

AUXILIAR DE CONVERSACIÓN

Julia Murray



IES TORRE
ALMENARA

01 PRE-ARRIVAL

August-September

WHY I CHOSE IES TORRE ALMENARA

- ★ When presented with a **long** list of schools, provinces, and cities, I had no idea which school to choose at first.
- ★ I had narrowed my options down to wanting to teach at the high school level, live by the beach, and be as close as possible to a major airport and city, and after researching the town of Mijas and seeing pictures of the white washed buildings and the beaches, I immediately could not imagine living and working in such a beautiful location.
- ★ After scanning the IES Torre Almenara website, I immediately submitted my request for that **last** placement in the **town of Mijas in Málaga, Spain**, and am so happy I did.

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL

- ★ After selecting my placement, I quickly started on all the paperwork to obtain the Spanish VISA and was faced with many challenges. The Apostille background check needed to apply for the VISA was taking months longer than usual to obtain and I was growing worried about arriving by the October 1st start date. Luckily, IES Torre Almenara was very understanding of the delay and allowed me to arrive around 2 weeks later and make up the hours after settling into my new apartment and town.
- ★ In September, I received a detailed email from the bilingual director Jesús Guzmán, with the expectations and tasks of my role as an auxiliar, general information on the student population, as well as some general advice on finding accommodation in the area which all served really useful in preparing for my arrival and feeling most comfortable and excited!

02

ARRIVAL IN SPAIN

October

MY FIRST DAY

★ On my first day of work I was greeted at the front of the school by the director of the bilingual program, who helped me fill out the remaining auxiliary paperwork and give me information on opening a bank account, and obtaining my temporary identity card in Spain. This helped me a ton given my delayed arrival and my anxieties about feeling behind on paperwork, and getting settled in Spain a bit later than the other Malaga auxiliares.



★ I took these pictures of the town on my first day. I thought the apartments on the street where the school is located were so cute and I loved the palm trees and cute town with many cafes, restaurants, and of course the beach within 10 minutes of the school. Some of my favorite cafes are bsweet coffee & bakery and café la costa.

03

MY TIME AT THE INSTITUTE

October-March

COMMUNITY

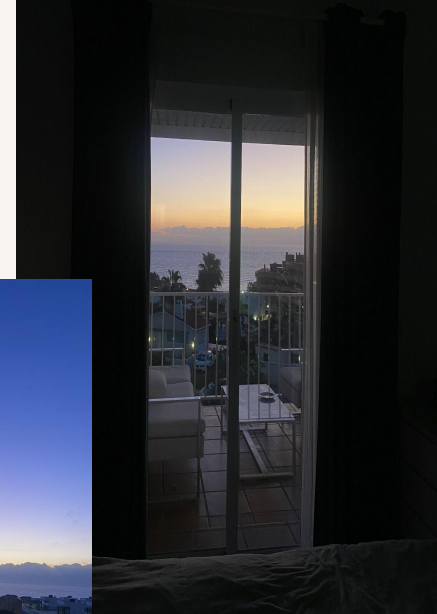
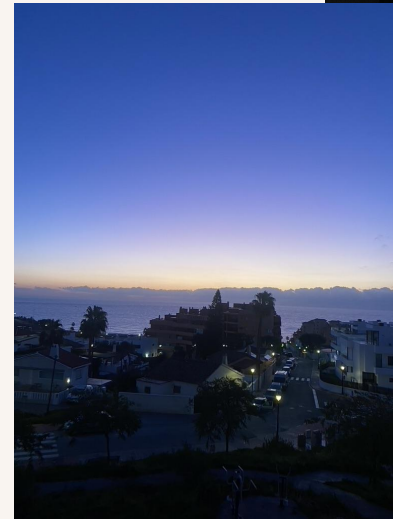
- ★ The teacher's were quick to add me to their whatsapp group where they plan social outings for whoever can join.
- ★ There were many other schools nearby so I met other auxes just by taking the public bus and worked with another aux -Madeline at the school.
- ★ I have had teachers offer me rides to and from school and teachers who have even asked for help looking over some english work for them which was really cool to me!
- ★ The teachers have done bigger get togethers for lunch for special holidays and even a secret santa around christmas time which was really cool.
- ★ The school bus driver even offered to drive me to school whenever I needed as the students get picked up at the same bus stop just 10 minutes earlier.



PIC: MIJAS
PUEBLO

A TYPICAL DAY

- ★ My schedule changed midway through the program (in february), which was a nice change to work with different teachers, students, and have a different schedule.
- ★ On days that I started at 8am I would get to wake up to this beautiful sunrise from my apartment in Fuengirola, as well as watch the sunrise on the way to work which was about a 30 minute commute with bus & walking.
- ★ I would go to work and have classes ranging from english to biology, history, and math always with a teacher present. I also was able to work with all the different age groups ranging from grade 1 (12 year olds) to grade 4 (up to 16 year olds).
- ★ I was usually done around midday and had my entire afternoon/nights free to explore. I usually could get most of my planning done during the free hours during my day and rarely came home with any extra planning to do.



My work in each subject:

History:

- ★ Read aloud and help with vocabulary in the reading. Crossword puzzles and some presentations on holidays/events of my choice.
 - Topic examples:
 - Romanesque Architecture
 - Feudalism
 - Islam beginnings
 - Halloween & Christmas history

Biology

- ★ Reading, creating games to practice vocabulary, filling in diagrams, creating some presentations
 - Topics:
 - Weather and climate, water cycle
 - Solar system

Math:

- ★ Mostly focused on English vocabulary for math concepts by finding english videos and creating activities for vocabulary. Also included some other topics such as presentations on giving directions, asking for help, visiting a doctor's office, scientific advancements etc.
 - Topic examples:
 - Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions
 - Proportionality
 - Mode/median/mean

English

- ★ Lots of individual conversations with students and assessing their fluency, use of vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar (**this was my favorite part of all my work because I had such cool conversations with students and got to know SO many!**)
 - Topic examples:
 - Prepositions, quantifiers and articles, the present tense, present simple vs. past simple

SCHEDULE OCT-JAN

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
8:00-9:00	History	Biology		Biology	
9:00-10:00	Biology	Biology		Biology	
10:00-11:00	Biology		History		
11:00-11:30	Break			Math	
11:30-12:30	Biology		Math	Math	
12:30-1:30					
1:30-2:30					

SCHEDULE FEB-MAY

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
8:00-9:00		English	Math	Math	
9:00-10:00	English		Math	Math	
10:00-11:00	English	English	English	English	
11:00-11:30	Break				
11:30-12:30					
12:30-1:30	English				
1:30-2:30	Math				

THANK
YOU!

FINAL
THOUGHTS **04**

FINAL THOUGHTS

- ★ Although I went into this job knowing that my end goal was not to become a teacher, I learned so much about how much I love helping children & learning about all the different cultures and backgrounds that the students have shared with me.
- ★ I have learned how to put together a quick, concise presentation on various topics (some that required some review as it had been a long time since I had taken a math or science class :). I felt very accomplished presenting my work to the students - especially when they became excited for any type of game or individual conversations.
- ★ While I had so much leeway in deciding what I wanted to share with the students (different holidays, events, or topics to make presentations on), I also had support and requests from the teachers on what topics would be most beneficial for the particular class and textbook materials to make activities out of.
- ★ I will 100% carry my work and personal interactions with the students, as well as my improvement in the Spanish language and confidence gained through traveling and new experiences into my future career in social and government work back in the U.S.