



**Universitat**  
de les Illes Balears

## **BACHELOR'S THESIS**

# **FOREIGN RESIDENTS' DEGREE OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN DAILY ACTIVITIES. THE CASE OF THE ISLAND OF MAJORCA**

**Kiara María Dutton Perelló**

**Double Degree in Tourism & Business Administration**

**Faculty of Tourism**

**Academic Year 2020-21**

# FOREIGN RESIDENTS' DEGREE OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN DAILY ACTIVITIES. THE CASE OF THE ISLAND OF MAJORCA

**Kiara María Dutton Perelló**

**Bachelor's Thesis**

**Faculty of Tourism**

**University of the Balearic Islands**

**Academic Year 2020-21**

Key words:

Social integration, Spanish residents, non-Spanish residents, Majorca, migration

*Thesis Supervisor's Name: Yolanda Joy Calvo Benzies*

The University is hereby authorized to include this project in its institutional repository for its open consultation and online dissemination, for academic and research purposes only.

Author		Supervisor	
Yes	No	Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## **ABSTRACT**

Since the 1950's, the Balearic Island of Majorca has encountered an increase in immigration due to its touristic development. Many are the reasons why a foreigner moves elsewhere such as for work purposes, to pursue their dream career or simply because they fall in love with the place, or with someone who lives there. This study aims at analyzing the degree of social integration of foreign residents in Majorca, specifically making a differentiation between non-Spanish migrants and migrants that have moved to Majorca from mainland Spain. In order to fulfil this objective, an interview with open-ended questions was administered to 14 residents in Majorca, half of them Spanish and the other half from other countries all over the world. Broadly speaking, the results indicate that the first group of people have been more successful in integrating with the local people, the main factor being the knowledge of the common language spoken on the Island, Spanish. At the end of the paper, a series of social activities are included to possibly help increase the level of integration of current and future foreigners moving to Majorca.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	7
2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	8
3. STUDY	
3.1. PARTICIPANTS.....	12
3.2. RESEARCH MATERIALS.....	13
3.3. DATA ANALYSIS.....	14
3.4. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS.....	14
4. PROPOSAL OF ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE INTEGRATION.....	17
5. CONCLUSIONS AND TOPICS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH.....	20
REFERENCES.....	22
APPENDIX.....	23

## LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1: European foreign residents in the Balearic Islands, 1999.....	8
Table 2: Foreign residents in the Balearic Islands. June 2001.....	9
Table 3: Excel spreadsheet used to record the main answers given by the interviewees in each questionnaire item.....	14
Figure 1: Amount of time the residents interviewed have lived in Majorca, expressed in years.....	12
Figure 2: Interaction of the participants with Majorcans inside and outside working contexts.....	15
Figure 3: Main reasons why the Spanish residents interviewed moved to Majorca.....	16

## 1. INTRODUCTION

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a migrant is 'any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/ her habitual place of residence, regardless of the person's legal status; whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; what the causes for the movement are; or what the length of the stay is'.

From the mid-eighties to the mid-nineties, Spain was considered more of a sender country than a receiver, as millions of people moved to other European countries or even Latin American countries. However, throughout the first ten years of the twenty-first century, Spain has encountered one of the largest waves of migration in European history. Millions of these people have found themselves searching for new homes, new jobs and new friends to integrate in the country they now live in.

In this paper we have studied the experience of some of the abovementioned foreigners moving to another area that is not their birthplace, specifically the case of the Island of Majorca, which is the largest of the Balearic Islands and is located in the Mediterranean, east of Spain. During the last 70 years approximately, the tourism sector in Majorca has rapidly grown, making this industry the Island's main source of income and contributing to a huge demand for labor. This development encouraged immigration flows from all over Europe, but especially the mainland Spain, where people would leave their poorer rural areas to enter a more economically dynamic area.

Discovering further information about the different levels of integration in the Island of Majorca was specifically an attractive topic for me for many reasons. First, I was born and raised in this beautiful Island, which makes me interested in the people that live on it and their feelings towards it. Second, I have a double nationality, Spanish and English, the reason being that my mother is Spanish, and my father and uncle are English. Thanks to this fact, I have grown up witnessing the integration in Majorca from my home and I have seen how different factors, such as the language, played part in the whole process.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

During what is called the “take-off” stage in Majorca’s tourism development, which started in the 1950s, the immigration to the Island was seasonal, that is, people would move to Majorca in the peak season of tourism activity, generally from April to October, and return to their hometown for the remaining months. Later, in the “consolidation” stage, from the 1960s to the 1980s, this seasonal migration became a more permanent type of migration, mainly due to inter-marriages between locals and foreigners and the formation of new families on the Island (Salvà-Tomàs, 2002a).

The growth of the building industry in Majorca led to an increase of interurban migration flow from mainland Spain, in contrast to the rural migration from the poorer areas of Spain that characterized the 1960s and 1970s. Yet, European immigrants had slightly different reasons for moving to Majorca. People from Western and Northern Europe were motivated by the good climatic conditions of the island, a more relaxing way of life and the opportunity to invest in a second home. On the other hand, we find European labor migration, people whose primary reason to move to the Island was the demand of work in the tourism sector (Salvà-Tomàs, 2002a). As we can see in Table 1 below, in 1999, German and English residents are the most common nationalities to have migrated to Majorca, accounting for around 80% of the European foreigners, whilst other nationalities such as French and Dutch, constitute the remaining 20%.

NATIONALITY	PERMANENT	SEASONAL	TOTAL
German	10.541	38.386	48.927
British	9.599	10.935	20.534
French	2.552	512	3.064
Italian	1.550	500	2.050
Dutch	1.456	455	1.911
Swiss	1.178	287	1.465
Others	7.284	1.200	8.484
Total Europe	34.160	52.275	86.439

Table 1. European foreign residents in the Balearic Islands, 1999. Source: own elaboration with data retrieved from Salvà-Tomàs (2002a).

This data is only approximate due to the lack of information provided in official statistics. The cause of this inaccuracy of information is that official statistics only register legal residents and/or expatriates of other countries that have officially registered for residency, called *permanent residents*. However, a considerable number of foreigners who are not officially registered and those that migrate to the Island to work during the peak season, normally more than 3 months, are not accounted for in official statistics; the latter are known as *seasonal residents*. (Salvà-Tomàs, 2002b).

As reported by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the Balearic Islands accounted for 82.246 permanent foreign residents. If seasonal residents are added, the total of foreign residents rises to more than 160.000 foreign residents, as observed in Table 2 below.



Continent	Nationality	Permanent	Seasonal	Total	% of foreigner residents
Europe		50 049	55 693	105 742	66,0
	German	18 876	39 293	58 169	36,3
	British	11 432	11 503	22 935	14,3
	French	4 948	813	5 761	3,6
	Italian	3 595	493	4 088	2,6
	Dutch	1 804	467	2 271	1,4
	Swiss	1 078	615	1 693	1,1
	Swedish	1 102	167	1 269	1,0
	Belgian	1 316	324	1 640	0,8
Others	5 898	2 018	7 916	4,9	
Africa		11 908	16 848	28 756	17,9
	Moroccan	8 520	8 999	17 519	10,9
	Senegalese	897	4 401	5 298	3,3
	Algerian	658	2 405	3 063	1,9
	Others	1 833	1 043	2 876	1,8
Latin America		16 675	4 529	21 204	13,2
	Ecuadorian	4 167	605	4 772	3,0
	Colombian	3 693	334	4 027	2,5
	Argentinean	3 307	334	3 641	2,3
	Cuban	1 146	381	1 527	1,0
	Dominican	753	571	1 324	0,8
	Chilean	822	200	1 022	0,6
	Brazilian	692	232	924	0,6
	Peruvian	275	132	768	0,5
	Uruguayan	636	132	745	0,5
Venezuelan	278	100	378	0,2	
Others	906	1 508	2 076	1,3	
Asia		2 691	892	3 583	2,2
Northern America		923	96	1 019	0,6
Total		82 246	78 058	160 304	100,0

Table 2: Foreign residents in the Balearic Islands. June 2001. Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Institut Balear d'Estadística, Salvà-Tomás (2002b).

According to an article published in the Majorca Daily Bulletin written by Pellicer (2021), Calvià and Deya are the municipalities with the highest influence of foreign residents, counting for a 31.9% of the total, whilst Alcúdia, Algaida, Andratx and Santanyi account for slightly over 25% and Marratxi has the lowest foreign resident percentage of 5.6%.



Image 1: Island of Majorca divided into its municipalities. Source: Dompick.com

As reported by Lim (2021), “a social integration policy for immigrants refer to any government policy or program that supports social integration so that immigrants can adapt to their new context and coexist with their neighbors, minimizing conflict with mainstream society”. The latest reform of the "Ley de Extranjería" in 2009 introduces a new Article with the following wording:

*Article 2 ter. Integration of immigrants. The public authorities shall promote the full integration of foreigners into Spanish society, within a framework of coexistence of diverse identities and cultures, with no other limit than respect for the Constitution and the law. The Public Administrations shall incorporate the objective of integration between immigrants and the receiving society, in a cross-cutting manner in all public policies and services, promoting the economic, social, cultural and political participation of immigrants, under the terms set forth in the Constitution, in the Statutes of Autonomy and in other laws, under conditions of equal treatment. In particular, they shall seek, through educational actions, knowledge of and respect for the constitutional and statutory values of Spain, the values of the European Union, as well as human rights, public freedoms, democracy, tolerance and equality between women and men, and shall develop specific measures to encourage incorporation into the educative system, guaranteeing in all cases schooling at compulsory age, learning all the official languages, and access to employment as essential factors for integration.*

The success or failure of social integration policies aimed at changing social reality will highly depend on whether an inclusive citizenship is pursued, and a social participation is conducted (Cívico, 2010).

The process of moving to another city or country has been divided into three stages according to Bhugra and Becker (2005). Firstly, the person goes through a phase of decision-making which is known as pre-migration, where the person makes the decision to move and prepares for it. Next comes the migration stage, the physical transfer of the person from their hometown to their new home. The last stage is called postmigration, where the person integrates into the new society and cultural framework.

The objective of this study is to analyze the last stage of migration (post-migration; Bhugra and Becker, 2005), namely, the degree of social integration of foreign residents in the Island of Majorca. More specifically, we will compare the similarities and differences between the integration of Spanish-residents, that is, migrants from mainland Spain, and other Nationality-residents, such as English, German and Dutch, among others. Although our sample is small, we consider that our analysis gives a broad vision of how the majority of people that currently live in Majorca feel and have felt since they became residents on the Island. For this reason, we believe the results we obtain could be extrapolated to other contexts.

Accordingly, this study aims at answering the following Research Questions:

- RQ.1: Are foreign residents in Majorca integrated at all with local people?
- RQ.2: Are Spanish or non-Spanish residents more integrated with local people?

- RQ.3: In what environment do they integrate more with locals? In the workplace, during their free time, practicing leisure activities...?
- RQ.4: What are the series of factors that affect a foreigner's level of integration? Age, language, nationality...?

### 3. STUDY

#### 3.1. PARTICIPANTS

To evaluate the level of social integration in the Island of Majorca, 14 people were selected, 7 of which are non-Spanish residents and the remaining 7 Majorcan residents who have come from Mainland Spain. We aimed to have the same number of participants of each category, 7 Spanish and 7 non-Spanish, so we could equally analyze both groups.

In the non-Spanish group of people, we can find nationalities from all over the world such as British, German, Dutch, Mexican and Canadian. Likewise, for the Spanish residents, people from different parts of the Mainland were picked to study the possible contrasts between them. In this group we find people that have come from the South of Spain such as Cádiz and Málaga, from the East we have Castellón and Alicante, from the North being País Vasco and lastly someone who moved from the capital of Spain, Madrid.

The age range of the participants is between 22 and 60 years old, 57% being between the age of 40 and 60 and the other 43% within the range of 20 and 40 years old. As will be explained below, we found that age was in fact an important aspect to consider as it likely determined the reason behind their migration to Majorca.

Our intention was to conduct this study with people that have been living in Majorca for at least 3 years, since they would have had enough time to possibly integrate completely. Therefore, as you can see in more detail on Figure 1 below, the time period lived away from their hometown ranges from 4 years up to 43 years in one of the cases.

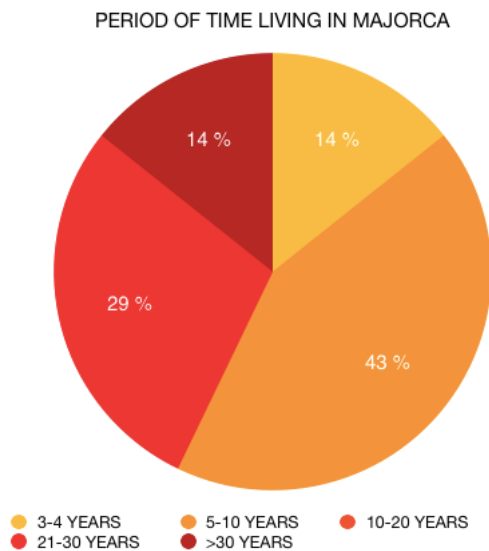


Figure 1: Time the residents interviewed have lived in Majorca, expressed in years. Source: own elaboration.

### 3.2. RESEARCH MATERIALS

The method endorsed for the research was an interview with open-ended questions where the participants were free to answer as lengthily as they wished.

The interview was composed of a total of 20 questions divided into different elements to consider:

Questions 1 to 7 were based on personal aspects including age, family and the reasons behind leaving their hometown. The first questions we found most important asking was their age and where they were from, as these are the two factors that would mostly affect the answers of the rest of the questions. The next two questions were if it was the first time they have been living outside their hometown, to get an idea of the experience they have had of living abroad; and the reason behind their move.

To follow, as abovementioned, we were primarily interested in people that had been living in Majorca for at least three years, therefore question 5 was “how long have you been living here?”, to know if we could continue to properly analyze their level of integration in the following questions. Questions 6 and 7 were about the presence of their family on the Island as having well-known people surrounding them or being alone in the process could also affect their level of integration.

Subsequently, questions 8 to 10 addressed the languages the participants talk and possibly have learnt whilst living in the Balearic Islands. One of the leading obstacles foreigners have when integrating into a new place is a language barrier between them and the local residents, therefore we asked the interviewees how many languages they spoke and if they dominated the local language(s). Having asked questions 8 and 9, number 10 was about the effort they put into speaking the language in the local supermarkets, restaurants, bars, etc., to understand their degree of intention to fit in.

Next, numbers 11 to 18 were questions related to the level of integration of the participants at work or during leisure activities and how their Majorcan colleagues or neighbors have helped them or, on the contrary, have made this adaption to their new home more difficult.

More specifically, items 11 to 14 were about how comfortable they felt during their working hours and how their workmates treated them, that being, the same as everyone else or slightly different. On the other hand, in questions 15 to 18 we asked how they liked to enjoy their free time and if this time included mixing with Majorcan people, as we are aware that this is a convenient way to integrate a bit further.

To finish, in the last two questions, the participants were asked to point out a notable difference for them from their town of birth and their current home and to say if they would prefer to return or stay in the Balearic Islands if they were ever given the option. This question was chosen since some people may have found it easy to integrate with the island life-style and feel comfortable with a sense of home, but others, even after many years of living away from their hometown, may still have the feeling that they do not belong here and wish to return.

### 3.3. DATA ANALYSIS

As mentioned above, the interview was a set of open-ended questions. Therefore, we concluded that the most appropriate way to get the best out of every dialogue was to record each one of them so that this way the interviewer was more engaged with the participant rather than concentrating on writing down what they were saying. Moreover, in those cases in which the interviewee gave a long answer, it would have been almost impossible to convert to written form all of their ideas, opinions, anecdotes... In other words, the recordings allowed us to re-listen to the interviews as many times as necessary to analyse the data in detail and compare the participants answers.

Hence, after completing the 14 interviews and thus saving the recordings, we proceeded to thoroughly listen to them individually whilst writing down the most interesting results from every participant. This way, we had the opportunity to pause the recording if anything was unclear and be able to compose the most accurate answers possible.

Once all the recordings were transferred to a written document, we concluded our analysis by converting the responses into the excel table shown below, where the data was summarized, which helped us have a clearer vision of the information gathered. As Table 3 below shows, in the first columns we inserted the interviewees personal data regarding their nationality and age. In the third and fourth columns, respectively, we registered the reason/s why they had moved to the island and how many years ago they had done so. In the next three columns we summarized the answers they had given for the questions on: a) whether they spoke any or both of the official languages spoken on the island (i.e, Spanish and / or Majorcan); b) if they had ever or were currently working with Majorcans; and, c) if they socially integrated with Majorcans outside work. Finally, we recorded their answer to the question of whether they would like to stay on the island or return home.

	NATIONALITY	AGE	REASON TO MOVE	HOW LONG	SPEAK SPANISH/MALLORQUIN	WORK WITH MALLORQUIN	MIX OUTSIDE WORK	GO BACK OR STAY
S.1.	BRITISH	46 (40-60)	WORK	24 YEARS (>10)	NO SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO	YES (FAMILY)	STAY
S.2.	BRITISH	53 (40-60)	FAMILY	43 YEARS (>10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	YES, GOOD RELATIONSHIP	YES (FAMILY)	STAY
S.3.	GERMAN	55 (40-60)	LOVE MALLORCA	25 YEARS (>10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO	NO	STAY
S.4.	GERMAN	52 (40-60)	LOVE MALLORCA	3 YEARS (<10)	NO SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO	YES (FRIENDS)	STAY
S.5.	DUTCH	47 (40-60)	WORK	26 YEARS (>10)	NO SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO	NO	STAY
S.6.	MEXICAN	33 (20-40)	LOVE	5 YEARS (<10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO, INTERNATIONAL DEP.	NO (NOT INTEGRATED)	GO BACK
S.7.	CANADA	41 (40-60)	WORK	5 YEARS (<10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO	YES (OTHER PARENTS)	STAY
S.8.	SPANISH (EAST)	22 (20-40)	STUDY	5 YEARS (<10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	YES, SO SO RELATIONSHIP	YES (FRIENDS)	STAY A FEW YEARS
S.9.	SPANISH (NORTH)	22 (20-40)	STUDY	5 YEARS (<10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	YES, GOOD RELATIONSHIP	YES (FRIENDS)	STAY A FEW YEARS
S.10.	SPANISH (SOUTH)	53 (40-60)	LOVE MALLORCA	33 YEARS (>10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO	NO	STAY
S.11.	SPANISH (EAST)	22 (20-40)	STUDY	4 YEARS (<10)	YES SPANISH/ YES MALLORQUIN	YES, GOOD RELATIONSHIP	YES (FRIENDS)	STAY
S.12.	SPANISH (CENTER)	34 (20-40)	WORK	5 YEARS (<10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	YES, GOOD RELATIONSHIP	YES (FRIENDS)	STAY A FEW YEARS
S.13.	SPANISH (SOUTH)	37 (20-40)	WORK	7 YEARS (<10)	YES SPANISH/ NO MALLORQUIN	NO	NO	STAY
S.14.	SPANISH(SOUTH)	60 (40-60)	WORK AND LOVE	30 YEARS (>10)	YES SPANISH/ YES MALLORQUIN	YES, GOOD RELATIONSHIP	YES (OTHER PARENTS)	STAY

Table 3: Excel spreadsheet used to record the main answers given by the interviewees in each questionnaire item. Source: our own elaboration.

### 3.4. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Moving on to the results of our study, the main aspect we wanted to analyze during this research study was the most notable differences between the social integration of people coming from Spain and those that have come to the island from other countries around the world. As will be explained below, during the data analysis stage, we realized that many other aspects such as age, personality and

languages also played a huge part in whether or not that person felt integrated or not.

To begin with, we will evaluate the differences on the basis of where they have moved from. Subject 1 to 7 came from outside of Spain and out of these 7 people we can acknowledge that all but one either are not currently working here or if they are working, they are doing so in an international environment, i.e., not working with Majorcans as such.

For this reason, it would be feasible to say that this factor gives them a smaller chance to meet new Majorcan people and therefore they are less likely to socially integrate with local people from the island. Nevertheless, we did find that, 4 of them affirmed mixing outside the working environment with Majorcan people due to extended family members or spouses being from the island or in some cases being parents of children that were born or raised in Majorca and integrating with other parents they have met at the school. On the other hand, the remaining 3 participants explained they have no contact with Spanish people when they are enjoying their free time. See Figure 2 below for a more visual representation of the interaction of these 7 foreign residents in two different contexts: inside and outside of work.

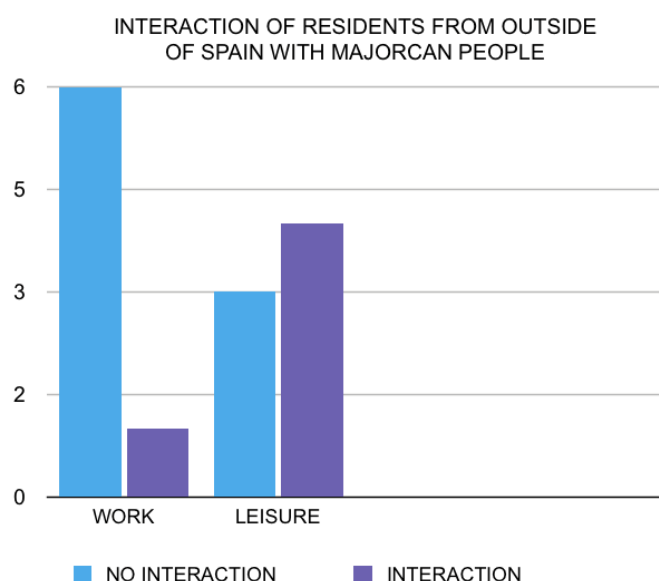


Figure 2: Interaction of the participants with Majorcans inside and outside working contexts. Source: own elaboration.

Moving on to personality, it is fairly undeniable that if a person is more outgoing, they will have a stronger willingness to get to know new people than an introvert or shy person. As mentioned above, some subjects met new friends through their children, by conversing with other parents while waiting for their kids to come out of school or by extracurricular activities they may have done. For instance, subject 3, from Germany, said: “I would always arrive 15 minutes before to pick up my son, so I could talk to the other mothers and learn Spanish. First, I couldn’t understand anything because they spoke only Majorcan, but then they changed to Spanish to help me understand and include me in the conversation.”

For an extrovert, taking the step to move out of their comfort zone and try to include themselves in conversations can feel very natural as they are not shy

to talk to people surrounding them, but for the more solitary and introvert, this may take a bigger effort and therefore, they will tend to keep their personal and professional life to themselves. This case was demonstrated by subject 1, from England, who said: “I have always felt a bit embarrassed about trying to converse with them (the Majorcan people), I understand a lot of what they say but I don’t converse because I can’t put a whole paragraph together properly”.

On the other hand, subjects 8 to 14 are Spanish residents who now live in Majorca. As you can see in Figure 3 shown below, almost every one of them made the decision to move here either for work reasons or to study their degree on the island. Spending a lot of time at a university surrounded by people who are doing the same as you can be a great way to mingle and gain new contacts as it was proved by subjects 8, 9 and 11, who now mix with their Majorcan friends daily and mentioned: “Some of my current best friends are from Majorca” (subject number 8).

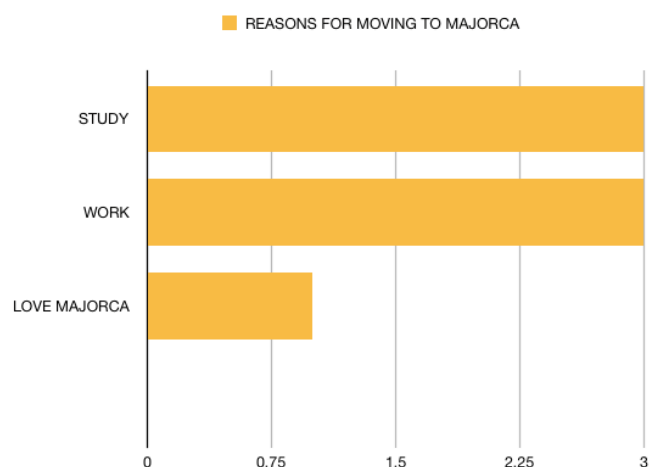


Figure 3: Main reasons why the Spanish residents interviewed moved to Majorca. Source: own elaboration.

Most of the Spanish participants interviewed, along with working or studying with Majorcan people, also spend their free time doing extracurricular activities with them. Fortunately, Majorca has amazing landscapes to explore together with beautiful weather most of the year so consequently, many of the people we interviewed enjoyed doing similar activities in their spare time, such as hiking, cycling and walking, where they would also take the chance to meet with friends they met at university, work colleagues or get together with their children’s friends and parents. This was proven by subjects 8, 9 and 11 who said, respectively: “I love running and doing walking excursions” (Subject 8), “I enjoy walking in the mountains, surfing and snorkeling” (Subject 9) and “I like to visit the villages in Majorca and go for long walks” (Subject 11 ).

Among all the factors involved, we found that the prominent reason why some of the participants acknowledged not feeling integrated was due to the lack of knowledge of the local language(s), i.e., Spanish and/or Catalan. Some of the interviewees affirmed that this made the step of integrating much more difficult as it created a barrier between them and the Majorcan residents. Subject 5’s, (from Holland), specific answer to the question “Do you feel integrated?” was “No, purely because I am not trying hard enough with the language”. Also, Subject 4,



from Germany, answered “I’m not really integrated in society because we don’t have much contact with Majorcan people as we don’t speak Spanish that well”. Most of the foreigners’ primary task when moving to the island was to look for local societies and entertainment services with people that spoke their own language (for example golf clubs) prior to even thinking of integrating into the Spanish system. For example, Subjects 1 and 5, from England and Holland, feel most comfortable playing golf and socializing with their English-speaking circle of friends.

The more social traveler would find it easier, trying sometimes even in bars and restaurants to converse in the local language with the employees, picking up conversational Spanish as they went along..., which in turn has made them more confident of further interaction with the residents. In our data we found that if a foreigner really tried to converse with the Majorcan people, they were met with a warm and friendly response and their vocabulary improved very quickly.

Question 12 specifically asked the participants: “What do you think of the Majorcan people?”. We found that inquiring about the foreigners’ point of view regarding the Majorcan’s personality traits was also relevant and the answers that we received were very much alike, even between the Spanish and the non-Spanish residents. Subjects 4 and 6, for instance, agreed that Majorcan people are “closed-minded and less affectionate” (Subject 6), whilst Subjects 9 and 11 said: “Majorcan people like to stick together” (Subject 9). This slightly negative first impression of the Island’s people could potentially make a newcomer not want to interact with them at all as they feel that they are not welcomed by them. Having said that, some interviewees also coincided that Majorcan people give the impression of being “closed” but when they get to know the foreigner better, they begin to open up. For example, the exact words from Subject 2 were: “Once you get to know them, they are very loving and open” and from Subject 7: “I think they definitely take their time to warm up to foreigners but once you break that first barrier, I find them very lovely”.

#### **4. PROPOSAL OF ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE INTEGRATION IN MAJORCA**

After our data analysis, we could affirm that many residents nowadays still find it difficult to feel truly integrated within their new community. In spite of our results, we should bear in mind that the current social restrictions in the Balearic Islands may have had an even more negative impact on the newly arrived residents (those who have arrived in the last couple of years) since their opportunities to socially integrate and meet Majorcans have dramatically dropped.

Since the majority of our results were negative in the sense that most of the residents we interviewed denied being totally integrated with local people, we have reflected on what possibilities there are to change this outcome and make social integration of foreign residents an important subject in Majorca. Hence, in this section, we will suggest some types of activities which could enhance the degree of integration of foreign residents (both Spanish and non-Spanish) with the local people of the islands.

As mentioned in the Literature Review section, in 2009 the so-called “Ley de Extranjería” was reformed. This law included an article which stated that the public authorities would help foreigners integrate with local people at a social,

economic and cultural level. However, even with this policy in place, according to the results obtained in our study, there still seems to be a lack of social integration on the island of Majorca in many spheres, therefore, we have thought of some ideas that could improve this outcome in future situations.

To begin with, many interviewees mentioned that they enjoy spending some of their free time doing activities outside as the sunny weather in Majorca usually incentivizes it. Therefore, how fun would it be to organize an outdoor sports day for foreign and local residents?

The organization and development of the aforementioned activity would be as follows: people of any age, any sex and any nationality would be able to sign up to participate in a sports day where they would be divided randomly into mixed teams, foreign and local residents, and would have to compete against other teams to win a trophy. Some activities that could be included in this event could be a beach volleyball match, a relay competition in pairs and a swimming race in the sea. This way, foreigners can meet other foreigners and also Majorcan residents in a fun and exciting way. We have included an example of a one-day programme below.

#### INTERNATIONAL SPORTS DAY SCHEDULE:

9:00h: Meeting at the entrance of Portals beach to confirm attendance and pick up sticker with participant number and your selected team.

10:00h: Beach volley-ball match, red team vs blue team.

11:00h: Swimming race to the island and back in pairs.

12:30h: Lunch break. Collect picnic from coordinators.

14:00h: Egg on a spoon and sack relay race in pairs.

15:00h: Football match, red team vs blue team.

17:00h: Winners announcement and price giving.

Similarly, another way of integrating with many people I learnt when I spent 4 months in Germany as an Erasmus student was at fairs. For example, the university I was studying at hosted an International Food fair. The objective of this event was that every person would bring a popular dish from their country, i.e. the Spaniards could bring *tortilla*, *empanada*, *paella*... the German students *currywursts* and the Mexican ones *fajitas*, among many others.

We think this is also a clever idea to make different people mingle with each other and learn more about their home countries and it could be applied here in Majorca with the residents that were born elsewhere. This activity could be done in different ways: a) everyone could bring a particular dish on the same day creating a mix of different dishes from each country where everyone can try; b) there could be different nationalities' days, that is, one week we could celebrate "Spanish cuisine day", another "Mexican cuisine day", the following

week “Majorcan cuisine day”, this way, other nationalities would live the full experience of another country’s gastronomy. Another possible activity related to this previous one could be for some foreigners to teach Majorcan people how to cook one of their typical dishes and vice-versa. This would also encourage people to talk to each other whilst learning more about their cultures.

A common tradition in countries like Great Britain are the so-called boot fairs which, to the best of our knowledge, are not carried out in Spain. In these events people sell some items they do not want any more. In other words, people can buy second-hand objects like clothes, books, plants, videogames... or exchange them for something else with the other people participating in the boot fair. We believe the organization of an international boot fair could also be a good chance for people living on the island to get to know each other, exchange items they do not use any more and generally spend a good day getting to know other people and also earning a bit of money in the process.

Another typical type of activity organized on a regular basis in countries like England and Germany are quizzes. Here, people compete in teams (normally family members, friends and relatives...). The organizer asks the teams questions on various cultural and social topics (food, geography, sports...) and at the end of the game, the team with the most points, wins. Quizzes like these could be another alternative to help Spanish and non-Spanish foreigners integrate with Majorcans. However, in this case, the teams should ideally be formed by people from different families, countries, nationalities... so that: a) they get a chance to meet new people; b) they could all help each other because some of them would maybe be better at the Geography questions, other ones at culinary items, there may be a person from Galicia on the team who could answer questions like: “Whereabouts in Spain is Noia?”, “In which part of Spain are *filloas* made”? Other possible and interesting questions that could be asked in the quiz can be found below.

Geography: “How many islands form the Balearic Islands?” “In what country can we find the city of Cologne?” “Which river flows through Paris?”

History: “Which medieval queen was married to both Louis VII of France and Henry II of England?” “Where was Napoleon Bonaparte born?”

Entertainment: “How many members were there in Abba?” “Who created Sherlock Holmes?” “In what year was Ricky Martin born?”

Cuisine: “What spirit do you use to make a Mojito?” “*Socarrat* is the name given to the crusty bottom of which famous Spanish dish?”

Finally, in Korea, for example, the government provides a program called KIIP (Korea Immigration and Integration Program), which helps immigrants’ integration by implementing Korean language and basic knowledge education for them. A research constructed by Lim (2021) demonstrated that immigrants who participated in KIIP showed a much higher level of adaptability to Korean culture, especially by their improvement in the language proficiency, which, as we

mentioned, is the key factor in a successful social integration. To that end, we think that Majorca could also implement this type of program so that people migrating to the Island could participate in and gain higher cultural adaptation.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND TOPICS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

Broadly speaking, from our research we have learnt that the most common cause of people moving away from their home was for related to the searching of work opportunities that their hometown did not offer or the chance of studying the degree they desired in the Island's University. For that reason, these people have found themselves in a situation where they had to start a new life in a new place and all that was left was their motivation to fully integrate with the local residents. Some of them have been very successful in doing so, yet others have found it more difficult and have chosen to surround themselves by other foreigners with whom they felt more comfortable with.

Referring back to our research questions articulated in the Literature Review section, RQ.1 "Are Spanish and non-Spanish residents in Majorca integrated?" was answered as we saw that even though many factors are involved in someone's integration, in general, every participant felt integrated in their own way, that being, mixing with local residents or mixing with other international people.

RQ. 2 asked who had a more successful integration, the residents coming from the mainland Spain or the residents coming from other countries. We found that the Spanish residents had an easier entry to the Majorcan society, purely because of the language barrier that the non-Spanish have with the locals. In addition, some of the participants affirmed that it was more comfortable for them to integrate into their own international societies rather than learn Spanish/Majorcan to be able to communicate further with their new community. There are several studies that declare that language education for the people that move to a country, where another language that is not their own is spoken, is crucial to their social integration process and that is also plays a huge role in the opportunity of finding employment and the use of social contacts, services and resources (Lim, 2021).

Answering RQ.3 we saw that the environment where they have had a higher chance of integrating has been outside of work, as many of the non-Spanish residents either do not work or they work within international surroundings. Many have taken the opportunity of meeting their children's parents and getting to know them through cycling excursions, long walks and pure chatting outside of the school while they wait for their child to finish their school day or extracurricular activity, in some cases.

Our last Research Question, RQ.4, which was "What factors affect a foreigner's level of integration?", was a very important component of our study, as we wanted to understand in further depth what contributed to or what was missing for an outsider to feel integrated in a new city or country. Here, we concluded that the knowledge of the local language was the leading factor that affected the level of integration. This created an obstacle for the foreigner to feel included between Majorcan people as many are not confident enough to try and speak a language that is not their own. We think that if someone dedicated the

time to learning Spanish/Majorcan, it would very much so speed up the process of feeling incorporated into their new society.

Although the number of people interviewed in our study is quite small, we believe the results obtained could be extrapolated to many other non-Majorcan residents living on the island. For this reason, in future studies we would have to interview more people and, if possible, interview a similar amount of people from each foreign country. Moreover, possible topics for future research could be:

- a) Is mental health a factor in a foreigner's integration into a new society?
- b) Can the government offer any help to the foreigners to facilitate their integration?
- c) Put into practice the activities we have suggested here to see whether they improve the degree of integration between locals and non-locals.
- d) Conduct another study in the future to see if there are any changes in the results collected in this paper.

## REFERENCES

- Bhugra, D., & Becker, M. A. (2005). Migration, cultural bereavement and cultural identity. *World Psychiatry*, 4(1), 18-24.
- Boletín Oficial del Estado. (2009, Diciembre 12). *Ley Orgánica 2/2009, de 11 de diciembre, de reforma de la Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España y su integración social*. BOE Jefatura del Estado, 299, 104986-105031.  
<https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2009/12/12/pdfs/BOE-A-2009-19949.pdf>
- Cívico, J. G. (2010). La integración social de la persona inmigrante en España: Norma y realidad. *Revista Logos, Ciencia & Tecnología*, 2(1), 25-39.
- Lim, D. J. (2021). Performance of social integration programs for immigrants and influential factors: Evidence from the Korea Immigration and Integration Program (KIIP). *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 81, 108-120.
- Pellicer, P. (2021, January 22). *Calvia and Deya have highest percentages of foreign residents*. Majorca Daily Bulletin.  
<https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2021/01/22/77901/mallorca-foreign-population-calvia-has-highest-percentage.html#:~:text=The%20influence%20of%20foreign%20residents,the%20whole%20of%20the%20Balearics>.
- Salvà-Tomàs, P. A. (2002a). Foreign immigration and tourism development in Spain's Balearic Islands. In C.M. Hall, & A. M. Williams (Eds.), *Tourism and migration* (pp. 119-134). Springer, Dordrecht.
- Salvà-Tomàs, P. A. (2002b). Tourist development and foreign immigration in Balearic Islands. *Revue européenne des migrations internationales*, 18(1), 87-101.

## Appendix 1: Basic interview questions

1. How old are you?
2. Where are you from?
3. Is this the first time you have lived outside your country?
4. Why did you come to the Balearic Islands?
5. How long have you been living here?
6. Do you have a family here?
7. Is your partner Majorcan?
8. How many languages do you speak?
9. Do you speak Spanish or Mallorquin? If the answer is no, have you tried or are you trying to learn?
10. When you go to a supermarket or restaurant do you try to speak Spanish with the workers, or do you directly speak your language?
11. Do you feel integrated? How?
12. What do you think of the Majorcan people?
13. Do you work with Majorcan people? If so, do you have a good relationship with your Mallorquin co-workers?
14. Do you think you are treated differently at work because you are a foreigner?
15. Do you mix with Majorcan people outside of work?
16. What activities do you like to do here on the island?
17. Do you do any extracurricular activities with Mallorquin people?
18. If you are in a situation with only Mallorquin people, do you feel shy and uncomfortable about not being Mallorquin?
19. What are the most notable differences for you between your country and Majorca? Do you miss anything from your home country?
20. If you had the option, would you go back to your country of origin, or are you happy here?