

Barcelona is now recognised as a hub city in Southern Europe. Its economy drives not only drives the region of Catalonia, but is important to the economies of both Spain and France. It is one of the most popular tourist cities in Europe, and is renowned worldwide for cultural activities such as the Barcelona Olympics and the work of artists Gaudi and Miro. Such attractions mean that it is also a city with numerous tensions about the best way to develop, with locals resenting increased numbers of tourists, and concerns about Catalonia's place within Spain. As a result, the city is a human geographer's dream, with political, economic, social and cultural issues all plain to see and study in everyday life.

Rather than just look at Barcelona, in this module, students also examine Liverpool and ask what each city can learn from the other. By comparing two cities which have many similarities (both port cities, both experiencing industrial decline in the 1970s/80s, both cultural centres and more) students learn new things about each place that they may not have noticed before. Students are given guidance on potential topics, but are expected to work in groups to undertake research on a topic that they are interested in.

Assessment involves four pieces of work:

- A group report (3,000 words per student) on your chosen topic comparing Liverpool and Barcelona.
- An individual report (3,000 words) on the pro's and con's of doing comparative research.
- A piece of ethnographic writing (1,000 words) on a place in Barcelona.
- A Research Diary (2,500 words) detailing your activities whilst in Barcelona.

