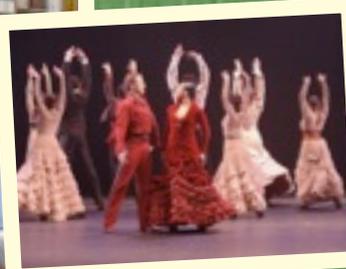


# Thinking about Spain?

MADRID

WEC INTERNATIONAL GUIDE TO LONG TERM MISSION IN SPAIN

APRIL 2014



*Holy Week processions,  
flamenco dancing and  
social and political unrest  
- all part of the reality of  
modern Spain*

Spain is a wonderful country with a fascinating history and a lively culture but despite more than 500 years of continuous Christian tradition remains one of the most spiritually needy countries in the world.

**So Spain definitely needs a relevant and effective presentation of the gospel which means it needs more cross cultural missional workers. That might include you...**

This guide aims to help you think about whether God is calling you to join us in the Spain Field of WEC International (now known as WEC España) and explains likely stages in the process.

Because every call and journey is different, steps may come in a slightly different order and not every step will apply in every case nevertheless we hope that most of these pointers will be helpful for most applicants.



## Step 1 - Why Spain, Why You, Why WEC and Why now?

A definite sense of God's personal call to you is fundamental to mission and the most important issue for acceptance by WEC. The difficulties of living in a new culture, language learning and a significant change of lifestyle mean that you will need to be sure of your call to survive and be effective.

Although your sense of calling may evolve over time, step one is to begin to test it out. We recommend the following:

● Learn as much as you can about Spain, its history, spiritual state, culture and customs. Speak to

## Did you know?

Modern Spain has a lower proportion of evangelical believers than anywhere in the Americas, most of sub saharan Africa, China, India, some parts of SE Asia and even much of the rest of post-Christian Europe.

anyone you know who has lived there and read all you can among the many good guides and histories.

● If you don't speak Spanish already you might try some courses or self study to begin to see how you do in picking up the basics.

● Read our *Guide to Spain* to think about the spiritual needs and culture of the country and how your gifts and experience might fit in



CONTACT US

[www.wecspain.org](http://www.wecspain.org)  
[info@wecspain.org](mailto:info@wecspain.org)

(0034) 652 564 039

Evangelización Mundial  
Para Cristo,  
Apartado de Correos  
26027, 28080 Madrid,  
España



# WEC INTERNATIONAL



**reaching the unreached  
planting where there is  
no church**

## WEC is people

**from around 50 nations  
united to live for Christ  
presenting the good news of  
his love to peoples and  
nations yet to hear**

**In partnership  
with local  
churches, we:**

- make disciples and start churches**
- translate scriptures and teach literacy**
- train leaders, run clinics and hospitals**
- rescue and rehabilitate addicts**
- care for children in crisis, work with youth**
- creatively act with compassion in Christ's name**

**wherever he sends us**

**WEC's dream is to see Christ  
known, loved and  
worshipped by the least-  
evangelised peoples of the  
world**

(extracted from WEC UK's web site)

 Ask yourself how you know God is calling you *personally* to Spain *specifically*. This will probably involve scripture, prayer, good advice and maybe even dreams and visions. It might be useful to keep a journal though this process.

 You also need to ask whether WEC International is for you as there are many different mission agencies working in Spain with different approaches and membership criteria

 It's also essential to consider the needs of children or other dependents. Couples need to be sure this is God's call for you both.

Now ask yourself if it still seems sufficiently clear that God may be calling you, now, through WEC International to Spain. If the answer is yes then go to Step 2.



### Step 2 - Get in Touch

If you believe God may be calling you to join us we'd love to get to know you. From first contact until being

accepted as a full status worker may take between three and five years depending on whether you need to do missions training and we'd love to accompany you in that journey. This way we can help you with information, short term or tourist visits, language advice and most importantly start to build a relationship with you.

Here are our recommendations:

 Get in touch with us in any way that suits you (contact details on page 1) and introduce yourself. Tell us a bit about your background and why you think God may be calling you to join us in Spain

 If at all possible come and visit - there's no substitute for face to face contact. This way you can meet Spanish believers, visit churches, get a flavour of the culture and begin to get to know the team. We would recommend at least a couple of weeks or better still a series of visits to different parts of the country and different WEC teams. This can be done to fit in with work and family commitments without taking any irreversible steps.

 If work and family allow we recommend you consider a short term missional trip. WEC Trek is WEC's main short term programme and will

introduce you to WEC International as an organisation and WEC España in particular. It will also give you the chance to test out your call in real world situations by allowing you to interact with colleagues and Spaniards who do not yet know Christ in a personal way.

Now pause again and reflect on what you have learned and whether you still feel the call to Spain is for you. If the answer is still yes then on to step 3!



### Step 3 - Training and application to WEC International

WEC normally requires significant cross cultural training for long term workers. While this may feel frustrating, our experience has shown that prior training is vital to helping you cope with the challenges ahead. WEC has its own network of colleges worldwide however training may take place at any of a range of mission orientated courses and colleges. Previous training and ministry experience will be taken into account in deciding how long you might need.

So step 3 looks could look like this:

 Get in touch with the WEC Candidate Directors for your region and begin discussing your application

 Decide with them what training may be appropriate for you and make your application

 The common language of WEC International is English. If you are not a native speaker you will have to demonstrate an adequate level so this may require further study.

 Complete your training then take a Candidate Orientation (CO) course to get to know more about WEC as an agency and test your calling

 When you have successfully completed CO you will be invited to sign our statement of Principles and Practice (Ps&P) and formally join WEC International

 Throughout the process keep in touch with us in Spain and if possible continue to visit. This will help you think about where and how you might serve.

 WEC workers depend directly on God for support rather than a salary or allowance. This can mean partnership with churches, family, friends and

contacts as well private income. WEC España also believes that normal mainstream employment can be a legitimate way of integrating into the culture and contributing to your own support. Like everything else, however, it must be missional in why and how it's done. During this stage you need to be thinking about the implications of this for you.



### Step 4 - Joining WEC España

You are now a member of WEC International.

Congratulations! However you're not quite there yet. WEC has a wide range of ministries on every continent and both we and you need to be sure that Spain is still right for you. For that reason we have our own application form which can be completed before, during or after CO, however you will not be accepted into WEC España until you are a member of WEC International.

Hopefully if you have visited a number of times, got to know us and we've got to know you there shouldn't be any surprises at this stage.

To join WEC España the stages are:

- Fill in the WEC España application form and let us know about the key issues of your calling, background, and gifts and how you think these might be used.
- We will then arrange an interview either in person or by Skype. We will inform you of acceptance or any reservations as soon as possible and discuss the appropriate next steps

● Timing of your arrival will depend on having a sufficient support network in place in terms of both prayer and finances (including costs of language learning). Both are vital for your survival and effectiveness.

● Come and join us! We'll help with advice on visas, health, schools, accommodation and other practical details. Our New Worker's Guide will give you vital information about a host of practical issues including the cost of living.

● Get settled in and begin your two year New Worker programme concentrating on language acquisition and getting familiar with the culture. Whether you live in Madrid or go directly to a regional team will depend on your needs and how the field as a whole is deployed at that time.

● WEC España's structure involves everyone in one of 5 ministry teams so you'll be invited to consider which team might be right for you so you can get involved right away

● At the end of two years, having gained a sufficient level of language and aside from other issues you will be welcomed as a full status worker. Congratulations - you made it! Now the real work begins...

We hope this guide has been useful as you consider the needs of Spain and how the Lord of the Harvest may use you in helping to meet them. Send us any questions or comments in any of the ways described above and we'll try to help you with information, advice and talking through the issues. May God lead, guide and encourage you through the process!



*The WEC España team at our annual conference in 2012*

*The spiritual state of Spain today is largely tied up with the interaction between two men who never met. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, Martin Luther (lower picture), then a Catholic priest and theologian, came to see that it was God's grace through faith that saves, not the rituals, rites or requirements of the Church. This ignited a revolution in religious thought throughout Europe - but not in Spain. Philip II was 19 years old when Luther died and came to the Spanish throne ten years later in 1556. He was determined that the Reformation would never take hold in Spain and used the Inquisition to track down and punish those deemed to be heretics.*



*Heretical Catholics and adherents of the new ideas of Protestantism were threatened and forced to flee for their lives or face likely torture, confiscation of property and ultimately death by burning at the stake. So the Roman Catholic Church maintained control and Spain never had a choice in its religious or spiritual life. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, General Franco maintained this policy so that evangelical pastors and believers were once again forced to leave the country or face persecution and discrimination. Only after the death of Franco in 1975 and the adoption of a new constitution in 1978 was there genuine freedom of belief - almost for the first time in Spanish history. Today Spain is officially a secular state though the Catholic Church remains highly influential.*