



Department  
for Education

# **Visiting Teachers Programme (England)**

## **Guidance for Spanish Teachers**

**November 2016**

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## **1.0 Visiting Teacher Programme (England) - Overview**

This document is for Spanish teachers interested in applying to the Visiting Teachers Programme (England) and provides further information to help you understand what you can expect as a participant on the programme.

We are delighted to be working with Spain on this programme and are very excited to be welcoming Spanish teachers into our classrooms.

This is the first year that England will be participating in this programme. The programme provides excellent opportunities for Spanish teachers to develop their skills and experience in a high performing education system. You gain professional recognition through Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), you receive a high quality induction and training programme upon arrival to support you with the transition to life in England and English classrooms. You receive a mentor teacher for the duration of the programme, who will support your professional and personal development. There will also be an established community of teachers on the programme and a forum to allow you to keep in touch, share experiences and organise social events and networking.

## **2.0 England**

### **2.1 Geography**

Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England make up the United Kingdom. There are currently no places available in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales so all successful teachers will be placed in England.

England has nine Government Office Regions, as part of your application you will be asked to state three preferences for where you would like to work. Please take your time to familiarise yourselves with these regions to help you make an informed preference.

We have provided an overview of what each region has to offer to give you an idea but we would recommend you also research these regions so you can make an informed preference. You will be able to fly from mainland Spain and the Balearic and Canary Islands to most of the airports we have outlined below.

### **2.2 The Government Office Regions**

#### **West Midlands**

West Midlands is a region facing unique challenges from the contrast of inner city to rural life, to a diverse and challenging school population.

Birmingham is the main city in the West Midlands and has had substantial regeneration offering an excellent cultural scene and shopping.

West Midlands is also home to the Cotswolds hosting some beautiful countryside and smaller villages. The Malvern Hills offers some typical English landscapes for exploring.

Stratford-upon-Avon is steeped in culture and history and is also the birth place of William Shakespeare, you can visit the home he grew up in.

Airports: Birmingham International Airport

#### **East England**

The East of England is a diverse region, covering schools in areas of urban deprivation, small rural schools and coastal areas.

East England offers Royal estates, wetlands and a labyrinthine of lakes and river. It is home to many of England's coastal towns and impressive country manor estates.

Visit the unique Norfolk Broads, the Brecks and Thetford Forest. Sandy beaches, cliffs, creeks and saltmarsh can be found on the 500 miles of coast.

Cambridge offers a wonderful choice of shops and a vibrant nightlife. The University of Cambridge is one of the oldest universities in the world, it has nine museums and collections that are open to the public.

Airports: Norwich International Airport, London Luton Airport

## **East Midlands**

The East Midlands is a diverse region, covering schools in areas of urban deprivation, small rural schools and coastal areas.

Home to the Peak District offering a vast amount of English countryside to explore along with small market towns and country estates.

Nottingham and Leicester offer a great choice of shops, restaurants and pubs. Nottinghamshire offers some lovely country parks including Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park. Leicester is home to the 'Golden Mile' two roads in Leicester hosting the largest selection of Indian jewellery shops outside of India.

Lincolnshire offers miles of beautiful sandy beaches along the coastline, The Lincolnshire Wolds, seaside resorts and the beautiful Lincoln Cathedral.

Airports: East Midlands Airport

## **South East**

The South East is a region of contrasts: coastal towns, prosperous areas and inner-city communities.

The counties of Buckinghamshire, Kent, Surrey and Berkshire surround Greater London.

Windsor's historic town centre is home to the Famous Windsor Castle. Oxford, 'The City of Dreaming Spires' is home to the historic Oxford University, just out of the city centre is Blenheim Palace, the birth place of Sir Winston Churchill. Brighton is a lively and artistic city with an array of great restaurants, bars and cafes.

Airports: Southampton Airport, London Gatwick and London Heathrow

## **South West**

The South West covers some of the most beautiful areas in the country; people with families want to live here and this is good for the economic sustainability of the region.

The South West is a beautiful coastal region home of Stonehenge and two national parks.

Cornwall, Dorset and Devon provide some beautiful beaches and the cities of Bristol and Bath offer plenty of restaurants, shops, bars and cafes. Bath is the only place in the UK where you can bathe in naturally hot spa water and original Roman Baths.

Airports: Bristol International Airport

## London

London has areas of excellent provision and areas of real challenge it has prosperous areas and inner-city communities.

London is a diverse and cultural city offering attractions to suit any visitor including The London Eye, The Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, The Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, street markets and array of museums and parks.

London is made up of 33 districts (32 boroughs and the City of London) all of which are very different in their context and what they have to offer.

Generally, it is more expensive to live in London although salaries tend to be higher to account for this. Being the capital city it offers great restaurants, bars and cafes along with great shopping.

Airports: London Gatwick, London City Airport, London Heathrow and London Stanstead Airport

## North West

The North West has areas of excellent provision and areas of real challenge, encompassing geographically isolated, coastal and inner city schools.

North West England has some of the most spectacular scenery and vibrant cities. It's a hub for sport, music, arts and culture. Manchester and Liverpool are home to top sports teams, incredible museums, music history legends and birthplace of the industrial revolution.

The cities are in contrast to the beautiful scenery provided by the Lake District National Park home to some stunning mountain ranges, England's largest lake and quaint English villages with plenty of attractions to offer, including steam railways, museums, castles and Beatrix Potter.

Blackpool is different again, a seaside town with a huge amusement park, a famous tower and mecca for ballroom dancing. The small cities of Chester and Lancaster both have history dating back to early Britain as well as City Walls, Cathedrals, Castle and a Roman Amphitheatre between them.

Airports: Liverpool Airport, Manchester Airport

## North East

The North East has diverse geography and communities: from the urban Tyne and Tees to the rural and coastal areas of Northumberland.

The North East is home to beautiful landscapes, spectacular castles and historic sites including the beautiful Durham Cathedral and Castle, Lindis Farne (Holy Island) and Alnwick Castle.

Newcastle and Gateshead united by the seven bridges offer excellent shopping, cafes, restaurant and bars. The Gateshead Millennium Bridge is the only tilting bridge in the world.

The coastline offers beaches, quaint fishing villages, lively towns and ports.

Airports: Newcastle International Airport, Humberside Airport

## Yorkshire and Humber

Yorkshire and Humber has areas of excellent provision and areas of real challenge, encompassing rural, coastal and inner city schools.

Both Leeds and York offer great shopping, cafes, bars and restaurants. York is renowned for its quaint cobbled streets and the beautiful York Minster.

The Yorkshire dales are made up of green valleys and white limestone cliffs and are home to some beautifully quaint villages and market towns.

The North York Moors distinguished by rolling hills, purple heather and green valleys with streams and acres of forest taking you to the coastline at Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby, where you can get some great fish and chips and explore Whitby Abbey.

Airports: Doncaster Sheffield Airport, Leeds Bradford Airport.

## 2.3 Climate

The weather in England is temperate with warm wet summers and cool wet winters. Weather varies from day-to-day and throughout the country as a whole.

England has four distinct seasons but the weather is changeable and often unpredictable. Summers are warm and winters are cold, but temperatures are milder than on the continent. England is warmer on average than the rest of the UK and gets more sun, and less rain, on average throughout the year.

Temperatures do not usually drop much below 32°F (0°C) in winter, and in summer they rarely exceed 90°F (32°C). July and August are the warmest months, although they are also the wettest, while January and February are the coldest months of the year.

Rainfall is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, but late winter/early spring (February to March) is the driest period.

## 2.4 Population

England has a population of over 53 million people, making it the most populated nation of the United Kingdom, representing 84% of the joined total. England has the fourth biggest population in the European Union.

## 3.0 Education System in England

### 3.1 Types of Schools

All children in England between the ages of 5 and 16 are entitled to a free place at a state school. Most state schools have to follow the [national curriculum](#). The most common types of school are:

- community schools, controlled by the local council and not influenced by business or religious groups
- foundation schools and voluntary schools, which have more freedom to change the way they do things than community schools
- academies, run by a governing body, independent from the local council - they can follow a different curriculum (and have greater freedom on pay and conditions)
- grammar schools, run by the council, a foundation body or a trust - they select all or most of their pupils based on academic ability and there is often an entrance exam.

Further information on types of schools can be found [here](#).

### 3.2 The National Curriculum

The 'basic' school curriculum includes the '[national curriculum](#)', as well as [religious education and sex education](#).

The national curriculum is a set of subjects and standards used by primary and secondary schools so children learn the same things. It covers what subjects are taught and the standards children should reach in each subject.

Schools like academies and private schools don't have to follow the national curriculum. Academies must teach a broad and balanced curriculum including English, maths and science. They must also teach religious education.

### 3.3 Key Stages

The English education system is data driven. The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called '**Key Stages**'. At the end of each key stage, teachers will formally assess the child's performance. Further information can be found [here](#).

Summary table of Key Stages and Years in English Schools	School Year	Typical Age Range
Reception and Key Stage 1	Years Reception to 2	4-7 years old
Key Stage 2	Years 3 to 6	7-11 years old
Key Stage 3	Years 7 to 9	11-14 years old
Key Stage 4 (GCSE)	Years 10 to 11	14-16 years old
Key Stage 5 (6th form - AS Levels, A-Levels, NVQs, HNDs, etc.)	Years 12 to 13	16-18 years old

### 3.4 School Calendar

- Autumn Term (September – December)
- Spring Term (January – April)
- Summer Term (April – July)

Each term is divided into two. Christmas and Easter holidays are generally around two weeks long. There are several Bank Holidays (statutory holidays) throughout the year. You can find the school term dates for a specific school [here](#).

### 3.5 Teacher Schedule

Typically, pupils start the day at 9am and finish at 3.30pm. There are normally two breaks throughout the day, morning and at lunchtime.

Teachers working hours are clarified by headteachers and the governing bodies before employment is offered.

Schools have the flexibility to determine expectations for teachers around classroom preparation time, staff meetings and parents' evenings etc.

You will have to attend meetings with other teaching staff and undertake in-school training.

You may be required to provide counselling and guidance to students, which may involve referring students to other relevant authorities and professionals that could be of help.

You will regularly be working with other teaching colleagues, administrators and teaching assistants to provide every student with a quality education.

### 3.6 Teacher Salary

## Salary for teachers in maintained schools in England

[The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document \(STPCD\) 2016](#) covers the pay and conditions for teachers in maintained schools in England. Teachers are paid on the leadership group pay range; the Main Pay Range; the Upper Pay Range; the Pay Range for Leading Practitioners or the Unqualified Teachers Pay Range.

The minimum of the 2016 teachers' main pay range in England is £22,467; in inner London the minimum is £28,098. The maximum of the main pay range in England and Wales is £33,160; in inner London the maximum is £38,241.

The minimum of the upper pay range in England is £35,571; in inner London £43,184 and maximum of the upper pay range in England is £38,250 in inner London £46,829.

## Salary for teachers in Academies in England

Academies enjoy many freedoms – including around staff pay and conditions – their freedoms enable them to be innovative in their use of resources, including in attracting, retaining and deploying the best possible staff. Academies are in general free to set their own staff pay and conditions.

### 4.0 Visiting Teachers Programme

#### 4.1 Applicant Criteria

##### Qualifications

B.A in English or Spanish Studies with a Certificate of Aptitude or a Master's degree in teaching or equivalent.

##### Experience

Have at least 2 years of teaching experience as a full time teacher in formal education, equivalent to secondary school in the last 8 years. One of these years of teaching experience must be during the school year 2016/17 in a school either in Spain or abroad, provided the school teaches according to the Spanish or English education system. Candidates who do not fulfil this requirement must prove they have been postgraduate students in education, or other areas in their academic field, and the studies must be completed during the school year 2016/17.

This call is open to those who have previously participated in the Visiting Teachers Programme (USA/Canada/Germany) and Bilingual Sections in Europe.

##### Other requirements

B2 level English proficiency

Spanish criminal background check

Medical form (English school standard upon offer of contract)

To satisfy Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) requirements candidates will need to provide the following:

- Proof you are a fully recognised teacher in your home member state
- Passport / Photo ID
- A final degree certificate from their university (personal academic transcripts on their own not accepted). Provisional certificates and payment receipts acceptable if candidate is still awaiting final certificate
- If the first degree was obtained outside of Spain the Spanish Ministry of Education must have homologised / recognised the qualification usually via a letter from the Ministry of Education
- A copy of your original teaching qualification document/s



## 4.2 Selection Process

Candidates who are shortlisted by the Ministry of Spain will be assessed for suitability. This is likely to include skills/knowledge assessment and interviews, which will be carried out in May 2017 in Madrid. Interviews are likely to be assessed by panels of senior school leaders, and possibly representatives of the Department of Education or their contractor/s, who represent a region. Where appropriate, digital solutions will be employed.

Recruiting schools may then request candidates undertake a final interview (probably via a digital medium, such as Skype) to support the matching process. Those successful in final interview will be offered provisional contracts in early Summer 2017, subject to the appropriate English school system checks.

## 4.3 Applying for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

EEA Nationals can apply for QTS and contracts will be offered subject to QTS being issued. If your application for QTS is unsuccessful your contract offer may be withdrawn.

Application for QTS can be completed online and there is no cost involved. If you are invited to interview you will be informed of the timescales in which you need to apply for QTS.

To satisfy QTS requirements candidates will need to provide the following:

- Proof you are a fully recognised teacher in your home member state
- Passport / Photo ID
- A final degree certificate from their university (personal academic transcripts on their own not accepted). Provisional certificates and payment receipts acceptable if candidate is still awaiting final certificate
- If the first degree was obtained outside of Spain the Spanish Ministry of Education must have homologised / recognised the qualification usually via a letter from the Ministry of Education
- A copy of your original teaching qualification document/s.

To apply or for further information please visit [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

Initially from the date of receiving the online application it will be reviewed within 1 month. If you have not uploaded the supporting documents with certified translation of the qualification/s, as instructed via the application guidance, you will be requested to supply further information and if not received within 20 working days your application will be declined as an “incomplete application”. If your qualification does not clearly state your status as a teacher, along with the age range and subjects you are qualified to teach, please upload a copy of your diploma supplement or degree modules. If you were required to complete an induction or probation period to become fully qualified, please also upload your evidence.

A final decision will be made by NCTL officers within 90 working days when you will be advised of the outcome via email. After 90 working days the file is closed if insufficient evidence is provided.

Once successful you gain QTS recognition. If your application is unsuccessful your contract offer may be withdrawn.

## 4.4 Work Permit

Nationals of European Economic Area (EEA) / Spanish teachers can take up employment in the UK and do not need a UK work permit.

## 5.0 Arrival / Settling into England

### 5.1 Acclimatisation / Training

You will receive a high quality induction and training programme upon arrival to support you with the transition to life in England and English classrooms. You will also receive a mentor teacher for the duration of the programme who will support your professional and personal development. There will also be an established community of teachers on the programme and a forum to allow you to keep in touch, share experiences and organise social and networking events.

Further details and timescales will be made available at the interview stage.

### 5.2 Travelling to England

England is easily accessible with numerous airports including London, Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester airport, details of the airports in all regions can be found in the [Geography](#) section of this guidance.

It is also easy to travel from Spain to England by train (Eurostar) or ferry.

Passport or identity card will be checked when you arrive at a UK port or airport to make sure you are allowed to come into the country. It must be valid for the whole of your stay.

No Visa is required to come into England.

The local currency is British Pound Sterling (£)

### 5.3 Banks and Credit cards

You will need to apply for a UK bank account and further support with this will be provided as part of your [Acclimatisation / Training](#). You will need to arrive with some money to support you until you receive your first salary, salaries are often paid towards the end of each month.

### 5.4 Accommodation

The cost of living varies from one part of England to another. Generally, it is more expensive to live in London and the South East of England, but salaries tend to be higher to account for this. Further support with this will be provided as part of your [Acclimatisation / Training](#).

### 5.5 Public Transport

English cities have good public transport systems – combination of bus, train and tram.

There are good local bus networks year round in cities and towns. If you are taking a few local bus rides in one area, day passes are cheaper than buying several single tickets.

Taxis are available those with meters and minicabs.

There is also option of travelling by car, further information on driving in England on a foreign licence can be found [here](#).

There is the final option of walking and occasionally hiring a bike.

## 5.6 National Health Service (NHS)

The National Health Service (NHS) is the UK's free health service, which gives you access to doctors, dentists and hospitals. You will be entitled to access this benefit as you will be paying National Insurance (NI), which is automatically taken out of your pay by the British government. You will need to [apply](#) for a NI number when you arrive in the UK.

## 5.7 Frequently Asked Questions

### **Are there any age restrictions for the programme?**

No, there are no age restrictions, although applicants must meet the [Applicant Criteria](#).

### **How can I find out more about the English Education System?**

Further information on the English Education System can be found [here](#).

### **How is the school – term structured?**

Please see the [School Calendar](#) section of this guidance.

### **How long is the school day?**

Please see the [Teacher Schedule](#) section of this guidance.

### **What is QTS?**

QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) is the accreditation awarded to teachers in England once they have completed a period of initial teacher training and passed a variety of skills tests. In order to meet the applicant requirements for this programme you will need to hold QTS equivalent qualifications. Please refer to the [Applicant Criteria](#) section of this guidance for further information.

### **How do I apply for QTS?**

Visit [GOV.UK](#) to find out more.

### **Is there a cost involved in obtaining a QTS?**

There is no cost involved to apply for QTS and it can be applied for online.

### **Do you assist teachers to find housing in the England?**

Choosing your home is a personal decision. We will advise you on where to live, good locations and decent cost of living prices, but it is your choice and responsibility to find suitable and affordable accommodation for the duration of your time in England.

### **How much does it cost to live in England?**

The cost of living varies from one part of England to another. Generally, it is more expensive to live in London, South East of England and urban areas but salaries tend to be higher to account for this.

### **Can I request a specific city, town or region for placement?**

As part of the application you can state your preference for:

- Urban/Rural setting
- Village / Town / City
- Small / Medium / Large School
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> preferred region

Please note, these are preferences and are subject to availability.

### **How soon after being hired, will I be asked to relocate to England and begin teaching?**

All teachers will begin teaching at the beginning of September 2017, although they will be required to arrive in England prior to this for training, this is likely to be in mid-August 2017.

### **What is the NHS and how can I access it?**

The NHS is the UK's free national health service, which gives you access to doctors, dentists and hospitals. You will be entitled to access this benefit as you will be paying National Insurance (NI), which is automatically taken out of your pay by the British government. You will need to apply for a NI number when you arrive in the England, further information can be found in the [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#) section of this guidance and if successful you will be provided with further information on this as part of your pre-arrival pack.

### **Can I drive in England with a Spanish Driving Licence?**

Yes, you can drive in England using a Spanish Driving Licence further information can be found [here](#).

### **Will I be able to visit my home country?**

Yes, you will have the freedom to visit your home country during any of the holiday or summer breaks. Any travel costs will be your responsibility.

### **What social events or networks are in place for meeting and communicating with other teachers on the programme?**

There will be opportunities for teachers on the programme to come together at key points, such as on arrival, to meet each other and network. There will also be a community of teachers on the programme and a forum to allow you to keep in touch, share experiences and organise social events. Further information will be provided to candidates in due course and as part of the pre-arrival pack.

### **Do I have an option of bringing my Dependents?**

Yes, you are welcome to bring your dependant/s, the cost for this is your responsibility.

### **How does Britain's departure from the EU impact on my working in England?**

There has been no change to the rights and status of EU nationals in England as a result of Britain's decision to leave the EU. When Article 50 is triggered, that begins the process of Britain's exit from the EU.

England remains a member of the EU throughout this process and until Article 50 negotiations have concluded.

## **6.0 Contact**

For further information or if you have any queries please contact – [spanish.vtp@education.gov.uk](mailto:spanish.vtp@education.gov.uk).

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