

Idiomes

Chris Rose, language assistant

Welcome to the INS center Lliçà. So, we want to ask you some questions about yourself.

-What was your first impression upon your arrival at the site?

I was very surprised how big the school was! I was also made to feel very welcome by all the staff and the students and knew immediately that I would enjoy this year!

-What have you found strangest about our country?

I think the strangest thing about Catalonia is that all the shops shut in the afternoon. It took me a while to get used to and at the beginning I always forgot and tried to go shopping only to find everything shut!

-Was the school how you imagined it?

The school is pretty much what I had imagined, though perhaps a bit more busy.-

-What do you think of the students? And the teachers?

The students here are all very friendly and make a great effort to speak to me in English. I think it's good as it makes practicing their English more enjoyable for them and gives them a reason to speak it outside of the classroom. The teachers are also extremely friendly and they give me the opportunity to practice my Spanish!

-Are classes difficult?

At the beginning classes could be challenging as I had no previous teaching experience. The teachers have really helped me get into the swing of things and now I feel very at home in the classroom.

-Is it hard to communicate with the students?

I really enjoy communicating with the students and their endeavour to speak to me in English has really impressed me. It's great fun to try and communicate through a language barrier and some of the students use very inventive (and funny) hand gestures!

-What do you think about Catalunya?

Catalunya is a great place to live. The weather here is fantastic and the countryside is beautiful. Furthermore the food here is brilliant and public transport is a lot better than at home.

-How are Wales and Catalunya different?

There are two major differences aside from the language. Firstly, football is much more popular here than at home where we play mainly rugby. I'm slowly learning the game by playing with the teachers on Friday afternoons and have been to see Barcelona v Dynamo Kiev at the Camp Nou, it was amazing. Secondly, I can't get used to everybody driving on the wrong side of the road!

-What you think about people from Spain?

People from Spain are generally very friendly and really seem to appreciate my attempts to communicate in Spanish. I have made a lot of very good friends here and will definitely come back in the future.

-Why did you decide to come here?

I decided to come here for two reasons; firstly to try and improve my Spanish, and secondly to try living in another country. I only found out I had been posted here very shortly before coming, so it was a bit of a surprise for me!

-What do you like most about Barcelona?

I think the nightlife in Barcelona is incredible, though I am also very fond of the local food, it's definitely much better than Welsh food!

-And Wales?

Something I really miss about Wales are 'pubs'. I have to admit that the bars here don't quite compare to my village local, though maybe it's something I'll get used to.

-Did you know that another language was spoken here (other than Spanish)?

I did, this isn't my first time in Catalunya, I've been to the Costa Brava many times and have visited Barcelona before too. Unfortunately my knowledge of Catalan is still pretty poor, though I have learnt some phrases.

Thanks for taking the time to complete this!