

# The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

APRIL 2024 EDITION

## THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

### CULTURAL VISITS

View pictures from the Cathedral tour our students took this month.

### TRIPS IN ANDALUCIA

Discover all about our overnight visit to the town of Granada.

### VOLUNTEER WORK

Learn how one student is giving back to the community.

### EXTRACURRICULARS

Learn all about this month's cooking classes and singing experiences our students had.

### HOLY WEEK

See how we celebrated Seville's "Semana Grande".

### UPCOMING NEWS

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



# 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".**

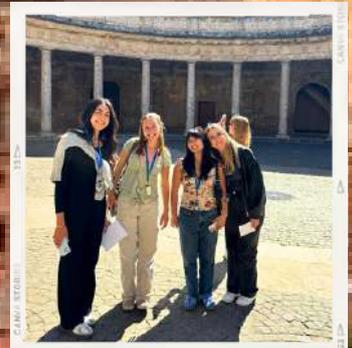


Click on photo to see YouTube video



# WEEKEND IN GRANADA

*The last vestiges of Al-Andalus*



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

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

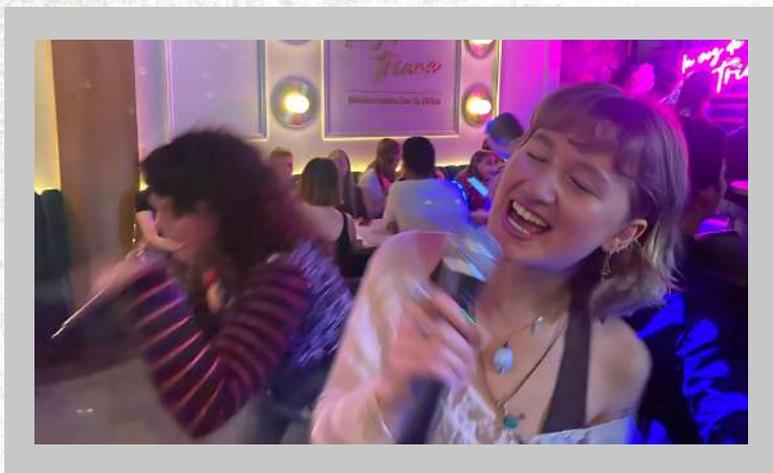
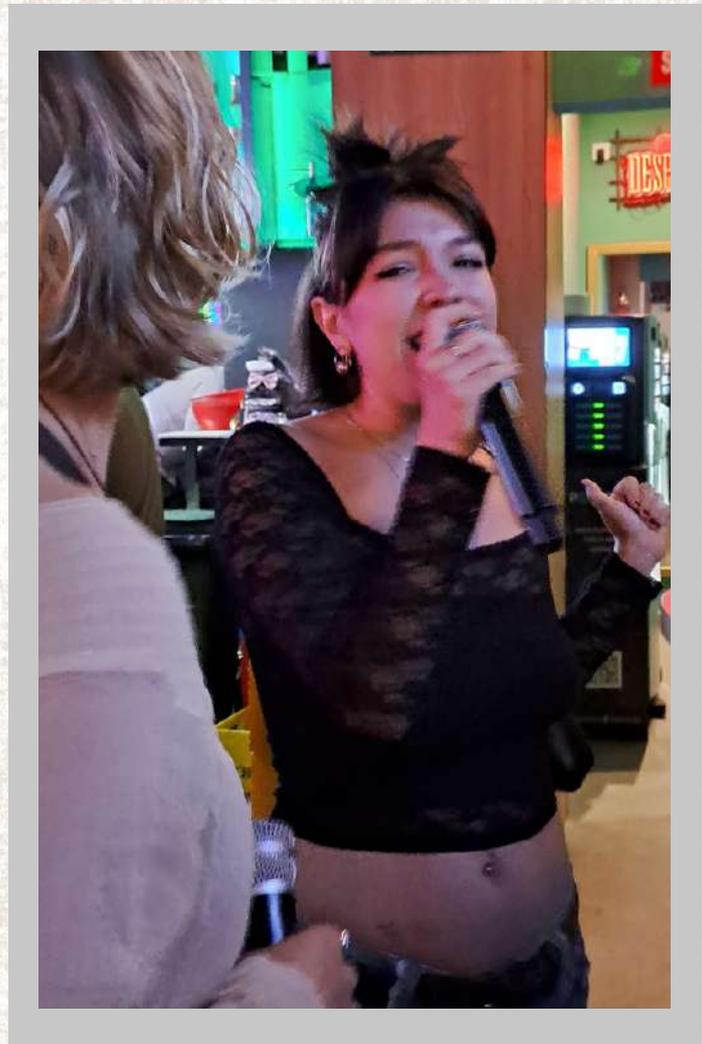


[Click on photo to see YouTube video](#)



## Karaoke Night

At *La Voz de Triana*, our students belted out their favorite songs surrounded by a lively crowd of locals. The vibrant atmosphere, coupled with the support and encouragement of newfound friends, made it a night to remember.

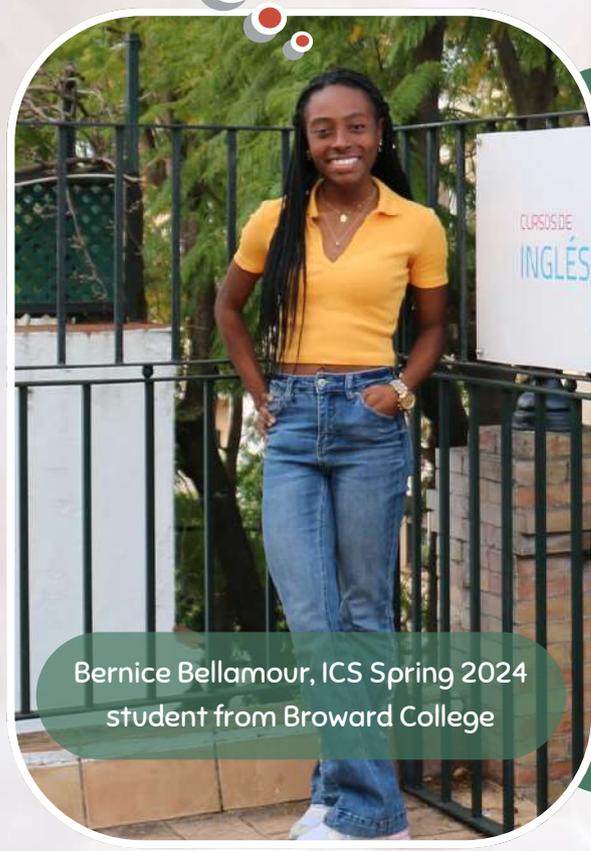




# ICS Volunteer Opportunities



This opportunity made me realize that no matter how small the expertise may be, it is worth definitely sharing.



## Assistant Teaching at BLS Idiomas

While studying at the ICS this Spring, Bernice has been volunteering to teach English to local students as a Teaching Assistant at BLS Idiomas Language Academy.

See more highlights from Bernice's volunteer experience on [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

Bernice Bellamour, ICS Spring 2024 student from Broward College

## Professional Experience

"This program has probably been one of the most unexpected steps I have taken in my life, but also the most rewarding. I recommend anybody to do this experience because it is open and available to anybody. Maybe, just like me, one might find themselves discovering their hidden skills"!





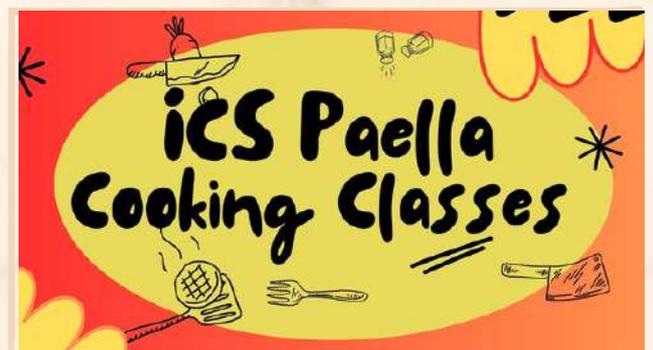
# Spanish Cooking Class



This month we had two more sessions of our class of *Paella Mixta*. and how fun were they?! Next month we move on to *Tortilla Española* with Fruity Sangría!



Check out our video of all three sessions of our Mixed Paella classes!



Click on pictures to see Facebook albums



# Holy Week at the ICS

Our parade may have been rained out, but our Holy Monday celebration still made it a truly spectacular day!



[Click on pictures to see Facebook album](#)

[Click on picture to see Youtube video](#)



## Finding Family in Flamenco



Since studying abroad, a feeling that I've heard expressed by other students is alienation. There's inevitable disappointment when the fantasy you created in your mind prior to leaving the U.S. doesn't manifest exactly into your reality. I am myself guilty of allowing this phenomenon to take hold. I imagined my life in Spain to be accompanied by local friends, taking me under their wing and showing me the ins and outs of Sevilla. What I and I'm sure many other students abroad have found is that a sense of belonging in a foreign place isn't immediate. Truthfully, it's taken me over a month to start feeling like I'm getting the hang of life in Sevilla. That being



In my Seville home

said, if you continue to prioritize aspects you wanted to gain from study abroad, it's likely they will find their way in, in some form or another. For me, this goal was to experience and actively participate in Spanish culture.



Playing Flamenco guitar.

The best advice I have for this is to take the first step. You'll most likely find that when you make an effort, the world around you responds in a positive way. An excellent avenue for cultural enrichment in Spain is flamenco. The Spanish love their flamenco, and for good reason. This is an art that's deeply embedded in the culture and actually originated in

Andalusia. The more I dive into the art of flamenco, the better I've begun to understand the Andalusian people.

My flamenco journey began in a dance studio, where bright lights and large mirrors made it impossible to hide from myself. My flamenco teacher was abrupt, straight to the point—that classic Spanish forwardness that used to stress me out but I have now come to appreciate. Some of my dance classes ended with a sense



## *Finding Family in Flamenco, Part II*



Learning to dance Sevillanas

of hopelessness; a dance so complex, how could I possibly remember it all? Whereas others I left with pride, having made it through the whole Sevillanas without forgetting more than a few steps. Each time the group would meet, my confidence grew. Not necessarily because my skill was growing, but rather because I was more comfortable making mistakes.

Our teacher spoke to us only in her native tongue, which was a confusing learning curve at first but ended up being incredibly beneficial. The language, paired with aspects of the body and movement, became an unexpected yet effective approach to improving my Spanish.

In my last class, I left a little somber, sad not to continue learning, but also incredibly excited and apprehensive. Anyone who knows how to dance in the Sevillana style and has the confidence gets the opportunity to showcase what they've learned in Feria.

After taking the risk, signing up for the class, and potentially subjecting myself to awkward discomfort, I was rewarded with a sense of belonging. This feeling is infectious, and I've continued to dive deeper. I've been taking flamenco guitar lessons, attending local jam sessions, and the ultimate goal of friendship and community has begun to find its way in. By taking an interest in such an important cultural tradition, living here has started to make more sense. The best decision I've made this semester is to jump headfirst into things I want but have always been too scared to reach for. I've chosen to open my heart and mind to another culture, and in return, Sevilla has begun to embrace me as well.



Ready for the April Fair!

# UPCOMING AT THE ICS

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## *Trips.*

The last trips of the semester will take our students on a day trip to the town of Ronda and a three day tour of North Africa!

## *Activities.*

We will have our Spanish cooking classes of *La Tortilla Española* as well as one last *Sevillanas* dance class. And what a surprise awaits our students at Seville's glorious 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](mailto:info@ics-seville.org)