed to recognizing student achievement and promoting language proficiency in the study of Spanish. To this end, AATSP Exams will offer travel abroad scholarships to Spain.

Travel/Study Abroad Scholarship Description

New this year, the Senior Travel Study Abroad Scholarship provides eligible students the opportunity to travel to and study the language and the culture of a Spanish-speaking country or territory. During the summer of 2026 students will be traveling to Salamanca, Spain with *Cursos Internacionales de la Universidad de Salamanca*. All US/Spain travel arrangements and coordination will be handled by *Xperitas Immersion Travel*.

The award includes 20 hours of Spanish language instruction at the University of Salamanca, local transportation, tours, meals, and insurance. Your group will stay at the USAL Student Residences during their stay. The tentative itinerary (attached) is subject to change.

Winners may have the opportunity to apply for university credit (subject to each university's requirements) as they will receive a certificate from the University of Salamanca stating they have completed 20 hours of Spanish instruction at the university. *Any associated expenses and/or duties may be pursued at the expense of the attendee.*

ELIGIBILITY

For the 2026 travel award, applicants MUST:

- Be a graduating senior that has scored at or above the 75th percentile on the 2023/24 and 2024/25 NSE/NPE *and* be taking the NSE/NPE during the 2025/26 academic year.
- Be registered to take the Level III or above National Spanish Exam in 2025-2026.

NOTE: Only ONE student per teacher may apply. (Teachers may only sponsor an applicant from their own school.)

Responsibilities of Winners

1. Winners need to be available two days before the scheduled date of departure and two days after the scheduled return in case arrival in the departure city or return from it on those dates is necessary. The trip will be scheduled by *Xperitas Immersion Travel* so that students can travel as a group with their chaperone/s. Details will be shared with the winners after announcements are made. Students will have their own traveler's portal for documents and paying for their flight arrangements.
2. Winners are expected to attend all excursions and events.
3. Winners will be responsible to pay for any items not included: airfare, snacks, tips, souvenirs, additional baggage fees, and personal items.
4. Upon return from the trip, winners will be required to send to the NSE office (nse@aatsp.org) an account of their experiences along with several digital photographs/videos/blogs to be published on the AATSP Exams website. This will be due by July 31st, 2026, at the *latest*.
5. Winners are expected to sign liability waiver by date specified in clause.
6. This trip will include a considerable amount of walking to and from the student residences to the university. It is the responsibility of the winner to review the travel company's accessibility policy and code of conduct.
7. Winners must send acceptance forms by **February 20, 2026**.

NOTE: If a student cannot travel during the specified time, the trip will be forfeited and another student will be chosen. If a student accepts the trip but does not complete the trip, they will be charged for the value of the trip.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and may be required based upon the requirements of the tour agency or other entities. More information about COVID-testing and vaccination status for travel will be shared at a later date.

DEADLINES

Additional dates & deadlines will be given to winners upon acceptance.

- Application deadline: January 6, 2026
- Notification of winners / alternates: February 10, 2026
- Travel to Spain: July 18-26, 2026

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

By January 6, 2026, applicants should fill out the [online application form](#) and include all attachments listed below. *No late applicants will be considered.* If you have any questions, please email nse@aatsp.org.

1. A link to a standard **video clip** *in Spanish* posted on YouTube in which you:
 - Discuss with your teacher your plans for using Spanish in your future career
 - Are spontaneous and conversational in tone and are the dominant speaker
 - Speak with your teacher a maximum of 5 minutes without stopping the recording
2. One **persuasive essay** *in Spanish* of no more than one typewritten page in which you discuss ONE of the following topics: **(File name: Student Name – Essay)**
 - Explain the importance of proficiency testing and knowing your own proficiency level.
 - Convince your parents that learning a second language is vital for employment in the 21st Century.
 - Explain how virtual learning can be helpful or hindering when learning a language.
3. High School **transcript** (with 7 semesters of grades) **OR** a signed statement from sponsoring teacher and one parent/guardian stating that the applicant is completing their final/senior year in high school and will be moving on at the end of the 2025/26 year: **(File Name: Student Name – Transcript)**
4. One **letter of recommendation** from a teacher, principal, or counselor.
5. Parent authorization/[media release](#) form completed & signed. (File Name: Student Name – Media Release)

In order for the student to be considered eligible, all of the application materials must be uploaded to the appropriate Google Form. All documents/uploads *must* use the designated file names. The video should be uploaded to YouTube and the link must also be included on the Google Form.

All applications will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an email acknowledging receipt, please contact the NSE Office at nse@aatsp.org.

Once selected for the Senior Travel Scholarship, **within two weeks** winners must send their \$50 application fee (a check payable to “National Spanish Examinations”). In the memo section write “Senior Travel” and mail it to National Spanish Examinations, 160 Rail Rd, Suite 3, Chesterton, IN 46304. Upon completion of the requirements the check will be shredded. If not completed, the check will be deposited by August 31st, 2026.

Itinerary



Saturday, July 18 (Day 1): Departure from the United States.

Sunday, July 19 (Day 2): Arrival in Madrid, airport pick-up, travel to Salamanca, check-in at the residence after 12 PM, free afternoon.

Monday, July 20 (Day 3): Class in the morning and sightseeing tour in the afternoon.

Tuesday, July 21 (Day 4): Class in the morning and film screening in the afternoon.

Wednesday, July 22 (Day 5): Class in the morning and cooking class in the afternoon.

Thursday, July 23 (Day 6): Class in the morning and sports in the afternoon.

Friday, July 24 (Day 7): Class in the morning and scavenger hunt in the afternoon.

Saturday, July 25 (Day 8): Excursion

Sunday, July 26 (Day 9): Departure to the US