

# Universidad de Alicante

fall / spring



art history / communications / european studies / film studies / history / international relations / literature / politics / spanish language and culture / women's studies



## program snapshot

- Advance your Spanish skills while living in a beautiful Mediterranean coastal city
- Take courses on women's issues, art history, cinema, and literature
- Become a member of a Spanish family or live in the dorms with Spanish or international students
- Participate in day excursions and field trips related to academic coursework; visit museums, theaters, cultural sites, and other important Spanish cities
- Attend cultural events and receive support from Student Helpers

## what you'll learn

The Language and Culture program is designed to give intermediate-level students an opportunity to further develop their Spanish language skills. This is achieved through intensive language coursework and content courses in Spanish, a conversation exchange program, excursions, and homestays. The program allows participants to pursue studies in a variety of academic disciplines focusing on Spain and Europe in the target language.

## thoughts from abroad

Alicante es una ciudad cosmopolita, fruto del encuentro de diversas culturas que supieron mezclarse poco a poco para convivir en armonía y aportar así cada una su granito de arena en la formación de su identidad. Sin embargo Alicante es una ciudad moderna pese al profundo peso de su historia, una ciudad alegre y viva en la que la magia de luz mediterránea cobra su máxima expresión, una ciudad de tamaño modesto en la que es muy difícil sentirse extranjero. Las palmeras, el mar, las playas y sus dos castillos dan la bienvenida a los visitantes. Por todo ello, y gracias al contacto con vuestras familias, vuestros amigos y profesores, en poco tiempo os sentiréis parte de ella y no turistas. Sin duda, será una experiencia personal y académica que nunca olvidaréis.

¡Bienvenidos y bienvenidas a Alicante! ¡Esperamos que la disfrutéis de todo corazón!

— Carla Botella, Resident Director

### About the Resident Director

Carla Botella earned a Ph.D. in Translation and Interpreting from the Universidad de Alicante. She also holds an M.A. in New Technologies Applied to Education. Originally from Alicante, her professional and academic experience involves teaching, researching, and translating. She has both studied and worked in other European universities in the UK and in The Netherlands. Carla speaks several languages and has published articles on languages and translation. She joined CIEE in 2005 and became the Language and Culture program Resident Director in 2008.

### About Other CIEE Staff

Francisco Díez, Center Director and Resident Director of the Liberal Arts program, earned his M.A. in Applied Linguistics and Spanish Language Teaching from Michigan State University and is currently working on his Ph.D. in Sociolinguistics. Originally from Alicante, he also studied at Sheffield Hallam University and taught Spanish for two years at Michigan State University. Francisco joined CIEE in 2000 as Resident Coordinator at the CIEE Study Center in Alicante, where he helped develop, produce, and administer the socio-cultural and *Intercambios* programs, and the Spanish language placement test. He speaks Spanish, English, and Catalan.

Beatriz Ortín Pérez earned her undergraduate degree in English Studies from the Universidad de Murcia. Upon finishing her degree she spent one year in Ireland working at the high school level as a Spanish Assistant Teacher. She earned her M.A. in English and Spanish Used in Specific Fields and Business from the Universidad de Alicante, and is pursuing a second M.A. in Secondary Education. In August 2010, she was promoted to Student Services Director. CIEE students in Alicante are also assisted by Manuel Sánchez, Direct Enrollment Coordinator; Felipe Molina, Technical and Administrative Coordinator; and Eva Andersson, Cultural Activities Assistant/Receptionist.

## about alicante

With a population approaching 350,000, Alicante is a thriving Spanish city. Located on the Mediterranean coast, Alicante is an inviting place for students to begin their exploration of Spain or continue a previous journey. In recent times, Alicante has experienced a development boom and rapid population growth. Students see modern architecture and Internet cafés alongside historic buildings and shopping malls next to centuries-old open-air markets. Although fast becoming a cosmopolitan and multicultural city, Alicante retains a distinct Spanish flavor.

## academics

### Academic Program

Established in 1985, the Language and Culture program gives students the opportunity to take electives in Spanish, which are carefully designed to progressively advance their ability to understand and communicate concepts and ideas related to university-level academic work in such areas as art history, cinema, and literature.

The program is designed for students who have completed three to four semesters of university-level language instruction in Spanish and have achieved a low-intermediate level of proficiency prior to participation. Students who successfully complete the program can advance approximately two semesters to a level equivalent to high-intermediate or low-advanced, depending on their level upon entry, their effort and attitude, and the elective courses they choose.

### Academic Culture

Students should expect to have classes Monday through Friday during the Intensive Cycle and Monday through Thursday during the regular semester. They can also expect daily homework assignments. Teaching methods combine lecture and interactive styles. Each professor distributes a detailed syllabus indicating what material is covered, when exams are held, and what is expected from each student. It is important to understand that the program takes place at a Spanish university with Spanish professors, and therefore students may notice differences in teaching styles.

Although extracurricular activities and personal travel contribute to the student's overall European experience, attendance in class is mandatory and absences affect final grades. Early departure for or late return from vacations is not allowed. Any extended travel should take place prior to the start of the program, during the semester break, or upon completion of the program. Travel plans

should not be made before receiving the academic calendar on site.

### Nature of Classes

Participants take CIEE classes in Spanish with other CIEE students only. Pre-advanced students may also take University classes in Spanish, with Spanish students, through the Culture Department of the Universidad de Alicante (*Talleres de Cultura*). Those with a higher level of Spanish have the chance to take regular direct enrollment courses at the Universidad de Alicante. A personal interview with the CIEE Resident Director and the Direct Enrollment Coordinator to examine their level is necessary.

### Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Spanish, Resident Staff encourages them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to Spanish language proficiency and understanding of Spanish society develops.

### Grading System

In the language classes, students are graded on the basis of quizzes, exams, homework assignments, and class participation. Grades in the content courses are generally based on class participation, a mid-term exam, research papers, and a final exam. Each individual professor determines the exact breakdown of grades. Attendance is mandatory and absences affect final grades. Some courses include compulsory field trips with special assignments as part of class work.

### Academic Tutorials

Students needing further clarification on grammar concepts learned in class are encouraged to seek extra help from staff on Friday mornings. Furthermore, individual tutorials can be arranged if necessary.



## where you'll study

The Universidad de Alicante is one of Spain's newest universities and is located three miles outside the city of Alicante. Established to serve the higher education needs of the province of Alicante, the Universidad de Alicante offers its 35,000 students the benefits of a modern campus with an international atmosphere. The CIEE Study Center is located next to the Faculty of Education and one of the residence halls on the northwest extension of the main campus in San Vicente; this location provides students direct access to University facilities.

## living

### Housing and Meals

Housing and all meals are included in the program fee. CIEE students have two housing options: a Spanish homestay or an off-campus residence hall with other international and Spanish students.

**Homestays**—Students live in Spanish-speaking homes where all meals are provided. Each home accommodates one student. Homestays are the optimal housing arrangement because of their contribution to the program's goals of language and cultural immersion. In the homestay, each student is considered a member of the family and has the same rights and responsibilities as other family members. Housing is located throughout the Alicante downtown metropolitan area with access to public transportation that students take to and from the University. Students should expect to use public transportation two to four times per day.

**Residence Hall**—Students seeking an independent environment should consider living in an off-campus residence hall with Spanish and other international students. All meals are provided in the residence hall. The off-campus residence halls are located near the Universidad de Alicante campus in San Vicente, approximately 40 minutes by bus from the downtown city center of Alicante. Students who live in the residence hall can walk to campus, but should expect to use public transportation, such as buses and taxis, to get to and from the downtown area in Alicante. All rooms are single en-suite rooms with a telephone, cable television, Internet access, and air conditioning. Students share a kitchenette, a small fridge, and a microwave with another student.

### Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Alicante before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure

Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

During the mandatory, three-day, on-site orientation, students are introduced to the country, culture, and academic program, and are provided with practical information about living in Alicante. The orientation seeks to inform students of issues relevant to their experience and help them make a gradual transition to Spanish life. A range of topics including housing and family life, cultural differences, health and safety, academic and social goals, gender and race issues, academics, and academic policies are covered. The orientation includes both structured cultural activities and independent sightseeing.

Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

### Internet

Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops. Students have free wireless Internet access at the CIEE Study Center and on the Universidad de Alicante campus, as well as access to the many computer labs on campus. CIEE students also have Internet access at their homestays or at the residence hall and there are numerous Internet cafés throughout the city of Alicante.

## language

### Valenciano

Alicante is historically and culturally bilingual, like many regions in Europe. *Valenciano*, related to catalan, is the second language of the Alicante province. However, castilian Spanish is the primary language of most residents in the city of Alicante, and students are unlikely to encounter *valenciano* in everyday life. Approximately 10% of *alicantinos* speak *valenciano* as well as Spanish, mostly at home. It has little presence in public or at the Universidad de Alicante. All homestay families are Spanish-speaking as are CIEE staff and Universidad de Alicante faculty.

## eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 3–4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent

## duration

**Fall**  
16 weeks: early September–mid-December

**Spring**  
18 weeks: early January–mid-May

## engagement

### Conversation Exchange Program

A conversation exchange program, *Intercambios*, with native Universidad de Alicante Spanish students is an integral part of the program. *Intercambios* provides students the real-world opportunity to practice what they've learned in the language courses and helps them integrate into Spanish student life.

### International Club

For those students who want to make an extra effort in their Spanish language skills, the International Club offers the opportunity to practice Spanish, meet Spanish students, and learn more about Alicante and Spain. Club members hold regular meetings and sessions to explore the language, the culture, and the city in a fun and interactive way. All students have Spanish exchange partners and enjoy linguistic and cultural activities outside of class. Students in the club use Spanish only when communicating with other members and CIEE staff and faculty.

### Cultural Events, Activities, and Cultural Week

CIEE provides opportunities to interact with University students through different cultural events and activities. In the past, these sessions have been related to sport activities, flamenco shows, and Spanish-English theater productions about life in Alicante, tours, excursions, and so on. These interac-

tive and interdisciplinary sessions overlap with course content and are an integral part of the program. Students also have other cultural activities throughout the semester. Cultural Week is an important part of the Language and Culture Program. For one week, all classes open the doors to all students in the program and offer workshops and activities so that students meet other professors and learn about different topics.

### CIEE Spanish Helpers

CIEE Spanish Helpers are Universidad de Alicante students who guide CIEE students through orientation, organize and lead CIEE cultural activities, and participate in CIEE weekend fieldtrips, day excursions, and other local events, to help them make friends at the University and adapt to Alicante life.

## culture

### Cultural Activities and Field Trips

Weekend, overnight, and day trips to different Spanish cities, landmarks in the province of Alicante, and to the region of Valencia add a highly relevant cultural component to the academic curriculum. The program fee includes one weekend trip, one overnight trip, and two day trips. Previous weekend trips have included visits to Seville, Barcelona, Madrid, and Granada. There are also several local day trips in the Alicante Province or the *Valencian* Autonomous Community. An optional trip to participate on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route is organized each semester for an additional fee paid on site.

Students have access to a wide variety of weekly activities organized by CIEE, as well as to those offered through the International Club, which is run by the International Relations Office at the Universidad de Alicante. These socio-cultural and sporting activities include guided tours to monuments and museums in Alicante, intramural activities, nature and hiking activities, cooking and dance classes, cinema, and theater. Although there are no formal community service activities, volunteer opportunities can be arranged by CIEE staff, and the City of Alicante Community Services Center offers volunteer options to those students interested in community service.

## costs

### CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$12,700  
Spring 2012: available 8/15/2011

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, all meals, orientation, cultural activities, excursions, field trips, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

### Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2011)

Transportation [round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure]	\$ 1,600
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,700
Books and Supplies	\$ 300
Local Transportation	\$ 400
Visa Fee	\$ 140
Potential Travel to Consulate for Visa	\$ 400
<b>Total Estimated Additional Costs</b>	<b>\$ 5,540</b>

Check our website for current fees.

## coursework

### Program Requirements

Students take an intensive language course during their first few weeks on site. For the remainder of the program, students enroll in two Spanish language courses and two area studies courses in Spanish chosen from CIEE courses or Universidad de Alicante Culture Department Courses. A full course load is considered five courses.

Placement in the intensive course is based upon student pre-registration forms and a diagnostic online language exam given prior to arrival in Alicante. Results of the intensive language course determine the student's language level for semester language classes. Orientation to cultural, social, and academic issues complements language study during the intensive session. Students can also take the CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in addition to the requirements above.

### Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–17 semester/22.5–25.5 quarter hours.

Course contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated.

### Language of Instruction

Spanish

### Faculty

Courses are taught by faculty from the Universidad de Alicante and professionals in the field of Teaching Spanish as a Second Language.

## a course experience

I initially signed up for El Camino (CIEE course HISP 3005 ALLA) without knowing exactly what I was getting into. I am not a seasoned hiker, and had never heard of the Camino de Santiago before coming to Spain. I went to the informational meeting and it sounded like something I might really enjoy. I doubted I would ever have the opportunity again. The first day was amazing, and every day after that was equally so—despite the following days being a bit more painful. The CIEE guide was excellent and the group was a perfect size. There were seven of us and although we didn't know each other well before we left, we grew very close. Every day was a new experience with new sights to see. I am really happy I went; it was a life changing experience. Getting to the end leaves you with a feeling of great accomplishment. Now I can't wait to get back and do it on a bike!

— Alexis Bradshaw, Oberlin College

## courses

### Required CIEE Intensive Language Courses

#### SPAN 2503 ALLC

##### Intensive Intermediate Spanish II

The intensive language course consists of 45 hours of integrated language instruction covering the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The purpose of the course is to give students the skills they need to activate the knowledge they have acquired in their previous Spanish classes. Cultural fieldwork and practice with the homestay family are also integral components of the course and complement language learning. Some interactive activities and simulations take place in the local community.

#### SPAN 3501 ALLC

##### Intensive Preparation for Advanced Spanish

The Intensive Preparation for Advanced Spanish course consists of 45 hours of integrated language instruction integrating the four language skills. The purpose of the course is to review the Spanish grammar and structures, as well as their pronunciation and oral production, so that students are prepared for more advanced courses.

### Required CIEE Semester Language Courses

*Language classes combine the grammar, written, and oral aspects of language with cultural and social issues. Every week students attend a language and culture workshop in which they experience different approaches and share their experiences with other students and teachers. Linguistic exchange with Spanish students is also organized as social and cultural integration is a primary goal.*

*The semester language courses are divided into several groups of no more than 12 students to accommodate different levels of language proficiency. Tutorials may be required for students who need more individualized attention. Students take two of the following courses.*

#### SPAN 2004 ALLC

##### Grammar and Written Expression

The goal of this course is to build upon the foundation students have acquired in moods, tenses, syntax, and vocabulary and to introduce students to the nuances and complexities involved in a deeper understanding and use of the language. Emphasis is placed on written proficiency and reading comprehension through the study of applied structure.

#### SPAN 2005 ALLC

##### Oral Communication and Listening Comprehension

This course is designed to help students achieve proficiency in listening comprehension and oral communication. Students become capable of communicating in a variety of registers appropriate for different social settings and understand the cultural rules of conversation in Spain. The goals of this course also include correcting the phonological and intonation errors frequently committed by English speakers who are learning Spanish.

#### SPAN 3003 ALLC

##### Preparation for Advanced Spanish Grammar

The goal of this course is to further develop the foundation students have previously acquired in moods, tenses, syntax, and vocabulary and to improve their perception of nuances and complexities involved in a deeper understanding and use of the language. Emphasis is placed on written proficiency through the study of applied structures and real texts.

#### SPAN 3004 ALLC

##### Preparation for Advanced Oral Communication in Spanish

This course is designed to further develop listening comprehension and oral communication through the study of real situations. Students should be capable of communicating in a variety of registers appropriate for different social settings, and understand the cultural rules of conversation in Spain to become fluent.

### CIEE Elective Course

#### CLST 3001 ALLC

##### Seminar on Living and Learning in Alicante

The CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in Alicante is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Spaniards are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of Spain. Contact hours: 25. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours.

## CIEE Content Courses—in Spanish

### AHIS 3002 ALLC

#### Spanish Art and the Process of Painting

This survey course covers Spain's major contributions to the history of Western art from the Renaissance to the present. Emphasis rests primarily on painting and architecture, especially on the Spanish masters. Students learn how to analyze a painting from different practical approaches (for example, formal/thematic) and apply these methods to masterpieces of Spanish art. Students receive visual materials to complement the course instruction, as well as optional and mandatory guided visits to museums in order for them to gain a better understanding of the arts in Spain and in the *Comunidad Valenciana* in particular. The theoretical component of this course is completed by an equally important hands-on art portion. The practical section consists of creating a piece of art.

### CINE 3001 ALLC

#### Spanish Cinema

Students are asked to analyze and critique some of contemporary Spanish cinema's most emblematic films. Through class discussion, students acquire knowledge of the changes that Spanish society has recently experienced, contrasting it with classic stereotypes of the culture, and comparing it with other U.S. films. Topics such as machismo, eroticism, gender roles, religion, terrorism, and violence are discussed while students learn about new movements in contemporary Spanish cinema. The aim of this course is to not only teach students how to analyze a film, but also to show them how cinema can be enjoyable and didactic at the same time. On a more practical level, students are asked to produce their own short film during the semester, and therefore cinematographic language, script writing, camera use, and editing notions are introduced in this course.

### COMM 3002 ALLC

#### Spain in the Media: Understanding Spanish News and Advertisements

In this course, students study all aspects of Spanish society by reviewing and analyzing pieces taken from the different Spanish media resources: TV, radio, press, and advertisements. Each unit of this course consists of both a theoretical and practical component. By profoundly examining real materials, students gain a deeper understanding of present-day Spanish society. Students may visit the headquarters of a local newspaper and a radio station, and also an advertising agency. They learn about the Spanish media getting involved in Spanish society and culture. Blogging and creating their own newspaper and radio talk show, students are the real protagonists in the class.

### EDUC 3001 ALLC

#### Teaching Spanish as a Second Language

This course explores the process of second language acquisition and helps students understand different methodologies to be able to teach a second language by having both lectures and practical sessions, and by experiencing the role. Students who are considering the education field would benefit from this course.

### HISP 3003 ALLC

#### The Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage: Religion, History, and Culture

The Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage route that runs from the Pyrenees to the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, in the Northwest corner of Spain, is a fundamental part of Spanish culture and history. Originally a spiritual journey for devout Catholics, the pilgrimage now attracts people from many cultures and religions and has developed international significance. The approach to this course is interdisciplinary, encompassing the role of the Camino in Spanish history, art, architecture, and literature. The course emphasizes different aspects of popular culture such as gastronomy, music, legends, and traditions, helping students acquire a deeper knowledge of Spanish culture. Students are evaluated on an interactive travel journal, a seminar-length paper, and two short tests covering the major themes of the seminar. Students may choose to participate on a five to seven day optional trip for an additional fee paid on site.

### HISP 3004 ALLC

#### Culture, Festivities, and Traditions through Spanish Gastronomy and Wine

This survey course is an overview of the importance of the Mediterranean diet in Spanish life. Upon completion of this course, students are able to understand Spanish topography and its effects on Mediterranean gastronomy and the wine industry in Spain. Students cover important aspects such as the culture, traditions, and festivities and their relation to Spanish gastronomy. They also study the history of food and wine and its importance in the Mediterranean area, and an overview of Spanish gastronomy and wine production.

### HISP 3008 ALLC

#### Linguistic and Cultural Misunderstandings

This subject shows the frontiers the linguistic and intercultural mediator faces in everyday situations. From the colloquial language to the cultural differences that jeopardizes the communication, the student is provided with the linguistic and cultural skills to overcome such situations.

### HIST 3006 ALLC

#### A Journey through Time: Present-Day Spain's Historic Past

The historic events that took place in Spain during the 20th century have greatly marked the personality of present-day Spain. Historic milestones, such as the Civil War, the Franco Dictatorship, the transition to democracy, and Spain's acceptance into the European Union, have sculpted Spain's identity; and a profound understanding of these concepts is essential in order to fully understand Spain in the 21st century. It is impossible to grasp a complete understanding of Spain without also taking into account the international scene. In this course, we propose an historical investigation of the past and the present, which helps us discern the future. We analyze the political, economic, social, and ideological keys to these diverse historic moments, and establish a relationship between the equivalent aspects we find in present-day Spain—all from a global and cosmopolitan perspective.

### INRE 3001 ALLC

#### Spain in the European Union

This course focuses on the study of the present Spain and its importance as a member of the European Union. Four general areas are analyzed from both the European and the Spanish perspective: politics, economics, education, and social issues.

### LITT 3008 ALLC

#### Spanish and Latin American Literature: Two Worlds in the 20th Century

This course explores and compares literature written in Spanish from both sides of the Atlantic during the 20th century. Students discover the different aspects, as well as the mutual influences and common characteristics of both. The course focuses on the most representative literary schools and authors who have most influenced present-day culture and literature. Students explore these two worlds by reading and studying pieces of important and popular works.

### SOCI 3001 ALLC/GEND 3002 ALLC

#### Spanish Society: Gender, Violence, Immigration Issues, the Youth, Traditions, and Leisure Time

This course explores the present social situation in modern Spain. Students examine gender issues while exploring the role of women in Spanish society throughout the 20th century, including the political transition from dictatorship to democracy and the new role of women in Spain today. Students are also exposed to current social events in terms of violence against women and how the Spanish government is taking steps to improve and solve this situation. In addition, Spain is the closest and most immediate point for immigration into Europe. Finally, they also examine the culture of young people in Spain, and the different traditions and leisure possibilities in the country. Social films, documentaries, press articles, and other current materials are explored in class.

## Universidad de Alicante Culture Department Courses

*The Universidad de Alicante offers a wide range of courses and seminars for credit in plastic arts, dancing, music, oral production, writing, theater, and journalism. For further information about these courses or others offered, please, visit [www.veu.ua.es](http://www.veu.ua.es). Courses change every semester and are with Spanish students. These courses fill up quickly so students interested should contact CIEE Alicante prior to arrival. Main areas tend to include:*

Cinema  
Flamenco  
Journalism and Media  
Photography  
Theater  
Writing

