

# Universidad de Alcalá

fall / spring / academic year



art / art history / business / business spanish / history / linguistics / literature / management / marketing / political science / spanish language and culture



## program snapshot

- Perfect your Spanish skills: learn formal Spanish in the classroom and colloquial Spanish in the community; participate in conversation exchanges
- Get to know Alcalá de Henares and Madrid, each with its own culture
- Choose between living in a Spanish homestay or a shared room at the University *residencia* with Spanish and other international students
- Enjoy cultural visits to museums, theaters, and fairs; day trips to Toledo, Segovia, and Cuenca; and overnights to Andalusia, Asturias, León, and Extremadura

## what you'll learn

The Liberal Arts program is designed to help solidify the informal and academic language skills of high-intermediate and advanced students of Spanish and to help them develop an understanding of issues relevant to contemporary Spain and its people. Program objectives are accomplished through daily interaction with the social and academic communities of Alcalá, University coursework, living alongside Spanish students in *residencias* or with Spanish-speaking families, class-related excursions to Madrid and other areas of Spain, and organized activities with Spanish students.

## 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. Minutes from Madrid, the geographical center of Spain, Alcalá is a wonderful location in which to study 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 key influences 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 to learn how its rich, historical past makes it a cherished jewel of Spain!

Espero darte la bienvenida muy pronto en Alcalá de Henares. Alcalá está ubicada en un lugar único de la historia, literatura y tradiciones y nos ofrece un espejo de la sociedad española. Además, Alcalá ofrece mucho en cuanto a ambiente cultural y social se refiere: teatro, espectáculos, conferencias, cines, tiendas, restaurantes y oportunidades para hacer amigos españoles. Es posible disfrutar a la vez de sus parques y plazas históricas donde leer, o simplemente contemplar a los artistas callejeros. Además, Alcalá está muy cerca de la vida cosmopolita, museos y centro cultural de la capital, Madrid.

— Cristina Blanco, Resident Director

### About the Resident Director

Cristina Blanco earned her undergraduate degree in Filología Hispánica y Educación Infantil and graduate degrees 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 co-author of a textbook on Spanish for foreigners and another about nonverbal communication.

### About Other CIEE Staff

The CIEE Resident Director is assisted onsite by a student intern, a former CIEE participant, who helps with administrative and day-to-day matters.

## about alcalá de henares

Alcalá de Henares, named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1998, is located 30 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 academic offering consists of a combination of CIEE Study Center language courses and courses offered through the Institute (Hispanic studies for U.S. students). Students with the necessary prerequisites are encouraged to enroll in one or two courses at the Universidad de Alcalá and learn alongside Spanish students.

### 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 10 to 23 students. Instruction is in Spanish. Classes at the Institute meet Monday through Thursday for 90 minutes twice a week. Fridays are reserved for class-related activities, weekend excursions, and field trips to Madrid and surrounding areas.

In the fall semester, Institute courses start the first week in September and end in mid-December. Regular University courses run from late September through mid-January. Fall semester students interested in enrolling in regular University courses must be prepared to stay until the end of the examination period in mid to late January.

In the spring semester, Institute courses begin in early January and run through late April. Regular University courses begin in early February with exams usually scheduled in mid-June.

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 vacation is not allowed. Any

extended travel should take place prior to the start of the program, during vacation periods, or upon completion of the program.

### Nature of Classes

CIEE language courses are with CIEE students only. Area studies courses through the Institute are with CIEE and other U.S. students. Regular University courses, an option if you have advanced language skills and are willing to stay until mid to late January for fall and mid-June for spring, are with Spanish and ERASMUS (European) 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 CIEE and Institute courses, students are graded on the basis of class participation, in-class activities, homework assignments, examinations, papers, and often oral presentations, much like the United States. In regular University courses, assessment is often based solely on an examination given at the end of the semester. Grades are given on a 10-point scale.



## 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 Universitario de Investigación en Estudios Norteamericanos de la Universidad de Alcalá (the Institute) offers academic programs in Hispanic Studies for U.S. students. CIEE students can also take courses in three schools at the Universidad de Alcalá: Philosophy and Letters, Economics and Business, and Law.

## living

### Housing and Meals

Housing and meals are included in the program fee. During the program, students live in either Spanish-speaking homes (one student per home) or in University *residencias* (in a shared room in a furnished apartment with other students). The Universidad de Alcalá is one of the few institutions in Spain that makes University *residencias* available to foreign students, so that students may enjoy an international living experience with Spanish and other foreign students.

Students in Spanish homes take their meals at the place of residence. Students in the University *residencias* receive a meal stipend and take their meals in University-run facilities or prepare their own. The *residencias* are located outside the historic city center, and students take a public bus to the Institute, about a 15-minute ride. Students who choose a homestay either walk or take a bus to the Institute.

### Orientation

A mandatory two-day orientation session, conducted at the beginning of the program, 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 the Spanish university system, banking, safety, how and where to shop, money issues, and cultural adaptation. A language skills diagnostic 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 University computer labs. There are also numerous affordable Internet cafés located throughout the city of Alcalá de Henares. Students are encouraged to bring laptops as wireless is available in various areas of the Universidad de Alcalá.

## culture

### Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented with field trips and excursions. They include visits to museums, theaters, and fairs in Alcalá de Henares and Madrid, and excursions to nearby sites of historic interest such as Toledo, Cuenca, Ávila, and Segovia. Longer trips may include Andalusia, Extremadura, Asturias, Cantabria, and León which are planned to supplement class work and to introduce students to the rich diversity of the geographical, linguistic, and cultural areas of Spain.

Other cultural activities designed to bring together American and Spanish University students are conversation exchanges, theater performances, and many other clubs and activities sponsored by the Universidad de Alcalá.

## costs

### CIEE Fees

Fall 2009: \$13,200

Spring 2010: available 8/15/09

Academic year 2009–10: \$23,750

The CIEE fees for 2009–10 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, tuition, housing, all meals in homestays or a monthly meal stipend in University *residencias*, orientation, organized cultural activities, full-day excursions, overnight field trips, pre-departure advising, comprehensive student handbook, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

### Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,350
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,800
Books and Supplies	\$ 300
Local Transportation	\$ 500
Visa Fee	\$ 100
Potential Travel to Consulate for Visa	\$ 400
<b>Total Estimated Additional Costs</b>	<b>\$ 5,450</b>

Check our website for current fees.

## eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 3.0 GPA in most recent Spanish class
- Fall applicants: 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent
- Spring applicants: 5 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent

## duration

### Fall

15 or 23 weeks: early September–mid-December or mid to late January

### Spring

16 or 23 weeks: early January–late April or mid-June

### Academic Year

34 or 41 weeks: early September–late April or mid-June



## coursework

### Program Requirements

Students are required to enroll in one CIEE language course and a minimum of three elective courses. Students may take a fourth elective. For some courses, prerequisites are required for admission. All language instruction in the program is at the high-intermediate or advanced level. CIEE reserves the right to place participants in the language course for which the student is best prepared based on the results of diagnostic testing.

### Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester program is 12–15 semester/18–22.5 quarter hours. Total recommended credit for the academic year program is 24–30 semester/36–45 quarter hours.

Contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated. A full course load is considered four courses. All courses are considered junior or senior level.

### Language of Instruction

Spanish

### Faculty

All courses are taught by faculty from the Universidad de Alcalá and teaching and research centers of Madrid.

## courses

### Required CIEE Courses

*Students are required to enroll in one of the following CIEE language courses during their first semester of participation in the program. Upon arrival in Alcalá, all students take a placement exam. If the Resident Director determines that a student is a native speaker of Spanish, the student will be exempt from the language requirement.*

#### SPAN 3002 ALCA

##### Advanced Spanish Grammar: From Structure to the Text

This course places special emphasis on grammar and vocabulary in addition to notions, functions, and use of the language in real speaking situations, and describes for the student a standard language. Students work with authentic texts, both written and audiovisual, from newspapers, magazines, the Internet, publications, contemporary literary texts, news reports, movies, documentaries, and telephone conversations.

#### SPAN 3003 ALCA

##### Advanced Spanish Language Seminar

This advanced Spanish language seminar is a series of interrelated language study activities. Particular attention is given to the difficulties and deficiencies in listening comprehension, composition, phonetics, semantics, and lexicology that hinder the students' progress toward a sophisticated level of language competency.

### Elective Institute Courses

*A final list of Institute courses is not available until a few months prior to the start of each semester. Students should refer to the course registration form in their acceptance materials for a final list of courses. The courses and descriptions listed have been offered in the past and are usually offered each semester.*

#### Alcalá and its Cultures

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the diversity of cultures that exist within the city of Alcalá de Henares. Students study topics ranging from history and literature to architecture and popular culture.

#### 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 U.S. and Spain: Culture, Politics, and the Social Structure

This class focuses on comparing and contrasting Spain and the United States, offering a varied view of daily life, economics, and politics. Topics such as religion, immigration, ethnic relations, and questions of identity are discussed, each with a special emphasis on social diversity and the need to avoid stereotypes.

#### Contemporary Spain

This course serves as a window to the social and cultural history of Spain in the 20th century and 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 Spain through the Media

The aim of this course is for students to develop a communicative competence through grammatical, cultural, and social-linguistic means, as well as through discourse. The class lectures are supplemented through publicity, radio, television, press, and cinema.

#### 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.

#### Contemporary Spanish Women Writers

This class introduces students to outstanding contemporary women writers of Spain. It studies cultural, sociological, and linguistic concepts in contemporary Spain and how they are interpreted by women writers.



**Geography and History of Spain**

Students gain an understanding of the geographic reality of Spain and the Iberian Peninsula and the influences of geography on Spanish development and history. Human influences on the geography of Spain, geography and economics, human geography, and geography and regionalism are discussed.

**Globalization of Commerce: Spain**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the areas of business, commerce, and new trends in the world economy—the European Union, NAFTA, and the Pacific Rim. Students make field trips to Madrid to visit institutions involved in world trade, as well as to North American businesses and companies with offices in Spain.

**Great Masters in Painting**

In this course, students learn about instruments for identifying, defining, and situating a work of art in a determined historical context, as well as specific terminology that allows for the definition of the works of the great Spanish painters.

**Hispanic Civilization**

This course discusses the different aspects of the culture and civilization in Latin America from prehistory to present-day. Students learn about the different eras and identify important figures and the politics and culture from pre-Columbian times to the present.

**History of Art**

This course introduces the historic and artistic monuments most representative of Spain to include the artistic, architectural, and pictorial manifestations of the cultures of the Peninsula and emblematic works that represent those cultures.

**Icons and Traditions of Spain**

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

**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.

**Introduction to Reading**

This objective of this course is to improve the student's oral (conversation and comprehension) and written (reading and composition) competencies through reading and analyzing various types of texts. Students are introduced to a variety of examples of texts including narratives, newspaper articles, publicity, job announcements, and forms. They develop linguistic skills through compositions, presentations, discussions, and activities in class specifically designed by the professor for each text.

**Introduction to the World of Business**

This class introduces the institutions that constitute the Spanish environment, its history, the economic context of present-day Spain, and future challenges, along with the business environment and ways of doing business in Spain.

**Mediterranean Political Relations**

This course focuses on the development of relations between the Mediterranean and the EU (giving special attention to Spain) and how these relations have developed between the United States and the Mediterranean region since the end of the Cold War.

**Political and Economic Relations between Spain and the European Union**

This course focuses on the political and legal aspects of Spain as an integral part of a larger, international organization with distinct regional characteristics; specifically, the political and legal organization of the Spanish state as a member of the European Union.

**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 film as the imprint of a people's reality and fantasy.

**Spain: Relations with Hispanic America**

The objective of this course is to achieve understanding of Hispanidad as a global phenomenon with Spanish and Latin American manifestations.

**Spanish for Business**

The objective of this course is to obtain 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: 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.

**Spanish for Native Speakers**

This course is for native speakers of Spanish with a command of the oral language, but 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 Phonetics**

This course presents the basic principles of Spanish phonology and phonetics designed to help the native speaker of English improve their Spanish pronunciation. Class discussion focuses on the articulation of the sounds of Spanish compared to English, the intonation patterns and stress system of Spanish, the learning of correct articulation, and dialects.

**Survey of Literary Analysis**

Based on analysis and commentary of 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.

**Survey of Spanish Literature**

This course offers a panoramic view of Spanish literature from the Middle Ages to the present and serves as a foundation to the future study of Spanish literature. It explores the importance of particular works and authors as creators of their time and as sources of influence on future generations of literary artists. This course carefully views literature in the context of the 15th -, 17th -, 19th -, and 20th-century genres.

**Survey of Spanish Phonetics**

The object of this course is to ensure that students learn to pronounce correctly, distinguishing different phonetic sounds and characteristics of different Spanish-speaking environments. This is accomplished through in-class practice, phonetics laboratory work, and contact with native speakers. Students deepen the phonetic transcription with exercises and explanations that enable them to use the language effectively.

**Theory and Practices of the Theater**

Students in this course study the basic concepts of the theater and its practical applications through the analysis of works by several Spanish playwrights. Students also explore the basic concepts of acting and technical theater techniques that actors use to present a correct interpretation of the texts.

**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**

This course, which is geared toward the higher-level student, emphasizes the construction of both written and spoken Spanish. Intense practice is achieved through analyzing and discussing readings, presenting individually and in pairs, and writing essays.

*The following classes are not consistently offered each semester, and some only during the fall or spring:*

**Golden Age Literature**

*(fall only)*

This class introduces students to the literature of the 16th and 17th centuries in all its genres. The different works allow for an approach to the cultural, psycho-social, and historical values of the period.

**Golden Age Theater**

*(spring only)*

This course discusses dramatic theater fundamental to the 16th and 17th centuries, such as the works of Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, and Lope de Rueda. The Golden Age was a period of great political and economical growth in Spain that acquired international prestige.

(courses continued from previous page)

### Literatura del S.XIX

(fall only)

The glorious years from Spanish romanticism lasted from 1834 till 1844. With the death of Fernando VII, absolutism ended and from at least 1800, the ideas that had been introduced in Spain began to develop. In a decade, Romanticism transformed the cultural, social, and political panorama in Spain. It begins with the play, "La conjuración de Venecia" by Martínez de la Rosa, and ends with "Don Juan Tenorio de Zorrilla."

### Universidad de Alcalá Courses

Students with advanced language skills can take one or two University courses from the Schools of Philosophy and Letters, Business and Economics, and Law. Students who choose to partake in regular University classes should note that fall courses end in late January and spring courses end in late June. Please visit [www.uah.es/filosofiayletras](http://www.uah.es/filosofiayletras), [www.uah.es/derecho](http://www.uah.es/derecho) and [www.uah.es/economicas](http://www.uah.es/economicas) to review course listings at the Universidad de Alcalá.



### a student's story

When I chose to study in Alcalá de Henares, I knew almost immediately that I had made the right choice. I was excited to live close to Madrid, a city that I had heard was one of the world's most beautiful and exciting cities. I was glad to know that the program was relatively small, and that I would not only have an opportunity to get to know my program director, my professors, and the other students in the program, but I would not be just another face in the crowd. Not only did all of these assumptions come true, but my experiences in Alcalá de Henares have made me a much better person. I left Alcalá not only with greatly improved Spanish skills, but I left a new person—stronger, more confident, more focused, and with many new friends.

The best part of my experience in Spain was the people I met and became friends with there. I chose to live in a student *residencia*, where I lived with seven other students, six of whom were Spanish and the other who was French. I was fairly apprehensive about moving in with seven strangers, but they were more than hospitable, and I became friends with them in no time at all. I met many of their friends, went out with them on weekends (and some weeknights!), watched soccer games with them, traveled with them, and learned from them. They taught me a lot about Spain, Europe, and about human nature. They taught me how to make Spanish food, and I still religiously follow the world's greatest soccer team, Real Madrid. I know that the real world can be a rough place, but after having lived and studied in Alcalá de Henares, I can now do almost anything. A professor used to tell me and the other students, "*Hay que aprovechar*"—you must take advantage of the opportunities given to you—and I tried to take advantage of the endless opportunities that the CIEE Study Center in Alcalá gave me, and I am now better prepared to take advantage of the many opportunities ahead of me in life.

— Stephen Smith, University of Colorado at Boulder

