Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Canary Islands Spain

24th of January 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

CEPA Sta. Lucía was founded in 1985 as CEPA Vecindario to serve as an Education Centre for Adults of Agüimes, Ingenio, Mogán, San Bartolomé and Santa Lucía. It is not until 1991 that the centre focuses only on the students of Santa Lucía de Tirajana. CEPA Santa Lucía is situated in the number 22nd of Pío X Street of Vecindario in Santa Lucía de Tirajana. It is situated in a commercial area in a town of around 59.000 inhabitants in a middle-class sociocultural and economic level. People in this area work mainly at the tertiary service, in agriculture, in the neighbour town of San Bartolomé, in the south of the island in the tourist resorts and some others are now due to the economic crisis. Vecindario is situated only 10 kilometres far from the tourist area of Maspalomas, 32 kilometres from the Capital of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and at 3 kilometres from the most important industrial area of the Canaries, Arinaga. Therefore, there is also a significant amount of foreigners from different countries that live in this area. In Vecindario there is a theatre, a Cultural House, an Ateneo and a Cultural Centre. There are also 2 TV stations, a private and a public one and 4 radio stations, 3 privates and a public one.

The students show great interest in conquering the courses and finishing their studies in order to achieve their Secondary and Higher Education. There is an average of 30-35 students per class.

In the Centre students can study:

* Basic Instruction for Adults which is formed by:
* Initial Basic Instruction (Formación Básica Inicial): Level I and Level II
* Post Initial Instruction (Formación Básica Postinitial): **GES** which covers four levels:
* Elementary -level I
* Consolidation -level II
* Advanced -level III (also online)
* Degree -level IV (also online)
* Semi-distance Education for Higher Education: 1st and 2nd of Bachillerato.
* Preparation for the Free Trial to Access Professional Training Courses.
* Preparation for the Free Trial to achieve GES.
* Distance Professional Training Course in Pharmacy.

The directive staff consists of the Director, the Head of Studies and the Secretary teacher, who carries out the administrative tasks necessary and essential for the proper functioning of the school. The CEPA Sta. Lucía has got a main Centre as it was mentioned earlier which is situated in the number 22nd of Pío X Street of Vecindario in Santa Lucía de Tirajana but there are also some other buildings which belong to CEPA Sta. Lucía, which are used for the teaching of Initial Basic Instruction (Formación Básica Inicial): Level I and Level II and 1st and 2nd of Higher Education. These buildings are situated in number 89 of Famara Street in Vecindario, for the Higher Education classes and in number 16 of Harimaguada Street in Sardina for the teaching of Basic Instruction.

Most of the students who attend the school are from the village itself but they also come from the surrounding towns and villages such as Agüimes, Ingenio, San Bartolomé and Santa Lucía. We have to take into account that these places are in the south of the island and, consequently, the students are used to live in a touristic area. This provides them with a good argument for learning foreign languages, especially English. There are about 1200 students attending classes at the Initial and Post Initial Basic Instruction, plus around 50 students enrolled online. As far as Bachillerato is concerned, there are about 380 students attending classes. Even though the groups are large in number, there is a friendly atmosphere and the relationship between students and teachers is usually very good. As for the number of groups, there are two groups of Initial Basic Instruction (one for each level) and six groups of Post-initial Basic Instruction in each shift, in morning and afternoon sessions. In general, a significant percentage of the students go on to study Professional Training.

The students who attend classes in the adult system have to be 18 or over 18 (16 for working students) and most of them are people who did not finish their studies in the High School or are working at the moment. I have to mention that most of the students are motivated because they want to promote in their work or to go on studying to get better qualifications. To certain extent, they should be autonomous at learning but most of them are not. On the other hand, they lack time to study. Although it is very hard for them to get through the courses, three out of four students finish their studies because they study in a modular system. This system allows them to organize their time and pace of study, allowing them also to stop their studies at any point and to retake them when they have the chance to go on in a near future. Regarding the students’ origin, most of our students are Spanish but there are some foreigner students from different nationalities, mainly from North Africa and South America. They constitute near 15% of the students. Regarding sex, there are more men in the evening groups (formed by students who are working at present), whereas in the morning the number of men and women is very similar (mostly young students, unemployed, and housewives).

Finally, we would like to add that we as an educational community are an enthusiastic, friendly and hard-working group of people, and we are looking forward to have an Erasmus student be part of our team.

Yours Sincerely,

All members of Staff

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