



Virginia Tech RSAP Summer 2024

Barcelona | Granada | Tangier | Rabat | Casablanca

Each year, Solstice partners with a select number of universities to create one-of-a-kind, fully customizable study experiences around the world. With careful guidance from Solstice's team of American and international educators, Virginia Tech RSAP students will explore the unique, historical blend of cultures and industries found across Spain and Morocco.

Solstice provides three core services: (1) assistance in developing your program itinerary; (2) comprehensive pre-departure support; and (3) facilitation of all logistical provisions (e.g., domestic and international airfare, buses, hotel accommodations, restaurant recommendations and bookings, activity planning, and Solstice program leaders).

Please note that while the spirit of the below schedule will remain unchanged, certain aspects — in consultation with VT faculty leaders — are subject to be updated. Company and university visits are typically scheduled one to five months prior to the program start date. As a result, our proposal may include a few placeholders for unspecified visits. Each will be specified in the months leading up to May 2024, and this process will be completed in close collaboration with Virginia Tech faculty leaders. Solstice maintains a strong track record of providing engaging and impactful visits to local firms, multinational corporations, local educational institutions, and more. As always, please contact us anytime if you have questions, requests, or suggestions during the program planning and implementation process.

Our team looks forward to welcoming Virginia Tech RSAP to Spain and Morocco in 2024!

May 12 - May 15: Barcelona | Innovation in the Cultural Capital

Day 1 | Sunday, May 12 (*Washington, DC to Barcelona*)

All Day Fly from Washington, DC to Barcelona, Spain

Day 2 | Monday, May 13 (*Barcelona*)

Early Morning Arrive in Barcelona and head into the city center
While traveling into Barcelona, engage in an orientation session to understand the journey ahead and share goals and expectations with your fellow travelers.

Late Morning Swing by Generator Barcelona to drop off our luggage

12:30 PM Enjoy a group welcome lunch at an authentic tapas restaurant, Encercle

2:00 PM Experience the beauty of Barcelona on a walking tour around the city
Along our walking tour, discover the works of Gaudi and the city's stunning architecture while taking in Mediterranean sea views.

Late Afternoon Free time to relax at the hostel and get settled in

7:00 PM Experience an exquisite group dining experience at the renowned *Maná 75* restaurant, celebrated for its seafood specialties and authentic Catalan gastronomy



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Day 3 | Tuesday, May 14 (Barcelona)

8:00 AM	Breakfast at hotel
9:00 AM	Depart hotel
9:30 AM	Explore the port of Barcelona and visit a maritime engineering company <i>Learn about the city's maritime heritage: The Port of Barcelona is Spain's foremost port and one of the Mediterranean's most prominent. With over 2,000 years of history, this international shipping ground focuses on the import and export of gas, oil, chemicals, and steel.</i>
10:30 AM	Take a cable car ride over the Port of Barcelona <i>Elevate your Barcelona experience with a ride on the Teleférico. Take in the stunning views of the port and the city from above</i>
12:30 PM	Small group lunches on your own <i>Other recommendations for a quick bite near the port of Barcelona:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bar del Pla: for traditional dishes such as paella, tapas and grilled fish● El Quim de la Boqueria: for fresh seafood and traditional Catalan dishes● La Paradeta: for fresh fish and seafood dishes● Tapas 24: for a variety of traditional and modern tapas
2:00 PM	Visit a multinational engineering firm
Evening	Optional visit to the Museu Picasso; free time for small group dinners and exploration in the Gothic Quarter <i>Prepare to immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Barcelona's history as you step into the labyrinthine streets of the Gothic Quarter. This vibrant district, known for its well-preserved medieval architecture and archeological remnants from Roman times, offers a unique opportunity to experience the city's timeless allure, making it a must-visit stop on your educational journey through Spain.</i>

Day 4 | Wednesday, May 15 (Barcelona)

7:30 AM	Breakfast at hotel
8:30 AM	Depart hotel en route to Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC)
9:00 AM	Experience innovative engineering and technology at UPC in Barcelona <i>Tour the cutting-edge labs at UPC in Barcelona and meet local students for a valuable exchange of ideas and insights.</i>
Midday	Small group lunches nearby; recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Quinoa Bar: This cozy café offers a variety of healthy and delicious quinoa bowls, wraps, salads, and smoothies.● Can Dendê: A vibrant and trendy spot that offers a fusion of Mediterranean and Asian cuisine, with plenty of vegetarian and vegan options.



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- La Pubilla: A rustic and charming restaurant that offers authentic Catalan cuisine made with fresh, locally-sourced ingredients.
- Tapas 24: A modern and stylish tapas bar that offers a wide range of traditional and innovative Spanish dishes.
- Els Tres Porquets: This cozy restaurant offers a variety of classic Spanish dishes with a modern twist, including tapas, sandwiches, and hearty mains.

Early Afternoon

Visit a local engineering firm

Late Afternoon

Engage in a behind-the-scenes tour of La Sagrada Família

Still under construction after more than 100 years, La Sagrada Família was Gaudí's obsession. The unfinished church was originally commissioned by a conservative society that wished to atone for what it considered the city's "sins of modernity."

Evening

Free time to explore Barcelona

May 16 - May 18: Granada | Adventure in the Andalucía Region

Day 5 | Thursday, May 16 (*Barcelona to Granada*)

7:00 AM

Hostel check-out; take the train to Granada

3:00 PM

Arrive in Granada; enjoy small group lunches near 4U Hostel

3:30 PM

Check into 4U Hostel and have free time to relax or explore Granada

7:00 PM

Meet in the hostel lobby and head out for a night on the town

7:30 PM

Enjoy a flamenco performance followed by a group dinner at *Los Manueles*

Day 6 | Friday, May 17 (*Granada*)

7:00 AM

Breakfast at hostel

8:00 AM

Coach transfer to San Miguel Alto

9:00 AM

Visit a local engineering company

Midday

Enjoy a picnic surrounded by the natural beauty of the Alhambra forest

Afternoon

Embark on a guided visit to La Alhambra and El Generalife, led by Blanca Espigares Rooney

Discover La Alhambra, an independent city with a unique hydraulic system, and nearby El Generalife, the best-preserved medieval country palace in the world. Experience the beauty and opulence of Spain's last Islamic dynasty.

Evening

Free time to explore Granada



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Day 7 | Saturday, May 18 (*Granada*)

All Day

Optional day trip to Salobreña, or free time to explore

A day visit to Salobreña, a town on the Costa Tropical in Granada with a tenth-century Moorish castle, called “Castillo de Salobreña” and “El Peñón” (The Rock) dividing two of Salobreña's five beaches.

May 19 - May 21: Tangier | Morocco's Mediterranean Coast

Day 8 | Sunday, May 19 (*Granada to Tangier*)

8:00 AM

Hostel check-out and travel by bus to the port in Tarifa (~3 hours)

12:00 PM

Small group lunches at the Tarifa Eco Center near the port

1:00 PM

Ride a ferry across the Strait of Gibraltar to Morocco (~1 hour)

2:00 PM

Transfer to your group hotel by private coach (~30 minutes)

2:30 PM

Hotel check in; rest and freshen up

6:00 PM

Meet with Issmail for your Morocco welcome briefing: safety, expectations, ask any questions specific to your journey in Morocco!

6:30 PM

Walk to Hammadi for a traditional group dinner; reflect with your group leaders and fellow travelers on your journey thus far

Day 9 | Monday, May 20 (*Tangier*)

10:00 AM

Depart hotel en route to ENSA

11:00 AM

Visit the ENSA Tangier campus

Created in 1998 in partnership with INSA Lyon (France) and the Faculty of Sciences & Techniques of Tangier, the National School of Applied Sciences of Tangier (ENSAT) is a public institution under the Abdelmalek Essaadi University and whose main mission is to train multi-skilled and innovative State Engineers.

12:00 PM

Guided exploration and picnic lunch in Perdicaris Park

2:00 PM

Walking tour of the Tangier Medina and Kasbah

Stroll through the meandering alleys of the medina, bustling with shops and street vendors and filled with a myriad of colors and smells. Next, explore the Kasbah, or old citadel, which boasts beautiful views of the city and nearby Mediterranean Sea.

5:00 PM

Free time for small group dinners

Day 10 | Tuesday, May 21 (*Day Trip to Tetouan*)

9:00 AM

Depart hotel for a day trip to Tetouan City

10:30 AM

Arrive in Tetouan and embark on a guided tour of the Medina



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11:30 AM	Visit an engineering firm that operates in Tetouan <i>Located approximately 40 miles from Tangier, Tetouan is one of the two major ports of Morocco on the Mediterranean Sea.</i>
1:00 PM	Small group lunches nearby <ul style="list-style-type: none">This will be at a cafe on the way home as we take the scenic coastal highway. It features fresh seafood, but has lots of options.
3:00 PM	Depart Tetouan and head back to Tangier
Evening	Free time in Tangier!

May 22 - May 25: Rabat & Casablanca | Explorations in Engineering

Day 11 | Wednesday, May 22 (Tangier to Rabat)

9:00 AM	Free time in Tangier
12:00 PM	Hotel check-out and small group lunches near the hotel
2:00 PM	Relax on a bus ride to Rabat (~3 hours); check into our hotel and enjoy small group dinners on your own

Day 12 | Thursday, May 23 (Rabat)

9:30 AM	Depart hotel
10:00 AM	Engage in cultural exchange activities with local engineering students at the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning (CCCL)
12:00 PM	Group lunch with local students at CCCL
2:00 PM	Embark on a guided exploration of the Rabat medina (old town) and the historic Oudaya Kasbah quarter
Evening	Free time for small group dinners on your own

Day 13 | Friday, May 24 (Rabat to Casablanca)

8:00 AM	Hotel check-out
8:30 AM	Depart hotel; relax on a bus ride to Casablanca (~1.5 hours)
9:30 AM	Visit an engineering firm in Casablanca
12:00 PM	Small group lunches on your own
Afternoon	Free time and optional visit to the Mosque Hassan II
5:00 PM	Check into Hotel Al Walid
7:30 PM	Enjoy a festive farewell group dinner at Etoile Centrale, program reflection, and traditional music!

Day 14 | Saturday, May 25 (Casablanca to Washington, DC)

All Day	Fly back to the United States
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