



Cambridge IGCSE Geography Fieldwork

Barcelona Field Studies Centre offers a range of field studies which will support students undertaking the [Cambridge Geography IGCSE](#). The studies will also help develop students' knowledge and understanding of a broad range of geographical concepts included in the specification content.

Specification Requirements

Cambridge IGCSE offers the option for students to undertake Component 3 (Coursework) or Paper 4 (Alternative to Coursework). For either option, students must understand the geographical route to enquiry. Students also need to know a range of case studies - field studies can add to their case study portfolio in a memorable way.

Barcelona Field Studies Centre offers a range of fieldwork opportunities which relate to the subject themes in the Cambridge IGCSE specification. You can also include additional studies to maximise students' experience of learning syllabus content through real-world situations.

If you opt for a 'Taught' course, an evening follow-up session will be included. This will review the day's fieldwork activities and assist students to analyse and evaluate their findings.

Component 3: Coursework

Students following the 'Coursework' option will undertake fieldwork in order to test a hypothesis. They must produce one coursework assignment, set by teachers, of up to 2000 words. Centres must submit proposals for candidates' coursework in advance for approval by Cambridge International. Coursework assignments may be based on physical geography or human geography or on an interaction between physical and human geography. Coursework must be clearly related to one or more of the subject themes - see 'Field Study Options' for relevant field studies available in Barcelona. The focus of assignments can be common to all candidates at a centre but they do not have to be.

Barcelona Field Studies Centre offers studies which meet the seven-stage 'route to geographical enquiry' (as outlined in the specification). There will be some preparation work and follow-up work required at school and materials will be provided to support this.

Paper 4: Alternative to Coursework

In Paper 4, candidates are set a series of tasks on issues relating to one or more of the syllabus subject themes. Questions test the methodology of questionnaires, observation, counts and measurement techniques, and involve testing hypotheses appropriate to specific topics. Questions also test processing, presentation and analysis of data. To prepare for the paper, students should follow the route to geographical enquiry.

Undertaking fieldwork will provide students with practical experience of the geographical route to enquiry, and the opportunity to develop their enquiry skills and gain first-hand practical experience of fieldwork methodologies.

Cambridge IGCSE Field Study Options

Cambridge International states that coursework may be based on physical geography or human geography or on an interaction between physical and human geography, and that coursework must be clearly related to one or more of the subject themes. The tasks set in Paper 4 also relate to the subject themes.

Barcelona Field Studies Centre offers a range of fieldwork options relating to the subject themes.

Subject Themes

Human Geography Theme 1: Population and Settlement

1. Settlements (rural) and service provision (1.5): Four Contrasting Catalan villages

Location	Four contrasting Catalan villages in the Barcelona region
Aim	To investigate the socio-economic changes in a selection of Catalan villages
Description	Students will visit four villages located between 40 and 115 kilometres from Barcelona to investigate if Cloke's index of rurality can be applied to villages in the Barcelona region
Primary data collection	Quantitative Environmental quality survey, price of a convenience item, index of services and amenities, structured questionnaire, investigation of transport links Qualitative Annotated photographs showing evidence of change, interviews with businesses (e.g. shopkeepers), evidence of change and cohesion/conflict and function
Secondary data provided	Local census data, newspaper report on Spanish rural change, topographic maps and aerial photos of the villages

2. Urban settlements (1.6): Pedralbes to El Raval transect, Barcelona

Location	Transect from Pedralbes to El Raval, Barcelona
Aim	To investigate change in urban land use and environmental quality
Description	Students will visit six sites on a transect from the suburbs to the inner city in Barcelona
Primary data collection	Quantitative Environmental quality survey, land use survey Qualitative Annotated photographs
Secondary data provided	Census data on average family income by district, map of distribution of foreign nationalities in Barcelona, health inequalities data

Human Geography Theme 3: Economic Development

3. Tourism (3.4): Sitges and Calafell

Location	Sitges and Calafell
Aim	To compare the relative success of tourism, in its various forms, by employing the Butler Model
Description	

	The study involves visiting both towns and collecting data at five comparable locations in each town. These are the old historic core, the sea front, an area of historic buildings, a major shopping street and an entertainment street. Data will be collected at each site and later used to compare the two towns in relation to the Butler Model
Primary data collection	<p>Quantitative</p> <p>Sustainable tourism management index, perception survey, index of services and amenities, environmental survey, bipolar evaluation</p> <p>Qualitative</p> <p>Photographs</p>
Secondary data provided	Historical context on the development of tourism in Sitges and Calafell

Physical Geography Theme 2: The Natural Environment

4. Rivers (2.2): River Tordera

Location	River Tordera: visiting four sites
Aim	To investigate changes in river channel characteristics from source to mouth
Description	Students will visit four sites on the River Tordera to investigate how the river changes as it moves from source to mouth
Primary data collection	<p>Quantitative</p> <p>Channel measurements: river velocity, width, depth, channel cross-sectional area, gradient and bed load</p> <p>Qualitative</p> <p>Annotated field sketch and digital photographs to show channel changes</p>
Secondary data provided	A GIS topographic map and data for study catchment

5.Coasts (2.3): Sitges Coast

Location	Sitges Coast
Aim	To investigate beach profile and sediment characteristics
Description	Students will undertake a shoreline-to-cliff foot/sea-wall transect to investigate coastal processes and form. This study will also support understanding of a retreating coastline, the coast as a natural system and its processes, coastal landforms and potential conflict at the coastline.
Primary data collection	<p>Quantitative</p> <p>Beach profile: length, height and slope of beach</p> <p>Sediment: size and shape of material along the transect</p> <p>Qualitative</p>

	Annotated field sketch of coastal features and digital photographs to show variations along a stretch of coast
Secondary data provided	Coastal sediment budget, local geology map, map of dominant fetch, beach replenishment costs, historic map overlays

Other Field Studies

These studies will provide an opportunity for students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of other areas of the syllabus.

6. Earthquakes and Volcanoes (2.1): Garrotxa Volcanic Natural Park

Location	Garrotxa Volcanic Natural Park
Syllabus content	Causes of volcanic and earthquake hazards, including the role of plate boundaries and hotspots. Reasons why people continue to live in areas at risk from hazard events.
Description	There are a number of locations which you can choose to visit including volcanoes, historic lava flows, an active fault line, volcanic quarries and a volcano museum.

Cambridge Geography IGCSE Example Fieldwork Programme

The programme outlines an example Cambridge Geography IGCSE Fieldwork Programme for four days. Further information on each of the fieldwork opportunities can be found in the above details.

This is an example programme - all programmes are fully customisable and there are other activities which can be added to your stay.

Cambridge Geography IGCSE Example Fieldwork Programme

Day 1	Arrival in Barcelona
	Airport pick-up and 2.5 hour orientation tour of the city
	Evening: Welcome, briefing on Health and Safety and context setting for the following day's fieldwork
	Evening meal
Day 2	Breakfast
	Full day: Human Geography Fieldwork Opportunity
	Select from Catalan villages, Pedrables to El Raval transect or Sitges and Calafell
	Evening: Two-hour follow-up session to review the day's fieldwork activities and support students in analysing and evaluating their data. The session will also set the context for the following day's fieldwork
	Evening meal

Day 3	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Full day: Physical Geography Fieldwork Opportunity</p> <p>Select from River Tordera or Sitges Coast</p> <p>Evening: Two-hour follow-up session to review the day's fieldwork activities and support students in analysing and evaluating their findings. The session will also set the context for the following day's fieldwork</p> <p>Evening meal</p>
Day 4	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Full day: Additional Field Study</p> <p>La Garrotxa Volcanic National Park or another theme-related study from those listed above</p> <p>Evening follow up session, as appropriate</p> <p>Evening meal</p>
Day 5	<p>Departure and airport drop-off</p>

For further information or if you have an enquiry, please [contact us](#)

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- ▶ [Prices 2019](#)
- ▶ [Prices 2020](#)
- ▶ [Provisional bookings](#)
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[|Back|](#)

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