

## Review- Spainwise North

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

This year saw the return of Spainwise North, in the beautiful city of Bilbao. A mere two years ago, I attended this event as a candidate in search of new and exciting teaching opportunities of my own; and this year I made my return as a speaker and exhibitor. Having now experienced the event from both sides of the interview desk, I can confirm that it really is a fantastic chance for teachers (and would-be teachers) to meet new people, pick up some top teaching tips, and discover a little bit more about what the industry has to offer. All too often, we get stuck in a teaching rut, without realising that there are so many great opportunities to be found on our doorstep.

As a CELTA tutor, it was great to see so many familiar faces of past trainees all continuing on their various teaching paths; promoting this feeling of being part of the English teaching community in the North of Spain, which is extremely important for us all. With over 30 exhibitors and hundreds of attendees, there was no shortage of people to talk to and share ideas with; there was barely time to grab a quick coffee to refuel! The talk I gave, entitled 'Getting a CELTA qualification' aimed to provide key information to those thinking about embarking on a career in teaching. It was a chance for attendees to learn, from honest trainee feedback, more about the structure course, what it is really like and how they can go about preparing themselves for what promises to be one of the most stressful, but rewarding, months of their lives.

Of course, I can't end this review without mentioning what a fantastically sunny day we had in Bilbao and how lovely it was to end the day on a high; sitting in a bar overlooking the city, with a glass of chilled Txakoli in hand. Until next year, Spainwise North!



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