

Scholarships of the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade

Background

Through various scholarship programmes, the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (ICEX) offers a solid theoretical training in international trade and specialized job training in various offices of the Network and Territorial Foreign Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, in Spanish companies with international activity or international institutions. Practical training can be in specific economic sectors, including the cultural industries' sector. The scholarship programme of cultural industries is part of the *Plan of Support for Internationalization of Cultural Industries* and aims to train specialized professionals in providing services to the internationalization of Spanish companies operating in these sectors.

How it works

Programme offers candidates theoretical training, through the *Master in International Management of Companies*, and practice, through formation in the Branch Network of Economic and Business of the Spanish embassies and in specific companies or institutions. The programme intends to reinforce the image of Spanish cultural industries abroad, as well as enhance its internationalization.

The training period includes two phases: the first, in the Branch Network of Economic and Business of the Spanish embassies, during 12 months, and the second, in enterprises, public institutions and Spanish international agencies, also during 12 months for those candidates who have passed the first phase. In both cases, practices can be performed abroad.

Regarding the economic strength of the programme, during the period of theoretical training, ICEX finances 100% of the cost of the Master (valued at 10 000 EUR) and a financial aid of 250 EUR per month for those candidates who are registered in a different Autonomous Region of Madrid. In the first phase of practical destination, ICEX finances a gross annual allocation, which must fall between 24 000 EUR and 53 000 EUR, according to country and city destination, a ticket round-trip to the destination, accident insurance and travel assistance, as well as those travel expenses incurred in carrying out their training activities. In the second phase of training, which takes place in companies or institutions, ICEX funds a gross annual allocation, which must fall between 24 000 EUR and 53 000 EUR, depending on destination.

The eligibility criteria for applicants are:

- they must hold Spanish nationality or from another country of the European Union;
- they must have been born after the first of January of 1978;
- they must have a higher education degree; and
- they must master the Spanish language and an advanced level of English.

The countries aims of these scholarships are: United States, France, Germany, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, Japan and China. ICEX is responsible for deciding the destinations of the fellows.

Applicants must pass a selection process which will consist of two parts: one part, which shall consist of four tests (a psycho technical test, an English exam, a review of a text and an interview) and a second, consisting of the *Master of International Management Company* and a test on a supplementary language.

Results

In 2008, 9 fellows conducted practices in Spanish economic offices in Beijing, Miami, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Sao Paolo, London, Paris and Berlin and were incorporated into cultural enterprises in the second phase.

The impetus for this initiative coincides with the aim of the new Minister of Culture (April 2008) of promoting cultural action abroad. To this end, he has created a new Directorate-General for Political and Cultural Industries, which is responsible for its renovation and development of a strategy for cultural activities abroad, to be held jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This strategy will pay particular attention to the potential of cultural industries in Spain.

This programme, involved in a most ambitious Plan (*Plan of Support for Internationalization of Cultural Industries*), is part of a new general policy of the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade aimed to promote the Spanish creative industries abroad. With this specific programme, the ICEX has sought to foster the mobility of cultural industry professionals through short-term placement in specific companies.

Source

Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade:

http://www.icex.es/icex/cda/controller/page/0,2956,35582_3088097_3088372_93b946b0-f1c2-102a-b411-000000000000,00.html?id=93b946b0-f1c2-102a-b411-000000000000#ex

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