



## TEACH SEVILLE: PARTICIPANT STORIES - KURTIS

### At the beginning....

When I applied to join Teach Seville I had recently completed the CELTA but had no teaching experience beyond that. I was undecided about where I wanted to teach, and most job adverts I had looked at asked for previous teaching experience. Teach Seville seemed like the perfect opportunity for a new teacher like me to get some experience of teaching and living abroad for the first time, for a period of two months. In addition to finding me a placement in an English academy in Seville, my return flights and accommodation would also be taken care of, as well as weekly Spanish lessons. I was thrilled to be accepted onto the program, and met the other successful applicants in London at Red Ochre's office for an induction day.

### Out in Seville...

Seville itself was beautiful and soon felt like home. My academy started me off at a comfortable pace, observing experienced teachers' lessons and assisting some classes. After the first week I had my own classes, a mixture of one-on-one lessons and group classes, with a range of ages and levels. This was exactly the experience I wanted and needed to get started in the world of TEFL. I even had the opportunity to give Cambridge exam preparation lessons, experience of which is desirable for many employers.

Aside from the excellent teaching experience, I had a great time in Seville and beyond, travelling to different parts of Andalusia and even Portugal in my spare time. The Spanish lessons were really helpful and allowed me to better experience the Spanish/Andalusian culture. I also made some friends for life in the other people on Teach Seville, as we lived and worked and partied together and learned a lot about ourselves!

### After the programme...

Towards the end of the placement I updated my CV with my new experience and began applying for new teaching jobs in Spain. I quickly secured a contract with Berlitz in Valencia for the summer. I believe I would not have got the job if not for my experience with Teach Seville!

I am currently having a great time teaching in Valencia and feel as though the world is my oyster in terms of where to go and teach next. Teach Seville provided me with invaluable experience and gave me the confidence in my abilities that I needed to start a career in teaching.

*Written by Kurtis, Teach Seville (Mar-May 2017)*

*30 placements available in 2017-2018: More info: [www.redochre.org.uk/teachseville](http://www.redochre.org.uk/teachseville)*