

Universidad de Guanajuato

january



spanish language



program snapshot

- Jump into an intense language experience
- Become immersed in the vibrant and colorful community of Guanajuato and stay with a local family
- Explore the local community during class time, including visits to museums and nearby sites of historical and cultural interest
- Change pace with an overnight study trip to Mexico City
- Participate in a *Jornada de servicio* (service days) in the community

what you'll learn

The Spanish Language program aims to maximize students' learning in the short time available, create critical dialogues across language and culture, and widen students' ideas about the themes at hand. The goal is to help students feel confident about their new knowledge, humble about how much more there is still to learn, and passionate about finding ways to continue this learning long after the program ends and they leave Guanajuato.

thoughts from abroad

The Guanajuato January program asks students to take risks in their learning. It demands initiative, a willingness to work hard in new ways, and a desire to open oneself up to some of the astounding intellectual, personal, and linguistic possibilities that can come from living in another culture.

Guanajuato provides an intimate and vibrant place in which to take these risks. The opportunity to study in Guanajuato allows students to rethink definitions of community, the relationship between language and culture, and what it means to become a Spanish speaker in this particular moment in history.

— Karen Rodríguez, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Dr. Karen Rodríguez has directed study abroad programs in Latin America since 1997. She has taught undergraduate courses for study abroad students in Mexico and Venezuela and has been a faculty member at Bard College's Language and Thinking Institute and Upward Bound's summer institute at Georgetown University. Dr. Rodríguez received her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the University of Kent. Her research interests include critical theory, psychoanalysis, and the intersections between writing, culture, and subjectivity. Her graduate studies are in Cultural Studies, Applied Anthropology, and Latin American Studies.

About Other CIEE Staff

Eduardo Rodríguez has worked for more than a decade in the field of international education. He handles finance and logistics, plans and leads study trips, and provides daily assistance. He is heavily involved in community service and directs the Center's *Jornadas de servicio*.

academics

Academic Program

Students take one intensive, three-credit course for the duration of the program. Community-Based Spanish, offered at an intermediate or advanced level, emphasizes language learning through a critical and constant engagement with local community members. Class meets daily for five hours, including grammar and conversation classes and daily explorations into the community.

Academic Culture

The course is designed for U.S. students, and for the most part, teaching and learning methods are familiar to them. While in-class methods are fairly traditional, the secondary components of the course utilize reflection, critical thinking, and experiential learning. Between the two components, the course includes a mix of written assignments, oral presentations, field exercises, creative projects, and formal in-class examinations. Each class has no more than 12 students.

Nature of Classes

Classes are held with CIEE students only and are quite small and dynamic. Students are frequently asked to engage the local community as part of their coursework.

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 Mexican society.

Grading System

The program is intellectually rigorous, and students should expect to be active participants in all program elements. Assessment is based upon both written and oral work and enthusiastic participation in the learning process.



about guanajuato

The CIEE Study Center at the Universidad de Guanajuato is located in the colonial city of Guanajuato, about four hours north of Mexico City. Nestled in a wrinkled valley, Guanajuato boasts a spectacularly colorful and gravity-defying architecture. With a population of 75,000, Guanajuato remains a conservative and provincial city; however, it is intellectually richer and more diverse than one might expect, thanks in large part to the vibrant presence of the Universidad de Guanajuato.

where you'll study

Founded in 1732, the Universidad de Guanajuato ranks among the top institutions of higher education in Mexico. Currently there are 21,000 students; 8,000 of whom are pursuing undergraduate degrees in 46 disciplines. With the University's facilities scattered around Guanajuato, its intellectual and cultural energy is felt throughout the community. Founded in 1976, the *Departamento de Lenguas*, where CIEE courses are held, offers Mexican students classes in languages other than Spanish, and foreign students, including CIEE students, classes in Spanish.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and meals are included in the program fee. All students live in a Mexican homestay. Everyone has a private room, although some students may share households when enrollment is higher. Three meals a day, as well as weekly laundry service, are included. The opportunity to live with a family is a privilege, and it offers students a unique source of cultural learning, language practice, and personal growth.

Orientation

A brief, but intense mandatory orientation helps students integrate into Mexican culture and make the most of their short time abroad. Students prepare for the move into their homestay, review pertinent academic, logistical, health, and safety information, as well as construct some basic cultural

knowledge with which to begin the program. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the semester.

Internet

The *Departamento de Lenguas* (where CIEE-designed courses are held) offers free wireless access in the common patio area, which provides a safe and comfortable place to work. Printing can be done at local Internet cafés. Wireless access is also increasingly available in public sites and at local cafés downtown. All students must type and print work for all courses and should expect to rely on the cafés for some or all of this access.

immersion

Jornadas de Servicio—Service Option

CIEE students are invited to take part in several *jornadas de servicio*. These are generally modest, afternoon service options that have included such activities as giving an art workshop in a rural school, organizing an environmental education activity in town, or painting a hospital lobby. Participation is open to all, and any necessary supplies, travel, and meals are provided by CIEE.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The program includes one overnight excursion, usually to Mexico City, where they visit the pyramids and world-famous art museums, among other sites. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a service project (locales vary from year to year) during the program.

costs

CIEE Fees

Winter 2009: \$2,600
Winter 2010: available 8/15/09

The CIEE fee for 2010 includes an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, all meals, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, a comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Winter 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 800
Personal Expenses	\$ 100
Local Transportation	\$ 20
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 920

Check our website for current fees.

duration

winter

3 weeks: early January—mid/late January

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 2 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent



coursework

Program Requirements

All students take Community-Based Spanish at their level with the corresponding workshop.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the winter session is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

Contact hours include 45 hours of in-class instruction plus 6 hours of community-based learning.

Languages of Instruction

Spanish course entirely in Spanish
Workshop in English

Faculty

Students are taught by local faculty and CIEE staff.



courses

Required CIEE Community-Based Spanish Courses

These courses are designed for students who wish to progress rapidly in their language skills and engage in intense cultural learning as they immerse themselves in the local community. All students enroll in a formal Spanish language class that meets daily for five hours. Classroom work and class time include interactions around town, providing students opportunities to use the target language in a range of authentic native environments, and to learn about Mexican culture en route. A language placement exam is administered on-site to place students in the correct class. All students live with local families, who provide them with another source of insight into the culture and the opportunity to practice Spanish language skills. Each language course includes the following two required components:

Spanish Instruction at Appropriate Level (in Spanish): 45 hours. This course uses local community resources to contextualize language learning within the Guanajuato socio-cultural setting. Texts, assignments, and discussions consider such themes as local tradition and current social and political issues. Brief community explorations are incorporated into the daily class. Students work on all of the skill areas.

Community-Based Learning Workshop (in English): 6 hours. Facilitated by the Resident Director, this section invites students to view their learning not only as an individual process, but also as one firmly situated in the community. The relationships between language, culture, and identity are explored. Assessment takes into account enthusiastic participation and willingness to take risks in one's thinking and learning, as well as several written assignments. This counts towards the overall grade for the Community-Based Spanish course.

SPAN 2201 GUWI

Community-Based Intermediate Spanish

This course offers intermediate students the opportunity to refine their existing abilities in order to communicate at increasingly sophisticated levels, both orally and in writing. Their abilities to converse spontaneously in real-life situations in the community are emphasized to develop fluency, and they will also carry out short field exercises on targeted themes. Students integrate this learning with writings about their own local experiences and the study of more advanced grammatical structures. Mexican idiomatic expressions are also studied. Work on pronunciation and intonation round out the course.

SPAN 3201 GUWI

Community-Based Advanced Spanish

Designed for advanced students, this course allows students to polish their skills for both professional and academic purposes. The class hones in on the finer points of grammar, as well as effective oral and written communications. Students practice sustaining more complicated conversations on abstract themes as they interact with their host families and others.

