



An Overview of Spanish Studies Abroad

January 2015



Spanish Studies Abroad

The CENTER for CROSS~CULTURAL STUDY

Excellence in Spanish Studies Since 1969

Spanish Studies Abroad is the study abroad programming name of The Center for Cross-Cultural Study Inc., which was founded in 1969. We specialize in providing language and cultural immersion programs to U.S. universities and cultural institutions.

The mission of Spanish Studies Abroad is to promote our students' in-depth understanding of Spanish-speaking countries through specifically-designed and academically rigorous university-level and cultural travel programs. All of our students cross cultural boundaries to live as members of another culture and thus to learn about others as they learn about themselves.

Today, Spanish Studies Abroad hosts about 500 individually enrolled students in our regular semester and long-term programs annually. We also provide for- and not-for-credit educational programming on a short-term basis to a similar number of students through our Customized Programs. Overall, since our first students arrived at our Center in Seville, Spain, we have provided academic and cultural services to over 20,000 program participants.

A detailed history of Spanish Studies Abroad as well as our Mission Statement can be found in [Appendix A](#).



PROGRAM SITES

Spanish Studies Abroad offers cultural immersion short- and long-term programs following traditional academic calendars in the following six locations, in collaboration with partner institutions:

[Seville, Spain:](#) our exclusive Spanish Studies Abroad Study Center, Universidad de Sevilla & Universidad Pablo de Olavide

[Alicante, Spain:](#) Universidad de Alicante

[Barcelona, Spain:](#) Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Universidad Aut3noma de Barcelona

[C3rdoba, Argentina:](#) Universidad Nacional de C3rdoba

[Havana, Cuba:](#) Universidad de la Habana

[San Juan, Puerto Rico:](#) Universidad del Sagrado Coraz3n

Students typically choose from a combination of courses designed for foreign students and direct enrollment courses with local students. While most of our programming is based on language immersion, we also offer English-language programs for students who have not previously studied Spanish language. In addition, experiential learning opportunities through internships, service learning, and volunteering are available at most Spanish Studies Abroad sites.

Our commitment to academically rigorous study abroad programming managed by highly experienced education professionals is our strongest differentiator in the cluttered field of international education. For example, Spanish Studies Abroad is the first study abroad provider to have completed the Forum on Education Abroad's Quality Assurance Program, the QUIP Review. By undergoing the Quality Improvement Program Review, we have demonstrated our conformity with the Forum's "Standards of Good Practice". The Forum on Education Abroad is a non-profit organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission as the Standards Development Organization for Education Abroad. At Spanish Studies, we maintain a commitment to offering high quality programs in education abroad and to continuous assessment and improvement. For more information on the QUIP, please see [Appendix B](#) for the QUIP Review of 2009 and [Appendix C](#) for the QUIP Update of 2013.

PROGRAM TYPES

Individual Enrollment Programs

Regular programs at Spanish Studies Abroad have been designed to meet the needs of students at every level of Spanish and with diverse academic backgrounds.

- **Spanish Studies Program:** Students at the intermediate and advanced levels take courses designed for foreigners and taught completely in Spanish.
- **Integrated Studies Program:** Students at the advanced level take regular university courses alongside local students, as well as courses designed for foreigners. All courses are taught in Spanish.
- **International Studies in English:** Students at any level of Spanish take courses taught in English in a variety of disciplines at a local university, with other international students; these students also complete at least one Spanish language course.

Regular programs at Spanish Studies Abroad are offered in several standard formats:

- Semester, Academic Year, Quarters: Students complete between three and six courses per session, and can earn up to 18 credits per semester.
- Intensive Programs (Jan Term, May Term, Summer Sessions): Students take intensive courses in Spanish language, culture, and other disciplines, at all levels.

For detailed program dates and fees, please refer to [Appendix D](#).

Customized Programs

We work with faculty and staff to create study abroad experiences that will meet the individual needs and goals of universities, high schools, and other institutions and organizations. Options include for-credit experiences centered around our regular programs, completely customized programs, and non-credit bearing travel components for on-campus courses. We provide services and full support through every step of the process: approval of the proposal, promotion, pre-departure orientation, and on-site.

Sample custom programs are found in [Appendix E](#), and a list of recent custom program clients in [Appendix F](#).



STUDENT SERVICES

We pride ourselves on a long history serving U.S. students abroad and our constant drive to improve upon our student support. Because of the commitment of our faculty and staff to the highest standards in the field of international education, we have an exemplary record of student support and services.

Staff

Spanish Studies Abroad, based in Amherst, Massachusetts, features a U.S. staff with dedicated teams to serve the diverse needs of our students and institutional partners. Furthermore, all Spanish Studies Abroad locations have strong support systems in place, including a Resident Director at all sites. Staff is fluent in both English and Spanish. For our organizational chart and staff directory, please refer to [Appendix G](#) and [Appendix H](#).

In Seville, Spain we are based at our own Center and have a staff of over 35 people including a Resident Director and faculty and specialized coordinators for housing, internships, service learning, and cultural activities. Students also have support from the staff at our partner institutions.

In all other locations, we are based at our partner universities, where students have the support of our Resident Directors, their assistants, and the local university staff.

The Resident Director Manual, found in [Appendix I](#), presents a detailed picture of the services provided to our students.

Student and Faculty Housing

Spanish Studies Abroad offers a variety of student housing options including homestays, residence halls, hostels and hotels. Most students are placed in double rooms in a homestay; upon request, we can arrange for students to be housed alone in a homestay. Other options include a residence hall option in Seville, and a university residence in Puerto Rico.

For custom programs, students can be housed in homestays, residencias, hostels, or hotels. Faculty accommodations are generally private single apartments or a single room in a homestay. Larger

apartments are also available at an additional cost for faculty traveling with families. Other accommodations such as hotels and hostels can be made upon request.

On-site Services and Support

Orientation is mandatory for all students. Students meet with the on-site Resident Director and staff to review the academic program, cultural activities, program policies and norms, provide students with an orientation of city, and address all questions and concerns. Orientation activities can include language placement exams, a city tour and an introduction to the host families. Students also meet with the Resident Director during this time to review their academic programs.

Individually enrolled students are met by our on-site staff upon arrival at the airport and are given assistance in arranging transport to their lodging. For custom programs, we can arrange airport transfers to and from lodging.

Study Visits and Activities

All Spanish Studies Abroad programs include study visits and cultural activities to complement the academic studies. Below is a list of regular study visits:

- In Seville, Spain: Córdoba, Granada, Mérida and Cáceres
- In Alicante, Spain: Valencia, Barcelona, Orihuela
- In Barcelona, Spain: Sitges, Figueres, Val de Nuria
- In Córdoba, Argentina: Mendoza, Salta, Alta Gracia, Valle de la Luna
- In San Juan, Puerto Rico: Ponce, Fajardo, El Yunque National Forest
- In Havana, Cuba: Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Viñales, Trinidad, and Santiago de Cuba

For custom programs, we will arrange specialized lectures and study visits to fit faculty's objectives for the program.

Emergency Support

Spanish Studies Abroad maintains effective health, safety, security and risk management policies, procedures and faculty/staff training. We recognize our responsibility to provide a safe environment for our programs. In all programs we adhere to the standards and procedures of any U.S. university to insure the safety and security of our students. We have established procedures in place for handling all emergencies. Refer to [Appendix J](#) for our guidelines for student safety and procedures.

Experiential Learning Placement

Spanish Studies Abroad offers internship and service learning opportunities in a wide variety of academic areas. In each location, resident staff has working lists of common and recent student placements in the community. Spanish Studies Abroad works beyond the established lists to find suitable placements based on each student's individual background and objectives. In [Appendix K](#), please find a list of sample placements by field for internship and service learning students.

Guidance for the Visa Process

We provide visa application support and guidance including line-by-line instructions. Detailed instructions for obtaining student visas is provided online and further explained upon acceptance to our program by an Admissions Advisor.

APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT

At Spanish Studies Abroad, we aim to simplify the application process as much as possible. Our normal application procedure for individually enrolled students is as follows:

- **Personal & Academic Information:** to ensure that we have all the necessary information to best contact and advise the student.
- **Home School Approval:** This form is sent electronically on the student's behalf to a pre-assigned academic contact, typically in the study abroad or languages office.
- **Transcript:** Students have the option of uploading or mailing a copy of their most recent transcript.
- **Spanish Language Assessment:** to be completed by the student's most recent Spanish professor; the student will have the option to print this form or give us the email address of the professor.
- **Passport Copy:** the student is requested to upload a copy of the main page of their passport.
- **Course Selection:** This part is specific to Barcelona since our partner university enrolls students much earlier than typically expected. Students are not locked into any of the choices as each university we work with provides an add/drop period.

For Customized Programs, we will design a specific online application or use the partner's existing application forms.

CONCLUSION

Spanish Studies Abroad provides comprehensive student support services, from inquiry stage to application, on-site advising, and post-completion record-keeping and registrar services. We believe that our special commitment to Spanish language and cultural immersion and our on-site support services are what really set Spanish Studies Abroad apart. In all program locations, we have a Resident Director and support staff, offer rich extra-curricular activities, and provide dedicated academic support, including tutors, writing labs, and extra office hours. We believe our experience and 45-year track record of academically rigorous student support services abroad makes Spanish Studies Abroad the ideal partner for faculty, administrators and students.



REFERENCES

Spanish Studies Abroad partners with over 80 affiliate colleges and universities. A full list of affiliated institutions is located in [Appendix L](#). Below are the names and contact information of individuals who have worked closely with our organization:

References for Individually Enrolled Programs:

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References for Customized Programs:

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APPENDICES

- A. [History of Spanish Studies Abroad \(CC-CS\)](#)
- B. [QUIP Review, 2009](#)
- C. [QUIP Update, 2013](#)
- D. [Program Dates & Fees](#)
- E. [Sample Custom Programs](#)
- F. [Custom Program Clients](#)
- G. [CC-CS Organizational Chart](#)
- H. [CC-CS Staff Directory](#)
- I. [Resident Director Manual](#)
- J. [Guidelines for Student Safety and Security](#)
- K. [Internship & Service Learning Placements](#)
- L. [Affiliate Colleges & Universities](#)