Woodberry in Spain is a five week, comprehensive language and cultural immersion program. It begins with a three night stay in Barcelona where the participants will tour the great works of Gaudí, Picasso and Miró, eat seafood in the great food market, La Boquería, and at the Olympic Port, as well as stroll Las Ramblas, the Gothic Quarter and Mont Juic. Participants then live with families in a four week stretch of home-stays in Seville and Valencia (a quick overnight stop at Granada to see the Alhambra is done on the way between these two cities.) Classes are given in the morning by Woodberry faculty in Spanish grammar, vocabulary, culture and reading. There is also a series of Spanish “guests” brought to the classroom to teach and discuss their craft. They include: a flamenco guitarist, a flamenco singer, a bullfighter, a sports journalist, an expert on modern Spanish music and cinema, a tapas chef, a law professor, a classical Spanish pianist and an artisanal cheese merchant. The participants return to their Spanish homes for lunch and conversation with their families and often have some free time to explore their neighborhood or go to the beach (in Valencia.) There are many excursions to nearby cities and towns, such as Jerez, Cádiz, Córdoba, Granada, Itálica, Calpe and Xátiva. We often meet in the afternoons and evenings to enjoy the local attractions such as bullfights, movies, museums, city tours (one being an acted medieval tour,) notable restaurants, and two trips to a cortijo (ranch) for a bullfighting lesson and ranch tour. The program ends in Madrid with many museums, monuments and restaurants, plus a day trip to Ávila and Segovia.

Participants will undoubtedly return stronger in Spanish, particularly in speaking and listening, as well as developing a solid understanding of a culture different from their own. One year credit is earned with the completion of the program. Students are well prepared for their next level of Spanish and, in rare cases, are even allowed to skip ahead a year. There are homework assignments which usually take advantage of the immersion setting by encouraging conversation with Spaniards and observing their surroundings. A midterm and final exam are given to help comprise a final grade.

Woodberry in Spain, as a program, has one clear goal, to provide the opportunity and push its participants to truly live the language.