

VISITING YOUR STUDENT IN SEVILLE

To help you gain insight into your student's transformative experience abroad with Verto, Verto staff host a **Mid-Semester Family Circle**. This event includes helpful sessions on subjects like academic & career success, affording college, and finding purpose. We believe that participating in the **Mid-Semester Family Circle** is the best way for families to connect with their student's experience while **encouraging them to focus on their coursework**, **academic success**, and building their abroad community.

If you plan on visiting, please adhere to the following guidelines.

Dropping Off Your Student

For family members who choose to drop off their student in Seville, we welcome you! Please do keep in mind that this is **not required**, and participants who travel independently will be received in great hands by Verto staff.

Please note that family members can only drop their student **outside of their housing address.** Only participants are allowed inside of our housing, per our Housing Provider and Verto policies, and for the well-being of all participants. For homestays, hosts may or may not invite visitors into their home — this is normal and is at the discretion of the host. Many hosts do not speak English, and homes may look different from what you're accustomed to.

If You Plan to Visit Your Student While Abroad

Families are welcome to visit participants, though we strongly recommend visiting **at the end** of the Verto abroad experience rather than during. Participants will be quite busy with their coursework and experiential learning activities, so visitors may not be able to spend as much time with their Vertoan as they may have hoped. Additionally, participants whose families visited in the past have experienced more intense homesickness or fallen behind in their coursework as a result of the visit.

Academic and attendance policies remain in place regardless of visitors. Participants are strongly discouraged from missing classes to host family, friends, and other visitors. Should a participant plan to miss class, they should speak with their instructors and Care Team Leader in advance to understand the consequences of doing so.

Tips for Your Visit to Seville

Verto Participant Schedule

If you choose to visit during the abroad experience, you'll want to keep in mind your student's class and activity schedule. Classes typically take place between 9am and 7:15pm, though participants may have free time in between classes. Every week, there are activities that may be required as part of your student's coursework.

During Verto Discovery Week (your participant's first week on-site), all participants will receive a semester calendar with their activity schedule. **We are not able to invite families to join in participant activities.** We encourage you to check with your participant about their schedule before planning your visit.

Lodging in Seville

The Verto Study Center is located on Calle Harinas in the historic downtown (Casco Antiguo) of Seville. There are a wide variety of hotels and vacation rentals at all price points available.

The following are located near the Verto Study Center:

- Petit Palace Santa Cruz
- Hotel Boutique Elvira Plaza Sevilla
- Hotel Abanico
- Rey Don Pedro
- Hotel Casas de Santa Cruz Sevilla
- Apartments near the Study Center

NOTE: All participants will receive their housing address closer to the start date of their abroad experience along with details and arrival day logistics.

Transportation Upon Arrival

From the Seville Airport (SVQ) or Santa Justa Train Station, you can travel to your lodging by taxi, hired car (Uber or Cabify), or by bus. Most hotels also offer airport transfers for a fee if you reach out in advance.

Options from the airport (SVQ) include:

- Taxi

As you exit the airport's Arrivals Hall, you will see a line of taxis (white cars with a yellow band on the door). If you are staying near the Verto Study Center, the trip will take around 20 minutes and should cost around $\leq 25 \leq 35$. You can pay with euros or with a credit or debit card (except for American Express). Leaving a tip for the driver is optional; if you tip, it should be between 5-10%.

- Uber or Cabify

You must have the Uber or Cabify app downloaded and have created a profile in advance. Hired car vehicles have a special parking lot outside of the Arrivals Hall. When you exit the Arrivals Hall, look for signs across the street that say "Access subscribers / Acceso VTC". These signs will take you to the ground floor of the parking garage where the drivers will wait to pick you up.

- EA bus line

The EA bus line travels from the airport to the city center, with various stops along the way. Leave the Arrivals Hall and go to the large marker labeled "Bus" to wait for the next shuttle. A one-way ticket costs €6 and is purchased from a machine before boarding. You can pay with euros or by credit or debit card (except American Express). See the EA bus route on this website.

Options from the train station (Santa Justa) include:

- Taxi, Uber, or Cabify

As you exit through the front doors of the train station, you will see a line of taxis. There is no designated parking lot for Uber and Cabify drivers. Refer to the trip you've booked on the app for pick up location.

- Bus lines

The bus stop is located on the main street in front of the train station (cross through the parking lot in front of the station to access the stop). Routes that stop at Santa Justa are 21, 32, C1, C2, and the nighttime buses A7 and A8. One-way bus fare costs ≤ 1.40 , and you will pay in euros (bills smaller than ≤ 20) when boarding the bus. View all bus lines and routes <u>at this website</u>.

Options from the bus station (Plaza de Armas): If you are coming from a stopover in a Spanish city and you arrive in Seville by bus, you can take a taxi from the taxi stop located outside the bus station or a private car via Uber or Cabify.

Public Transportation

Once in Seville, you can get to nearby sites by foot or by public transport. Options for hire include rental bikes (Sevici), metropolitan buses (Tussam), a subway line (Metro), a tram line (T1 Metrocentro - Tussam), as well as taxis and private cars (Uber or Cabify).

- **Sevici** is a bike sharing program with stations throughout the city. In order to access Sevici, download the app and sign up or sign up on the <u>Sevici website</u>.
- **Tussam** is the metropolitan bus service. The <u>Tussam app</u> can be helpful for information on routes and wait times.