

ASTURIAS – A Hidden Gem in Northern Spain

Asturias is one of the 19 autonomous regions of Spain and is situated on the north coast. The main centres are Oviedo, the capital, (224,005 inhabitants), Gijón and Avilés. There are regular direct flights with EasyJet to Stansted and regular frequent flights with national carriers to Madrid and Barcelona.

GEOGRAPHY

The north and west coast of Spain enjoys a more temperate climate than the rest of the country. It has moderate temperatures, receives more rain and is therefore considerably greener. The Cantabrian mountain range forms the southern border of Asturias, extending from Galicia to Cantabria. At the Eastern end of this range are the Picos de Europa, a national park with peaks of 2,500 metres. The Asturian coastline contains a large number of extensive sandy beaches. The complex combination of mountains, rivers, lakes, sea and countryside make for spectacular scenery.

HISTORY

Asturias has a rich historical legacy. With its Jurassic coast, prehistoric cave paintings, iron-age settlements, extensive roman remains, medieval monuments, monasteries and museums, there is much to see and explore. Asturias also lies on the northern route of the Camino de Santiago, perhaps the most famous of pilgrim trails.

ECONOMY

The main elements of the Asturian economy are agriculture, especially dairy farming, and fishing. It was formerly a major centre for coal mining and steel production although these are now in decline.

LANGUAGE AND GETTING SETTLED

Castilian Spanish (mainstream Spanish) is spoken throughout Asturias. It is possible to survive without any Spanish in Asturias, although the majority of Asturians do not speak English and a few basics would enrich your experience here. New teachers are offered Spanish after school as an in-house initiative to support the settling in process. There is also an intermediate Spanish group to support staff beyond the basics. Teachers are encouraged to use Spanish as much as possible outside the school day, to help to integrate with the local community. There is a small British community here and staff are very friendly and proactive at helping new arrivals to settle in to life in Asturias. We have a designated member of staff who supports new teachers with arrival and home-hunting, as well as organizing residence and working permits, the NIE, setting up a bank account and registering with a health centre.

COST OF LIVING

It is difficult to make a direct comparison of the cost of living here and in the UK because so many things are different, but there would appear to be a pound-euro equivalence, i.e what would cost a pound in UK would cost a Euro here.

SPORT & CULTURE

The area is still free from mass tourism, which combined with the spectacular scenery and wonderful climate, provides an almost infinite variety of opportunities for outdoor leisure pursuits, including walking, climbing, golf and skiing. There are many activities that are beach centred including swimming, snorkelling, surfing, and windsurfing. Gijón and Oviedo have football teams in the national leagues. There is music to cater for most tastes. There are regular concerts in Gijón, Oviedo and Avilés – many are free and cater for every possible taste and genre. There are large venues for stadium gigs, as well as cosy, intimate venues for less known groups. Classical music is regularly performed in Oviedo with international orchestras and musicians and there is a short opera season.

The region is well-served with art galleries and museums. Again, many museums and galleries are free to enter. Gijón is home to the Laboral Arts and Culture Centre, which hosts temporary exhibitions and special events throughout the year. The Niemeyer Cultural Centre in Avilés is an arts and culture space which has short cinema seasons, concerts and project workshops. The majority of films are shown in Spanish but some centres occasionally show VO (Original Language Version) films with Spanish subtitles. Gijón hosts its International Film Festival every winter, with films from all over the world in VO. For those who wish to keep in touch with events in the UK, satellite television is easily obtained. Digital television allows languages to be changed at the flick of a switch.

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL OF ASTURIAS

www.colegioinglesdeasturias.com

The English School was established in 1997 by a small group of parents who combined to provide their children with a British-style education. It has grown steadily and now has a roll of 764 pupils. The school caters for children aged 3-18 with three form entry for Nursery to Year 8 and two form entry for Year 9 to Year 13. There is a limit of 25 children per class, with the majority of pupils are Spanish, although approximately 10 nationalities are represented.

AIMS

In striving for excellence in education we aim to:

- Enable children to reach their full potential in all aspects of the school's curriculum.
- Provide children with an education appropriate to the world in which they live.
- Develop in children a love of learning and a desire to expand their knowledge and skills throughout their life.
- Foster an atmosphere of mutual respect wherein children learn to live together in a community and recognize other's strengths.
- Encourage children to become responsible, independent people with a sense of moral responsibility and self-discipline.

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

The English School occupies purpose built accommodation in the heart of Asturias and enjoys delightful views of the adjacent countryside. It can be reached in approximately 15 minutes by car from Oviedo and approximately 20 minutes from Gijón. The site has developed to accommodate the School's growth. It now occupies approximately 42,000 sq metres and has 56 classrooms, including specialist science laboratories, art and music rooms, sports hall, computer lab, library, SEN support rooms, a recently built kitchen & dining room, two multi-purpose halls and a newly built covered playground for KS2 – KS5.

STAFF

The school has a growing team which includes the Head teacher, two Assistant Head teachers, 51 teaching staff, one Lab/ICT technician, 15 teaching support staff, a full-time speech and language therapist, a full-time psychologist, three office staff, one caretaker; catering and cleaning services are subcontracted. The staffing structure includes the following posts of responsibility: Infant Coordinator, Junior Coordinator, Head of Primary (Assistant Head teacher), Head of Secondary (Assistant Head teacher), Deputy Secondary Coordinator, Exams Officer, ICT Coordinator, Coordinators in the secondary core subjects of English, Maths, Science and Humanities, Assistant Infant Coordinator and Assistant Infant Coordinator. There are also Heads of Year for Years 7 to 13 and a Head of Sixth Form as well as three SENCO posts (Infants, Juniors and Secondary).

CURRICULUM

The English National Curriculum is taught throughout, amended where appropriate to our geographical location. At Key Stage 4 and 5, students are prepared for the University of Cambridge and Edexcel IGCSE, AS and A2 examinations. Due to the fact that the school operates in Spain, it is required in addition to provide certain elements of the Spanish National Curriculum. These classes are taught by locally recruited Spanish staff.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A growing number of after-school activities are offered to pupils. This year's activities include: Music* (piano, guitar and ukulele), Art, Robotix, Mental Maths (Aloha Mental Arithmetic), Football, Handball, Rugby, Basketball, Athletics, Judo, Yoga, Modern Dance, Ballet, Roller-Skating, Chinese, Primary Choir*, at lunchtimes*. In addition, residential trips are encouraged and destinations include sites in Cantabria, Andalucía and London. Staff participation in after school activities is voluntary, although it would be expected that wherever possible, staff would become involved in residential activities.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

CONTRACTS

Contracts are offered initially for two years but may be extended by mutual agreement.

RELOCATION

The school will pay up to €300 to cover flight and accommodation, (upon presentation of receipts). In addition, up to 3 days' paid leave may be taken during the second year for interviews. Up to 300€ would also be payable at the end of the second or subsequent year (upon presentation of receipts) for those staff who give notice that they will leave at the end of the academic year, by the end of February.

SALARIES

Salaries are based on Spanish National agreement scales for private schools which are updated annually to take account of cost of living rises. The salary for teachers starts from between €22,638 and € 23,753 depending on qualifications and post. When viewed against the general cost of living, salaries enable staff to enjoy a comfortable life-style.

TAX & SOCIAL SECURITY

Income tax in Spain varies according to level of income and number of dependents. For newly appointed teachers without children it is approximately 24 % until the end of the calendar year. From January of the following calendar year, deductions are approximately 14%. Spain operates an annual tax returns process, during the months of May and June. The tax returns system requires that all tax payers declare their earnings over the previous financial year (which runs from January to December) and claims back or reimburses, through a rigorous tax evaluation process, taxes which have been over or underpaid.

The School deducts tax, together with a 6.4% Social Security payment at source. From the day that the contract begins members of staff are covered by the Spanish National Health Service. This is fairly similar to the British system. New employees at the school will be issued with a Social Security card which should be carried at all times together with some other form of identification. An EHIC, formerly known as an E111, which entitles the holder to free medical treatment, should be obtained for the period before the contract begins.

Compliant with Spanish law, if working in Spain for the first time, the first 180 days of contract are not covered by Social Security reimbursement of wages for absence due to ill health. From the 181st day in post, new employees will be covered by the statutory sick pay scheme, as granted by Social Security.

DEPENDENTS

On arrival, arrangements are made for new teachers to obtain a residence permit. This is a legal requirement. It registers you fiscally and entitles holders to use the Health and Social Security system. Family members may also be included on this permit. Boyfriends or girlfriends, however, may not and therefore need to bring an EHIC or make alternative arrangements for health cover.

PLACES FOR CHILDREN

Full time staff are entitled to free tuition fees for their children at the school, subject to places. School bus (€116 per month), if used, compulsory school lunch (€95.88 per month), uniform, textbooks (approx. €150) and trips are charged apart.

PENSION

Social security contributions are transferable within the European community. At the end of your term of employment a certificate of contributions can be obtained from the Social Security office.

SCHOOL BUS

Staff who undertake supervision of children on the School bus travel free, the rest pay 50% of that charged to pupils.

SCHOOL LUNCH

Lunchtime supervision is an integral aspect of the role and lunches are provided free of charge.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Term dates are closely linked to the official Spanish academic calendar. This normally begins on the 1 September, finishes on 30 June and includes a two-week Christmas break, 10 days at Easter and approximately 10 public holidays scattered throughout the year. Classes take place from Monday to Friday. They begin at 09.15 and the normal teaching programme finishes at 16.20, with extra-curricular activities and meetings continuing until 17.30. Teachers are required to be present in school from 09.00 to 16.30. Weekly departmental staff meetings take place on Tuesdays and run until 17.30. There are weekly departmental briefing meetings on Monday mornings at 09.00.

SAFEGUARDING

The English School of Asturias is fully committed to the UK standards regarding the Safeguarding of children. Safe recruitment practices are rigorously observed. As a condition of employment, CVs must account for all previous movements, identity and qualifications must be verified and at least two references taken. New staff are required to provide up to date DBS enhanced clearance and/or where the most recent employment has been outside of the UK, an equivalent certificate together with an official translation. While working in Spain, staff are also required to annually update their Spanish equivalent of the DBS enhanced clearance, known as *el certificado de antecedentes penales*.

HEALTH

The contract requires staff to sign a declaration that he/she does not knowingly suffer from any medical condition that would affect his/her fitness to teach.

ACCOMMODATION

You will be given help to find a suitable place to live after you arrive. The following examples of current staff accommodation may provide a guide. There are some pleasant places to live in the hills and mountains where rents can be cheaper, although a car would be essential.

Type	Location	Bedrooms	Features	Rent Incl. bills	Deposit
Flat	Oviedo	2	Large terrace, central location	€ 400	€ 400
Flat	Oviedo	2		€ 700	€ 500
Apartment	Gijón	2		€ 550	€ 550
Flat	Oviedo	3	Parking space	€ 600	€ 600
House	Soto de Llanera	3	Community pool and sports facilities, quiet, nice views, walking distance to school	€ 850	€ 700
Flat	Oviedo	3	Roof terrace	€ 750	€ 1400
Flat	Oviedo	2	Balcony	€ 550	€ 500
Flat	Gijón	2	One street from beach	€ 680	€ 1240
Apartment	Siero	3	Garage, 2 bathrooms	€ 520	€ 470
Flat	Gijón	1		€ 525	€ 525
Flat	Oviedo	1		€ 500	€ 450
Flat	Oviedo	4		€ 900	€ 4500 (6 mths)
Flat	Gijón	3	Central location	€ 600	€ 550

JOB DESCRIPTION TEACHER

Key Job Roles

- To have a significant positive impact on pupils' learning and personal development.
- To promote the intellectual, social and emotional well-being of the pupils.
- To support the School in the achievement of its stated aims.
- To contribute to and proactively support all approved School policies.
- To collaborate in and support School organised events.

Reporting Lines

The Teacher reports to the Head teacher, her/his respective section coordinator and to any official post-holder whose role requires her/his support and assistance in the undertaking of their task. The teacher in turn is responsible for managing staff who provide learning support in her/his class.

Terms and Conditions of Service

The terms and conditions of service are in accordance with the National Collective Agreement for Private Schools in Spain.

Key Tasks

1. Teach, according to their educational needs, the pupils assigned to her/him.
2. Prepare, set and mark appropriate programmes of study to be carried out by the pupils in school and at home.
3. Assess, record and report on the development, progress and achievement of pupils.
4. Maintain good order and discipline among the pupils and safeguard their health and safety on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere.
5. Maintain an attractive learning environment.
6. Provide regular and helpful feedback to pupils, indicating wherever possible, how they can improve.
7. Identify pupils for whom there is a perceived concern about their development and refer them to the appropriate post holder.
8. To consistently apply school policies with respect to discipline, rewards and sanctions.
9. Act as a tutor as required.
10. Participate in the PSHE programme as required.
11. Provide guidance and advice to pupils on educational and social matters.
12. Communicate with the parents of pupils and attend parents' evenings.
13. Participate in target setting, appraisal of own performance and in the identification of any personal professional development needs.
14. Participate in arrangements for her/his further training and professional development.

15. Participate in meetings at the school as required.
16. Exhibit appropriate standards of professional conduct and appearance at all times.
17. Supervise and so far as practicable teach any pupil whose teacher is not available to teach them.
18. Participate, when pertinent, in arrangements for preparing pupils for public examinations and in assessing pupils for the purposes of such examinations; recording and reporting such assessments; and participating in arrangements for invigilation of pupils during such examinations.
19. Take such part as may be required of her/him in the evaluation of School performance and School development.
20. Carry out administrative duties as required by the School in its routines.
21. Undertake break time, lunchtime and after-school supervision as required.
22. Any other reasonable task as required.

Tutor

1. Registration of pupils.
2. Collection of letters justifying absence or lateness.
3. Transmission of all messages, letters and circulars to their class.
4. Collection of reply slips acknowledging receipt of letters and authorisations as requested.
5. Responsible for the use of the tutor room by their class.
6. Involvement in delivery of PSHE programmes.
7. To manage the allocation of and use of pupil's lockers.
8. To sign home diaries and check that they are being effectively used and signed by parents.

The above will be interpreted in accordance with ESA policies and the National Collective Agreement for Private Schools in Spain.

APPLYING FOR A TEACHING POST AT THE ENGLISH SCHOOL OF ASTURIAS

All applicants should have a minimum of two years' teaching experience.

Applicants should write a presentation letter and forward an up to date copy of their CV, outlining experience and suitability for teaching at our school, covering the key points outlined in the job specifications.

- **Applications should be sent to:**
- **Ms Zoë Roberts, Head teacher**
- **The English School of Asturias**
- **Email: z.roberts@iepgroup.es**