Junior 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

Each year the Junior 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 2027 students will be traveling to Salamanca 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 2027 travel award, applicants MUST:

- Be a junior in high school during the 2026-27 academic year.
- Have received medal placement by scoring at or above the 75th-percentile on the *Level II or above* 2025 **OR** 2026 National Spanish/Portuguese Exam.
    - 2025 NSE/NPE: Academic year 2024-2025
    - 2026 NSE/NPE: Academic year 2025-2026
- Be registered to take the *Level III or above* National Spanish Exam or National Portuguese Exam in 2027.
- Agree to continue studying Spanish and/or Portuguese during their senior year in high school.

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, 2027, 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 18, 2027.**

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. If the student is applying for other awards and will not know the result before February 18, they should not apply for this trip, too.

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: December 11, 2026
- Notification of winners / alternates: **February 4, 2027**
- Travel to Spain: **July 24-31, 2027**

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

By December 11, 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 (5 minute *maximum*) in Spanish in which you discuss with your teacher both of the following topics:
   - How you feel the study abroad experience will impact your life
   - Why the committee should select you given that there are many qualified applicants
   - Video submission requirements:
   - The speech should be spontaneous and conversational in tone.
   - The student should be the dominant speaker.
   - Both the student and the teacher should be visible in the recording.
   - The video should be uploaded to YouTube with permission for anyone with the link to view. Include the link in the body of your application email.

2. One essay in Spanish or Portuguese of no more than one page in which you pick ONE of the following topics: (File name: Student Name – Essay)
   - How do you think your experience will change you personally as a human being and impact you as a global citizen?
   - What do you anticipate will be your personal challenges during your experience and how will you prepare yourself to meet these challenges?

3. High School transcript (does not have to be an official transcript) (File Name: Student Name-Transcript)

4. Letter of recommendation from your current Spanish/Portuguese teacher who should comment on your language skills, your personal and academic motivation, and your ability to get along with others and adapt to unforeseen circumstances. (File Name: Student Name - Teacher Rec)

5. Parent authorization/media release form completed & signed. (File Name: Student Name – Media Release)

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 Junior Travel Scholarship, **within two weeks** winners must send their $50 application fee (a check payable to "National Spanish Examinations"). In the memo section write "Junior 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, 2027.

Planned Itinerary

Saturday, July 24 (Day 1): Group departure from ***Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), Virginia**, for Madrid, Spain.

Sunday, July 25 (Day 2): Early arrival in Madrid, airport pick-up. Sightseeing in Madrid. Transfer to Salamanca, check-in at the student residence. Free evening.

Monday, July 26 (Day 3): Class in the morning and sightseeing tour in the afternoon.

Tuesday,. July 27 (Day 4): Class in the morning and film screening in the afternoon.

Wednesday, July 28 (Day 5): Class in the morning and cooking class in the afternoon.

Thursday, July 29 (Day 6): Class in the morning and sports in the afternoon.

Friday, July 30 (Day 7): Class in the morning and scavenger hunt in the afternoon.

Saturday, July 31 (Day 8): Departure from Salamanca - Group arrival in the US

IMPORTANT GROUP TRAVEL REQUIREMENT: All scholarship recipients must travel **to and from Spain with the official group**, departing from and returning to ***Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)**. **No individual travel arrangements will be permitted.** Applicants should carefully consider this requirement before applying.

*Travel arrangements are based on the current itinerary and are subject to any necessary changes required by **Xperitas and/or Iberia Airlines**. Airfare (approximately $1,100) is not included in this award. However, Xperitas offers scholarship recipients a fundraising opportunity to help offset this cost.