

Universidad de Alcalá

art history / business / history / linguistics / literature / political science / spanish language



program snapshot

- Improve your Spanish language skills while living in a provincial city near the metropolis of Madrid
- Choose from a wide range of Spanish-taught courses
- Participate in frequent excursions that take advantage of the rich cultural happenings in Alcalá and Madrid during the summer, as well as in short excursions to nearby sites of historical interest such as Toledo, Segovia, and Cuenca
- Enjoy one longer excursion to Asturias (session I) and Valencia (session II)

what you'll learn

The goal of the Language and Culture program is to give students the opportunity to develop high-intermediate or advanced language skills and increase their knowledge of Spanish culture. This is achieved through coursework and excursions.

thoughts from abroad

I look forward to welcoming you to Alcalá de Henares. Alcalá is a unique place that offers you insight into the history and traditions that continue to shape contemporary Spain. Just 40 minutes from Madrid, the geographical center of Spain, Alcalá is a wonderful location in which to study language, literature, humanities, and social sciences at one of the oldest universities in the country. Come and learn why the dreams of Don Quixote and the life of Miguel de Cervantes are a key influence in today's Spain; come and enjoy this vibrant, beautiful city where you can interact with many young Spaniards; and finally, come and live in Alcalá and learn how its rich historical past makes it a cherished jewel of Spain!

— Cristina Blanco, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Cristina Blanco earned her B.A. degrees in Filología Hispánica and Educación Infantil and her M.A. degree at the Universidad de Alcalá, where she focused on Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language. Cristina taught at Middlebury College in Vermont, Kobe Gaidai University in Japan, and the International Trade Institute in Taiwan's Ministry of Commerce. She is the coauthor of a textbook on Spanish for foreigners and another about nonverbal communication.

About Other CIEE Staff

Danielle Stanko, Resident Coordinator, helps with administrative and day-to-day matters and Fausto Zamora is the Culture Instructor during orientation and on CIEE trips.



about alcalá de henares

Alcalá de Henares, named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1998, is located 40 minutes northeast of Madrid. Alcalá is the birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes, author of *Don Quixote de la Mancha*. It has a population of 300,000, including approximately 16,000 university students and a growing number of immigrant groups from Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Alcalá's historic center is a mix of harmonious streets, noble architecture dating back to the 16th century, convents, shops, restaurants, tapas bars, and graceful storks that nest atop buildings.

academics

Academic Program

Established in 1999, the CIEE Study Center at the Universidad de Alcalá provides an academic program for students with a high-intermediate to advanced level of Spanish. The summer program, established in 2008, consists of language and culture courses offered through the Institute (Hispanic studies for U.S. students). Two sessions are offered. Students may enroll in either one or both sessions. For some courses, prerequisites are required for admission. All language instruction on the program is at the intermediate-advanced or advanced level. Students take two courses per session.

Academic Culture

The Institute is housed in a 17th century convent, which has been renovated to preserve the building's beauty and charm, while providing modern office and classroom space. Class size ranges from five to 23 students, all from U.S. colleges and universities. Instruction is in Spanish. Classes at the Institute meet from Monday through Thursday, in the morning and afternoon. Fridays are reserved for class-related activities, weekend excursions, and field trips.

Although extracurricular activities and personal travel contribute to the student's overall study abroad experience, attendance in class is paramount. An early departure for

or a late return from weekend travel is not allowed. Any travel should take place prior to the start of the program, or upon completion of the program.

Nature of Classes

Institute courses are with CIEE and other U.S. students.

CIEE Community Language Commitment

Students take part in the CIEE Community Language Commitment by speaking Spanish at all times [except in emergencies]. This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Spanish language proficiency and understanding of Spanish society.

Grading System

In Institute courses, students are graded on the basis of class participation, in-class activities, homework assignments, examinations, papers, and often oral presentations, much like in the United States.



where you'll study

The Universidad de Alcalá was founded in 1499. In 1836, the University transferred to the nearby capital of Madrid, leaving its historic facilities in Alcalá unused until 1977 when the University was re-established. The Instituto Benjamin Franklin offers academic programs in Hispanic Studies for U.S. students and is where CIEE students take classes.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and meals are included in the program fee. During the program, students live in Spanish-speaking homes (one student per home) and take their meals at the place of residence.

Orientation

A mandatory two-day orientation, conducted at the beginning of each session, introduces students to the country, the culture, and the academic program, as well as provides practical information about living in Spain and Alcalá in particular. Orientation themes include safety and security, money issues and banking, and cultural adaptation. A language placement examination is conducted to identify the linguistic level of all participants, so that each student is placed in appropriate courses. Orientation includes both structured cultural activities and independent sightseeing. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students have access to computer labs at the University and have Internet access in their homes. There are also numerous affordable cafés with free wireless access located throughout the city of Alcalá. Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops as wireless is available in various areas of the Universidad de Alcalá.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 3.0 GPA in most recent Spanish class
- 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent

duration

Session I
4.5 weeks: late May—late June

Session II
4.5 weeks: late June—late July

Sessions I and II
9 weeks: late May—late July

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented with field trips and excursions, including visits to museums, theaters, and fairs in Alcalá de Henares and Madrid, and excursions to nearby sites of historical interest such as Toledo, Cuenca, and Segovia. One longer trip per session is included to Asturias in session I and Valencia in session II. The excursions are planned to supplement classwork and to introduce students to the rich diversity of the geographical, linguistic, and cultural areas of Spain.

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2011 (Session I or II): \$4,500
Summer 2011 (Sessions I and II): \$8,800
Summer 2012: available 12/15/11

The CIEE program fees for 2012 include 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 provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2011, per session)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,200
Personal Expenses	\$ 750
Books and Supplies	\$ 100
Local Transportation	\$ 200
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 2,250

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

Students are required to take two courses per session.

Credit

Total recommended credit is 6 semester/9 quarter hours for one session and 12 semester/18 quarter hours for two sessions.

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

Language of Instruction

Spanish

Faculty

All courses are taught in Spanish by faculty from the Universidad de Alcalá, as well as from teaching and research centers of Madrid.



courses

Institute Courses

A final list of Institute courses is available a few months prior to the start of the program. Students should refer to the course registration form in their acceptance materials for a final list of courses.

Session I

Cervantes and His Work

This course examines the literary masterpiece of Miguel de Cervantes, *El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha*. It explores the novel's place in Spanish and world literature, its importance as a model for the novel, and the use of language and the realities it portrays. A previous class in Golden Age Literature is recommended.

Comparing the United States and Spain: Culture, Politics, and Social Structure

The objective of this course is to enable participants to study different aspects of present-day Spain and the United States from a comparative perspective. Issues such as everyday life and customs, cultural diversity, economic and political institutions, religion, immigration, ethnic relations, and questions of identity in both countries are analyzed. Special emphasis is given to issues of social diversity, as well as the need to avoid existing stereotypes. Students also acquire new communication skills, perfecting their understanding of the Spanish language and gaining a deeper knowledge of both Spanish and North American societies.

Great Poets of the Spanish Literature

The course is designed for North American students who want to acquire a general and complete knowledge of Spanish poetry from the Medieval Ages until today. The course has been designed from a practical point of view within a historical and socio-cultural context. The course structure tends to integrate the different poetry movements in history, so that students can identify each literary text according to the characteristics of any artistic period. Students are familiarized with the most remarkable characteristics and style of an author to identify each literary work according to the generalities of each period. Readings of poems are completed during class time so students can obtain the skills to make critical and personal comments that show the knowledge gained by the student.

Great Spanish Painters

Students learn to identify, define, and situate a work of art in a determined historical context. They also learn specific terminology that allows for the definition of the works of the great Spanish painters.

Introduction to Latin American Literature

This course offers a panoramic view of Latin American literature and its development from early to present times. Periods of study are from the genesis of literature in Latin America through the literature of *Ultramodernismo*.

Master Pieces of the Spanish Literature

The course has been designed from a practical point of view where only the most relevant literary texts are analyzed within a socio-cultural context. The structure of the course tends to integrate the different literary movements in history, so that students are able to identify the most remarkable texts according to the characteristics and generalities of each period. By the end of the course, students have acquired the skills to develop critical and personal comments in order to show the knowledge gained.

Reading Analysis

The course intends to give the student the necessary tools to understand the text and the ability to communicate both in writing and speaking in relation to the text studied. In addition, the students analyze the different linguistic structures used.

Spain and the European Union

The aim of this course is for students to understand the origins and current role of the European Union. With this purpose in mind, the course provides a detailed look at its creation, present reality, goals, structure, institutional organization, and political principles. Students also learn about the extent to which Spain is affected by these factors and study its role in the EU. In addition, the legal, economic, social, and political changes that Spain has undergone since its transition to democracy and membership in the EU are also studied. Students are also asked to consider the future challenges that Spain faces at both the national and international levels.

Spain in Images: The Spanish Society in Film

This course enables students to understand the evolution of film in Spain through the study of the major works of Spanish cinema. Students learn to understand film as art, and as the imprint of a people's reality and fantasy.

Spanish Art History

This course is an introduction to the most representative of Spain's historic-artistic monuments. The architectural and pictorial works from the different cultures which lived in the Iberian Peninsula are studied. Students learn the most important aspects of Spanish art through the comprehension of the main features of a work: periods and styles, masters and schools, and monuments and works.

Spain: Relations with Latin America

This course introduces students to different aspects of the culture and civilizations in the Hispanic world from the pre-historic age through today. At the end of the course, students identify distinct epochs in Latin American history, recognizing the cultural variations that resulted in forming the distinct countries that are now Latin American territory. Likewise, students gain a base of knowledge—knowledge that has marked each of the different countries in a notable way and influenced the personalities of each country of this continent, which has historically, politically, and culturally proven its influence and resonance in the rest of the world, from pre-Columbian times until today.

Spain through the Media

The aim of this course is to help students develop communicative competence through grammatical, cultural, and social-linguistic means, as well as through discourse. Class lectures are supplemented with multi-media communication from present-day Spain, including publicity, radio, television, press, and the cinema.

Spanish for Bilingual Speakers

This class is designed for native speakers of Spanish with a command of the oral language, but who have been educated primarily in English. There is an emphasis on oral and written expression and reading comprehension through different literary styles (newspapers, essays, and literary works).

Spanish Civilization

Students gain an ample understanding of Spain's past and present by understanding contemporary Spain in its geographic and political context. Participants analyze the nation's intellectual, artistic, social, and human development as manifested in contemporary literature, art, music, folklore, national and regional celebrations, and group and individual activities. The final objective is to help students identify a Spanish cultural spirit in a broad sense.

Traditions of Spain

The analysis of different aspects of Spanish civilization and culture serves to stimulate the student to develop their linguistic abilities through compositions, presentations, and debates. Students learn to write different types of texts (descriptive, expository, argumentative, and essays) and to speak in different registers. They also learn to manage grammatical concepts at an intermediate level, such as the past, the historical present, the future, and the present subjunctive.

Translation

Students learn both direct and inverse translation of diverse styles. There is an emphasis on grammatical, syntactic, and lexical problems. Interpretation of oral texts from Spanish to English and English to Spanish are performed.

Writing Techniques

The objective of this course is to offer techniques for planning, developing, and organizing specific written texts. The first part of the course is dedicated to development strategies for compositions that help the student generate their own writing process and improve the ability to produce any type of text. The second part of the course, more specifically, familiarizes the students with different professional writing styles (news, newspaper articles, interviews, chronicles, autobiographical, reports, essays, critiques, and so on) while applying the techniques of description, narration, exposition, and argumentation. Each style studied is accompanied by texts from Spanish writers which serve to aid students for producing their written work.

Session II**Cervantes and His Work**

This course examines the literary masterpiece of Miguel de Cervantes, *El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha*. It explores the novel's place in Spanish and world literature, its importance as a model for the novel and the use of language, and the realities it portrays. A previous class in Golden Age Literature is recommended.

Contemporary Spain

This course serves as a window to the social and cultural history of Spain in the 20th century and provides a projection of where Spain will go in the 21st century. It explores the First Republic, the Bourbon Restoration, caciquismo and pacifism, regionalism and regional culture, the crisis of 1898, the artistic vanguard (Picasso, Dalí, Miró, and Buñuel), dictatorship, the Second

Republic, the Spanish Civil War, Spain and World War II, Francoism, U.S.-Spain relations, the economic boom of the 1960s, the socialist years after Franco, the Center and the Partido Popular, and Spain and the European Union.

Contemporary Spanish Literature

This course follows the development of Spanish literature during the 20th century and relates the works to the literary currents that influenced contemporary literature.

Globalization and the Spanish Economy

This course consists of two parts: the first addresses the globalization phenomenon and its effects on the world's economic growth and welfare, as well as its impact on employment, wages, and social inequalities in both developed and developing countries. The second part analyzes the present moment and the outlook for the Spanish economy. Special attention is paid to the integration process of Spain's economy in the European Union, as well as the economic interdependence between the U.S. and the EU.

Great Spanish Painters

The main objective of the course is to give students a global view of the most important figures in Spanish painting history such as Goya, Velázquez, or Dalí. The lectures and material in class are complemented by visits to museums, cities, and institutions to allow students to experience direct contact with the masterpieces of these great masters.

Spain and the European Union

The aim of this course is for students to understand the origins and current role of the European Union. With this purpose in mind, the course provides a detailed look at its creation, present reality, goals, structure, institutional organization, and political principles. Students also learn about the extent to which Spain is affected by these factors and study its role in the EU. In addition, the legal, economic, social, and political changes that Spain has undergone since its transition to democracy and membership in the EU are also studied. Students are also asked to consider the future challenges that Spain faces at both national and international levels.

Spain in Images: The Spanish Society in Film

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The aim of this course is to help students develop communicative competence through grammatical, cultural, and social-linguistic means, as well as through discourse. Class lectures are supplemented with multi-media communication from present-day Spain, including publicity, radio, television, press, and the cinema.

Spanish for Bilingual Speakers

This class is designed for native speakers of Spanish, who have a command of the oral language but have been educated primarily in English. It emphasizes oral and written expression and reading comprehension through different literary styles (newspapers, essays, and literary works).

Spanish for Business

The objective of this course is to give students command of the structures and vocabulary most essential to the fields of business administration and economics. Students work on the language of business practices and communications in business, including banks, marketing and publicity, tourism, labor relations, insurance, industry, and the EU.

Spanish Civilization

Students gain an ample understanding of Spain's past and present by understanding contemporary Spain in its geographic and political context. Participants analyze the nation's intellectual, artistic, social, and human development as manifested in contemporary literature, art, music, folklore, national and regional celebrations, and group and individual activities. The final objective is to help students identify a Spanish cultural spirit in a broad sense.

Spanish Phonetics

This course presents the basic principles of Spanish phonology and phonetics and is designed to help native speakers of English improve their Spanish pronunciation. Classes discuss the articulation of the sounds of Spanish compared to English sounds, the intonation patterns and stress system of Spanish, the learning of correct articulation, and different dialects.

Survey of Literary Analyses

Based on analysis of and commentary on major texts of Spanish and Latin American literature, this course emphasizes the practical issues of textual commentary as opposed to the study of critical theory alone. Students work with a literary text, and all conclusions must be based on solid references to the text.

(courses continued from previous page)

Text Analyses

The course intends to give the student the necessary tools to understand the text and the ability to communicate both in writing and speaking in relation to the text studied. In addition, the students analyze the different linguistic structures used.

Traditions of Spain

The analysis of different aspects of Spanish civilization and culture serves to stimulate the student to develop their linguistic abilities through compositions, presentations, and debates. Students learn to write different types of texts (descriptive, expository, argumentative, and essays) and to speak in different registers. They also learn to manage grammatical concepts at an intermediate level, such as the past, the historical present, the future, and the present subjunctive.

Writing Skills

This course familiarizes students with different types of professional writing (literary writing is also addressed as necessary) and with different formats, while enabling them to develop their own strategies and techniques throughout their own writing process.

