

Universidad de Alicante

art history / community health / economics / gastronomy / film studies / politics / spanish language and culture



program snapshot

- Take content courses in Spanish art, film, politics, economics, and culture in English and/or Spanish; enjoy the support of the experienced Resident Staff
- Improve your Spanish in a beautiful coastal Mediterranean city; become a member of a Spanish family and immerse yourself in *alicantino* daily life
- Visit museums, theaters, and other cultural sites; participate in several day excursions in the province of Alicante, as well as one overnight trip to sites of cultural importance in Spain

what you'll learn

The Language and Culture summer program is designed to help students develop their Spanish language skills and increase their knowledge of Spanish art, cinema, culture, and so on. This is achieved through intensive language coursework and content courses, combined with Spanish homestays, excursions, and cultural activities.

thoughts from abroad

Alicante's emblematic and imposing Santa Barbara Castle, situated atop the Benacantil Mountain and overlooking the Mediterranean coast, has been witness to more than 1,000 years of history. Today, Alicante is a medium-sized, modern cosmopolitan coastal city—the perfect place to spend your summer learning about the fascinating Spanish culture, while perfecting your Spanish language skills. Complete immersion with a Spanish host family, as well as daily interaction with Spanish professors, staff, and local students will provide an experience filled with amazing memories that will last a lifetime.

— Manuel Sanchez, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Manuel Sánchez received his B.A. in English Studies from the Universidad de Alicante. His professional and academic experience involves research on technology applied to literature and digital libraries, and teaching. Manuel also works as an assistant professor in the Universidad de Alicante's Education Department. Manuel speaks several languages and has published articles on digital libraries and sociolinguistics. He began working for the CIEE Study Center in Alicante as its Resident Coordinator in 2005. In 2009, he was promoted to Resident Director of the summer program.

About Other CIEE Staff

Francisco Díez, Center Director, 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 run the socio-cultural and *Intercambios* programs, and the Spanish language placement test. Since January 2006, Francisco has served as Center Director and is also the Resident Director of the Liberal Arts program. He speaks Spanish, English, and Catalan.

Beatriz Ortín Pérez, Student Services Director, 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 Master's in English and Spanish Used in Specific Fields and Business from the Universidad de Alicante, and she is about to earn a second Master's in Secondary Education.

CIEE students in Alicante are also assisted by 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 will 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 1992, the summer program in Alicante provides an opportunity for short-term, intensive study of the Spanish language. The six-week program is open to qualified undergraduates with an interest in Spanish language and contemporary Spain. Language classes are taught entirely in Spanish and are offered at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Students are given a placement exam in Alicante prior to the start of classes to determine the appropriate level in which they should be placed.

Academic Culture

CIEE courses are scheduled from Monday through Friday. Students can expect daily homework assignments. Teaching methods in CIEE courses combine lecture and interactive styles. Program professors are familiar with second-language teaching methodology. They also have several years teaching experience in Spain and abroad, and use a variety of teaching methods. Furthermore, they have worked with American, European, and other international students for many years and are familiar with their expectations. Each professor distributes a detailed syllabus indicating what material is covered, when exams are held, and what is expected from each student. Class attendance is mandatory and absences affect the final grade.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE participants only.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Spanish, Resident Staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Spanish language proficiency and understanding of Spanish society.

Grading System

In the language classes, grades are based on weekly quizzes, exams, attendance, homework assignments, oral presentations, and class participation. Grades in the content courses are generally based on class participation, papers or projects, and a final exam. CIEE Resident Staff determine the exact breakdown of grades.



where you'll study

The Universidad de Alicante is one of Spain's newest universities, 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 on the northwest extension of the main campus in San Vicente, next to the Faculty of Education and one of the residence halls, and provides students direct access to University facilities.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and all meals are included in the program fee. 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 members of the family. 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.

Orientation

During the mandatory two-day orientation students are introduced to the country, the culture, and the academic program, as well as practical information about living in Spain. The orientation helps students make a gradual transition to Spanish life. A range of topics, including housing and family life, cultural differences, health and safety, gender and race issues, academics, and academic policies are covered. The orientation includes both structured cultural activities and independent sightseeing. At the end of the formal orientation, students meet their families and then move into their home in Alicante. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program. Students may consult with Resident Staff throughout the program about any cultural adjustment issues they may be experiencing.

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, and there are numerous Internet cafés throughout the city of Alicante.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

Weekend, overnight, and day trips to different Spanish cities, to 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 field trip throughout Spain, and several day excursions to points of interest in the province of Alicante and the region of Valencia. Past trips have included visits to Granada, Seville, Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia. There are also several local day excursions in Alicante (Santa Barbara Castle, San Fernando Castle, and archaeological Roman and Greek sites) and throughout the Province of Alicante (Altea, Villajoyosa, Calpe, and Orihuela). Field trips and excursions supplement classwork and introduce students to the rich diversity of the geographic, linguistic, and cultural areas of Spain and its major cities.

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 sociocultural and sporting activities include guided tours to monuments and museums in Alicante, 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.

International Club

The Universidad de Alicante sponsors an International Club which organizes a range of activities, including optional excursions at affordable rates, to help students get involved in the local community and meet Spanish peers. Students may enroll in non-credit courses such as horseback riding, sailing, hiking, flamenco, and theater.

CIEE Spanish Helpers

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

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 percent 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
- For CIEE content courses in Spanish, at least 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent

duration

6 weeks: mid-June—late July

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2011: \$6,300
Summer 2012: available 12/15/11

The CIEE program fees for 2012 includes an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing and all meals, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which includes insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2011)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,350
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,000
Books and Supplies	\$ 125
Local Transportation	\$ 150
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 2,625

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

Students are required to take one Spanish language course and one content course.

Participants are placed in appropriate language courses based on a language examination given in Alicante at the beginning of the program. Students who place into the advanced level are required to take their content course in Spanish. Students who are placed at the beginning or intermediate level may take courses in Spanish or English.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the summer is 6 semester hours/9 quarter hours.

Each course has 45 contact hours, and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course.

Languages of Instruction

Spanish, English

Faculty

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



courses

Required CIEE Spanish Language Courses

SPAN 1010 ALSU

Beginning Spanish Language

This course is designed for students with 0–1 semesters of college-level Spanish and focuses on providing students with survival skills in Spanish. Emphasis is on speaking and listening comprehension, but the course integrates reading comprehension and written expression as well. Students use a packet of materials designed by CIEE faculty. CIEE language courses include practical information on Spanish society and culture through fieldwork in the local community.

SPAN 2010 ALSU

Intermediate Spanish Language

This course is designed for students who have 2–3 semesters of university-level Spanish. This course builds upon previous work in the four communicative skills: oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, and reading comprehension. Students use a packet of materials designed by CIEE faculty. CIEE language courses include practical information on Spanish society and culture through fieldwork in the local community.

SPAN 3010 ALSU

Advanced Spanish Language

This course is designed for students with at least 4 semesters of college-level Spanish and provides advanced speakers with an intensive review of Spanish grammar and syntax. Through practical exercises and fieldwork, students also develop oral and listening skills. Students use a packet of materials designed by CIEE faculty specifically for advanced English-speaking learners.

SPAN 4010 ALSU

Advanced Language Conversation and Writing

This course is designed for students with at least 6 semesters of college-level Spanish, for students with a proven high level of Spanish language skills, and for heritage speakers. Its primary purpose is to help students become fluent in real life conversational Spanish while, at the same time, giving them the necessary tools to write both formally and colloquially in real-life settings. By analyzing Internet websites, blogs, newspaper articles, movies, and TV programs, students are able to recognize and use the different strategies for oral and written production. Students improve their communicative skills by means of oral presentations, short written projects, and continuous in-class oral practice.

Required CIEE Content Courses

Content courses include lectures, critical analysis of readings, movies, and specific visits. CIEE reserves the right to cancel sections with insufficient enrollment. Students choose one CIEE content course.

AHIS 3001 ALSU

(in English)

AHIS 3002 ALSU

(in Spanish)

The Spanish Tradition in Art

This survey course covers Spain's major contributions to the history of Western art from the Renaissance to the present. The emphasis rests primarily on painting and architecture, especially on the fundamental Spanish masters. Students learn how to analyze a painting from different practical approaches (i.e. 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 different museums in order to get a better understanding of the arts in Spain and in the Comunidad Valenciana in particular.

ECON/POLI 3001 ALSU

Spain and the European Union: Economics, Politics, and Social Issues

(in English)

This course focuses on Spain's role in the European Union and familiarizes students with the central traits of the economic architecture of the EU. The course explores recent economic integration; analyzes the consequences that this economic and political integration process is having on politico-economic governance in the member states; and explores some of the policies generated by the EU in fields such as labor and social policy (e.g. migration, competition policy, environmental policy, and industrial policy). Students also analyze the main varieties of capitalism underpinning member state economies, and the challenges they experience as a result of internal factors and the globalization of production and financial markets.



a student's story

When I decided to study abroad, I knew I wanted to be immersed in Spanish culture, but I didn't know where to go. I found Alicante through CIEE. Before arriving in the coastal Valencian city, I expected a quiet beach town and a relaxing summer. I had no idea what I was in for. The festivals, art, people, and nightlife took me by surprise all at once and for the most part didn't stop until the day I left. Whether it was dancing until five in the morning in the street during *Las Hogueras* (and leaving the party to go to sleep), or marveling at La Alhambra in Granada during the program's trip, it seemed like the excitement never stopped. But more important than any of the events I was lucky enough to witness (including the World Cup Final victory), I value the relationships, both Spanish and American, that I forged on my trip. I feel part of my host family even now when I'm 6000 miles away; I miss the friends I met with the program, including the members of the CIEE staff that I grew close to. To put it simply, I had the experience of a lifetime. CIEE took care of me and introduced to me a city to explore, learn from, and ultimately become a part of. I think my desire to communicate in Spanish when possible helped, but my affiliation with the program was key in making my experience a worthwhile one. The vibrancy of life in Spain, from the museums to the people, made the experience an unforgettable one.

— Todd Sheerin, Harvard University

FILM 3001 ALSU

(in English)

FILM 3002 ALSU

(in Spanish)

Spanish Cinema

In this course, students analyze some of the most well-known and representative films produced by the Spanish film industry from the transition to democracy to the present day. Students critique the films shown in class, with the goal of increasing their knowledge of contemporary Spanish culture and Spain's recent history. The viewing of films in conjunction with subsequent in-class discussion serves as the framework for students to acquire further knowledge of the specific changes that Spanish society has undergone in recent times, contrasting these with the classic stereotypes of Spanish culture. Topics such as machismo, eroticism, gender roles, and religion are discussed in depth while learning about new movements in contemporary Spanish cinema. The aim of this course is not only to teach students how to analyze a film and to give them the tools to do it, but also to show them how cinema can be enjoyable and didactic at the same time. Taking the cinema as a means of communication, not only of the author but also of the society where it is born, is the focus of this class. The course also includes visits to television studios as well other media and filming centers.

HISP 3005 ALSU

Spain throughout its Gastronomy and Wine Industry

(in Spanish)

This survey course covers an overview of the importance of the Mediterranean diet in Spanish life. Upon completion of this course, students understand Spanish topography and its effects on Mediterranean gastronomy and the wine industry in Spain. Students cover important aspects such as the culture, tradition, and festivities and the relation to the Spanish gastronomy and wine production.

HISP 3006 ALSU

Spain through its Popular Culture

(in Spanish)

The aim of this course is to gain a better knowledge of Spain through Spanish popular culture, very well known by its native people, but sometimes difficult to understand by foreign students. The course explores present Spain by studying different aspects of the popular culture such as music, cinema, literature, comics, television, commercials, press, and entertainment. There is a triple approach: descriptive, analytic, and comparative with the U.S. All topics are illustrated with appropriate audiovisual materials.

PUBH 3003 ALSU

Introduction to Family and Community Health

(in Spanish)

This course provides students with an overview of key issues and contributing factors related to the health of families and communities. It includes focus on current and emerging public health concerns at each stage in the life cycle, the needs of special populations, and the range of policy and program responses. The course provides a framework for assessing the health of families and communities and for developing strategies for intervention and promotion of health and wellness.

SOCI 3001 ALSU

Contemporary Spanish Society

(in English)

This course provides an introduction to the most important aspects of Spain and Contemporary Spanish Society. It is designed to offer structured information about issues related to Spanish society today as well as to provide a forum for discussion for students as they interact with the people and institutions of this country. At the end of the course, students are able to discuss relevant issues facing Spain today with a satisfactory level of understanding; identify and comment on the major social players in Spanish society, including individuals and institutions; and carry out an insightful comparative assessment of issues that affect both Spanish and U.S. societies.

SPAN 3011 ALSU

Spanish for Specific Purposes: Public Health, Social Services, and Psychology Professionals

(in Spanish)

This course is designed to provide students with specific vocabulary, expressions, communicative strategies, and special constructions of different work fields which enable them to interact with Spanish speakers in specific working areas. Cultural differences between Spain and the U.S. in terms of labor and social situations are discussed.