

IOWA

VOICES ACROSS CONTINENTS

**Department of
Spanish and Portuguese**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH & PORTUGUESE	03
<hr/>	
GETTING STARTED: WORLD LANGUAGE PATHWAYS AND PLACEMENT	04
<hr/>	
SCHOLARSHIPS	05
<hr/>	
SPANISH BA	06
<hr/>	
SPANISH MINOR	07
<hr/>	
PORTUGUESE MINOR	08
<hr/>	
SPANISH AS A HERITAGE LANGUAGE	09
<hr/>	
MEDICAL SPANISH	10
<hr/>	
CERTIFICATE IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES	11
<hr/>	
CO-CURRICULAR OFFERINGS	12
<hr/>	
STUDY ABROAD	13
<hr/>	
IOWA HISPANIC INSTITUTE	14
<hr/>	
THE FUTURE IS MULTILINGUAL	15



DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

There are many reasons to study Spanish at Iowa! A renowned program with various courses and an understanding of how to leverage language skills after graduation!

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese is a research-oriented unit made up of a diverse, multidisciplinary faculty specializing in language, literary and cultural studies, creative writing, linguistics, and Spanish for the professions. We provide students with diverse cultural perspectives, critical thinking skills, and awareness of contemporary and historical issues to prepare them to be multilingual global citizens.

With the Spanish and Portuguese Department, you can get a...

- BA in Spanish
- Minor in Spanish
- Minor in Portuguese
- Certificate in Latin American Studies
- Minor in Latin American Studies

Spanish is not a foreign language. It is the second most spoken language in Iowa - more than 130,000 Iowa residents speak Spanish at home!

The Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures are crucial to Iowa and the United States. 25,520 Portuguese speakers live in the Midwest and 692,500 in the United States.

GETTING STARTED

WORLD LANGUAGE PATHWAYS

Students can follow one of three pathways to complete the World Language General Education Requirement for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Fourth Level Proficiency

Complete four levels of a world language through high school, college coursework, or proficiency testing.

Third Level + Cultural Exploration Course

Complete three levels of language in high school or college, plus an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course.

Second Level of Two Languages

Complete 2nd level coursework in 2 different languages, equivalent to 2 years in HSI or 2 semesters in college for each.

SPANISH PLACEMENT TESTING

Who Should Take Placement Test?

- If you completed 4 years of Spanish, no test needed, unless you want to continue.
- If you completed fewer than 4 years, check with your advisor to determine Gen Ed requirement.
- If you plan to continue studying Spanish, take the test to be placed in the right course.

When Should You Take the Placement Test?

- At least 2 weeks prior to your orientation session.

Where? How?

- Multiple-choice, adaptive online test covering grammar, reading, and vocabulary. No external resources are allowed. It takes about an hour.

Scoring

- Your score appears at the end—save or print a copy. The test results will help you and your advisor determine the best level for your first enrollment in a language course.
- Recommended placements can be found [here](#).

FLIP CREDIT

The **Furthering Language Incentive Program (FLIP)** allows students who've met the CLAS General Education World Languages requirement to earn up to 8 additional credits while studying a language.

For more information on how to qualify, see [here](#).

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences benefit from approximately \$1 million in annual student scholarships thanks to generous alumni and donors who support and value our mission, making a liberal arts education more financially accessible to students.

Explore the Iowa Scholarship Portal for Opportunities Like These:

- **Oscar Fernández Scholarship:** Up to \$1,300 for juniors or seniors in CLAS majoring in Spanish or Portuguese. Requires financial need (FAFSA or award letter) and academic excellence. Self-nominations and faculty nominations accepted.
- **Spanish Student Aid Scholarship:** \$500 for a Spanish major demonstrating financial need and merit.
- **Genevieve Davis Searle Scholarship:** Up to \$10,000 for two semesters abroad in a Spanish-speaking country.

Students of Spanish and Portuguese should investigate the [Esther Walls Scholarship Fund](#), the [James and Syndy Conger Scholarship Fund](#), They are also eligible for the [Boren Award](#), which can be used for Study Abroad.

International Programs has many funding opportunities.

- Students majoring in a world language who are participating in a study abroad program or an international internship program through International Programs should investigate the [Richard J. Tyner International Programs Scholarship](#).
- Undergraduate students who study abroad in countries including sub-Saharan Africa, Asia (including Central Asia), Latin America, and the Middle East (including North Africa) should investigate the [Joel D. and Sandra Barkan Scholarship](#).
- Undergraduate students who are committed to developing advanced language proficiency should investigate the [Naomi Gunderson Scholarship for Foreign Language Study Abroad](#).
- Undergraduate students who have completed at least one year of Spanish or Portuguese and are looking to study abroad in Spain and Latin America can look into the [Carol A. Snodgrass Scholarship](#).
- The Global Access Ambassador Scholarship program provides awards to study abroad for a summer, winter, semester, or academic year program. The scholarships are intended to support students who study abroad with the intent to serve as Global Access Ambassadors upon return to the UI campus.

SPANISH BA

90% of U.S. employers seek language skills, with Spanish in greatest demand!

42% of employers report a gap requiring more Spanish language skills!



Spanish Major Requirements

1. Foundations course (4 years of High School Spanish can count for this requirement!)
2. A Hispanic linguistics course
3. A Spanish writing course
4. Two courses on Hispanic Cultures, including, film, literature, and other courses
5. 6 additional elective courses

Optional Concentration in:

- Linguistics
- Cultures
- Professional Communications

By graduation, Spanish majors will have...

- **Proficiency**
 - Increased Spanish language proficiency in speaking, writing, listening, and reading.
- **Analytical Skills**
 - Acquired the skills to engage critically with one or more of the following areas.
 - Spanish, Spanish American, and U.S. Latino literatures and cultures
 - Hispanic linguistics
 - Creative and/or journalistic writing
 - Spanish for the professions (e.g., health and business)
 - Translation
- **Intercultural Knowledge**
 - Gained intercultural knowledge of the diversity of the Hispanic world (Spain/Portugal, Latin America, and the United States) and its cultural, artistic, and linguistic history.



SPANISH MINOR

Wondering what you get from a minor v. a major?

MINOR

INTERMEDIATE HIGH

Engages in familiar topics with fluidity, recognizing biases, navigating cultural differences, and fostering judgment-free interactions.

MAJOR

ADVANCED

Manages conversations with some errors, while recognizing biases, understanding cultural complexities, and engaging in meaningful, judgment-free interactions across cultures.

A Spanish minor or major goes with:

- Pre-Med, Human Physiology, Nursing, & Biology
- Business & Finance
- Elementary Education
- Social Work
- English & Creative Writing
- Political Science & International Relations



Spanish Minor Requirements

1. Two courses at the 2000+ level
2. Two courses at the 3000+ level
3. One Hispanic linguistics, literatures, or cultures course

PORTUGUESE MINOR

Why Study Portuguese?

Spoken in 10 countries across 4 continents, Portuguese opens doors in business, diplomacy, and cultural exchange.

At Iowa, you'll:

- Learn in small classes with dedicated instructors.
- Explore the cultures of Brazil, Portugal, and Lusophone Africa while strengthening communication skills.
- Practice at Bate-Papo conversation hour or with peer tutors.
- Join cultural events like Carnaval, movie nights, cooking classes, yoga, and readings with IWP writers.
- Study abroad in Lisbon for full immersion.
- Use your Spanish skills to learn Portuguese even faster.
- Connect with local companies like John Deere that have major operations in Brazil.
- Engage with one of the most spoken languages among students and families in Iowa City.

UI Portuguese students have won prestigious awards like:

Fulbright Grants

to teach English and conduct research in Brazil and Portugal

Critical Language Scholarships

to intensively study Portuguese and other languages for 8 weeks over the summer



Portuguese Courses

- Accelerated Elementary Portuguese
- Accelerated Intermediate Portuguese
- Linguistic Aspects of the Lusophone World
- Brazilian Narrative in Translation



SPANISH AS A HERITAGE LANGUAGE

Spanish Heritage speakers grew up exposed to Spanish at home or in their community, They may speak Spanish fluently or not very well at all, but almost all have a personal connection to their community and culture. Our Spanish Heritage courses are designed to help heritage learners :

- Build community with fellow native Spanish speakers.
- Gain confidence in your language skills.
- Develop critical thinking and advanced writing abilities.

COURSES FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS

Int Spanish for Heritage Speakers:

Connect with fellow heritage speakers while expanding vocabulary, cultural competence, and professional and academic Spanish skills.

Spanish for Heritage Speakers:

Strengthen reading and writing skills in a bilingual community while building on home and community-acquired Spanish. FLIP credit available.

Cultural Narratives for Heritage Speakers:

Explore values, heritage, and traditions while strengthening cultural connections. FLIP credit available.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE LATINX CAMPUS COMMUNITY !

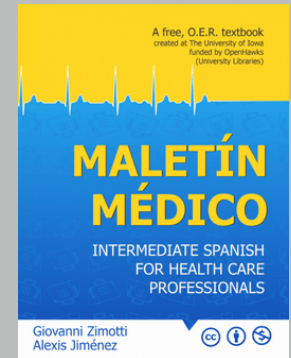


SPANISH FOR HEALTH CARE

Students pursuing health professions - check out our series of Medical Spanish courses!

SPAN:1502: Intermediate Spanish for Health Care Providers

This course is tailored for aspiring healthcare professionals—from doctors to paraprofessionals. Using Maletín Médico, a free, open educational textbook, it focuses on building medical vocabulary, mastering complex grammatical concepts, and developing strategies to navigate cultural differences in healthcare settings—all taught in Spanish



SPAN:2090 – Medical Spanish in Contemporary Society

This intensive, communicative course further develops your medical Spanish skills, emphasizing vocabulary, health-related cultural competence, and discussions on issues affecting Hispanic communities in the U.S. and abroad. It's ideal for students in fields such as Nursing, Premed, Biomedical Engineering, and Global Health Studies.

SPAN:3903

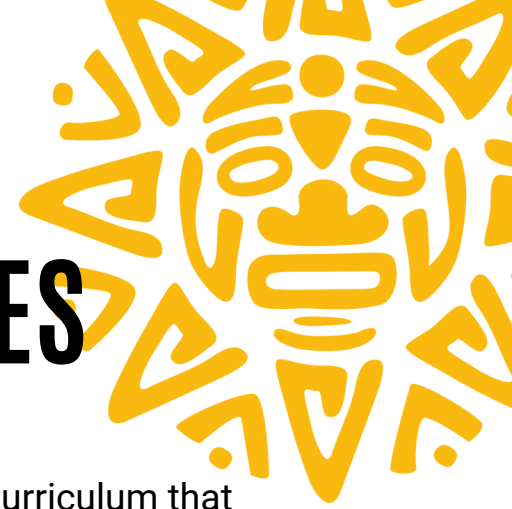
Introduction to Medical Spanish-English Interpretation

Designed for students in healthcare, this introductory course covers the history, techniques, and ethical standards of medical interpreting. Through role plays and practical exercises, students learn to work with professional interpreters and gain the skills necessary to support limited English proficiency patients—an essential asset in today's healthcare landscape.



These courses equip you with the language proficiency, cultural insight, and professional skills needed to excel in an increasingly bilingual world

CERTIFICATE IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES



The Latin American Studies Program is an interdisciplinary curriculum that introduces students to cultures, arts, languages, histories, and social practices from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, and provides students with frameworks for making sense of the social, political, and economic challenges faced in those regions.



Faculty members from across the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences participate in the Latin American Studies Program as affiliated faculty members. Other University of Iowa faculty members occasionally offer courses and participate in the program's research, study, and interdisciplinary activities

Certificate Requirements

- Core Courses: Introduction to Latin American Studies; Latin American Studies Seminar
- Spanish & Portuguese Courses: 6 s.h. (SPAN/PORT)
 - Can be fulfilled via approved study abroad in Latin America.
- Additional Courses from the Associated Courses list (excluding Spanish and Portuguese)

Student Opportunities

- Public film series, art exhibits, conferences, and lectures.
- Visiting scholars of Latin America
- Past events:
 - Media and violence in Mexico and Colombia.
 - Cultural legacies of the 1960s.
 - The annual Charles A. Hale Lecture in Latin American Studies.

CO-CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

Cafecito Cervantes
 ¡EL CAFÉ ES OPCIONAL.
 LA CONVERSACIÓN, NO!
 ¡Ven a charlar!
 Vía Zoom
 Jueves, 4:00-4:45
 13, 20 y 27 de febrero
 6, 13 y 27 de marzo
 3, 10, 17 y 24 de abril
 meeting ID: 91922924344
 algunas bebidas no alcohólicas
 del mundo hispano

**CONVERSATION
 HOURS**

**SPANISH TUTORING
 WITH ELEANA**
 MONDAY/WEDNESDAY: 1:00-3:00 PM
 TUESDAY/THURSDAY: 5:30-6:30 PM
 120 Phillips (CLCL) 120 G No appointment
 necessary!

**PEER
 TUTORING**

**PRACTICE
 LANGUAGE
 SKILLS!**

VOCÊ SABIA QUE
bate-papo
É SUPER DIVERTIDO?
 Pratiquem português
 conosco!!
 ÀS SEGUNDAS
 DAS 16H30 ÀS 17H30
 IN THE CLCL (PH)
 27 de janeiro
 10 e 24 de fevereiro
 10 e 24 de março
 07 e 21 de abril
 05 de maio

**GET YOUR
 QUESTIONS
 ANSWERED!**

**português
 TUTORING**
 With Mariana
 Tuesdays and
 Thursdays
 1:00-2:30pm
 120F CLCL PH
 No appointment necessary—drop in
 to aprender português!

**MAKE CRAFTS
 AND GOOD
 FREINDS!**

**JOIN
 SPANISH
 CLUB!**

Hi, My Name Is **Spanish Ambassador**
LANNAH
 "Studying Spanish at Iowa not only
 has allowed me to meet amazing
 people in class that I now consider
 very good friends, but it also
 showed me the many different
 ways that I can use Spanish in my
 field of Speech Pathology. This
 allowed me to further grow my
 abilities and confidence to be able
 to use Spanish in my future
 endeavors."
 Follow:
 @spanish_uiowa

**MEET THE
 STUDENT
 AMBASSADORS**

**MAKE CRAFTS
 AND GOOD
 FREINDS!**

**JOIN
 SPANISH
 CLUB!**

**READ
 LANNAH'S
 TESTIMONIAL
 HERE**

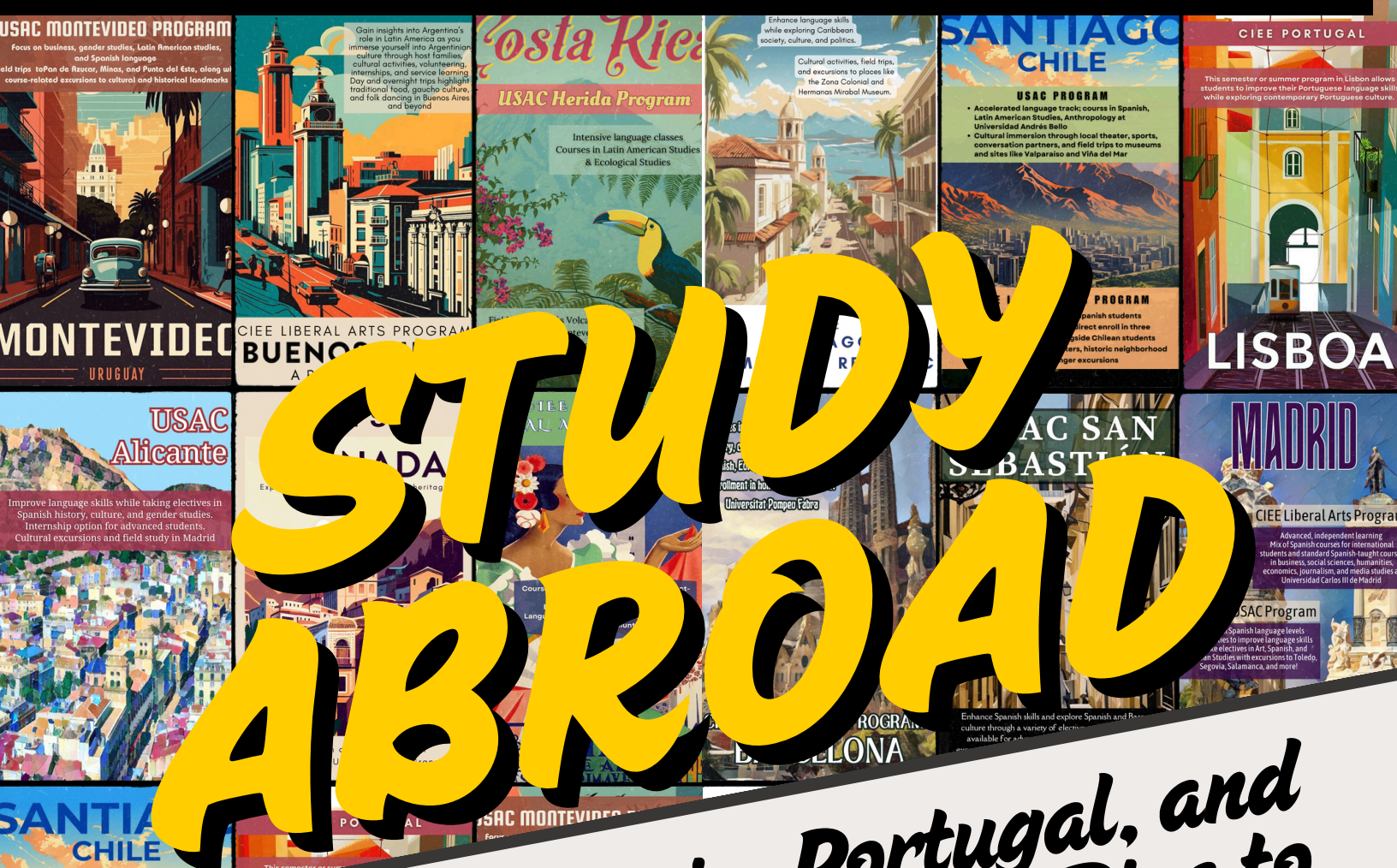
Hi, My Name Is **Portuguese Ambassador**
VICTOR
 My name is Victor Morales, I am a
 Junior studying Business
 Management and Leadership with
 my minor in Portuguese. Also
 pursuing a certificate in International
 Business. I am from the Iowa City
 Area and on my free time I enjoy
 going to the gym, playing soccer, and
 getting any type of exercise. I enjoy
 listening to a variety of Portuguese
 music and using Portuguese
 whenever I can.
 Follow:
 @port_uiowa

PARTICIPATE IN AN ARRAY OF CULTURAL EVENTS

- Cinco de Marzo Spanish Fiesta
- Brazilian Carnival
- Día de los Muertos Altar
- Samba Lessons
- Brigadeiro Workshop
- Sticker-Making

And more!





Programs in Spain, Portugal, and Latin America, from Costa Rica to Argentina



USAC MONTEVIDEO PROGRAM
Focus on business, gender studies, Latin American studies, and Spanish language
Field trips to Plaza de Rozas, Museo, and Punta del Este, along with course-related excursions to cultural and historical landmarks

MONTEVIDEO
URUGUAY

Gain insights into Argentina's role in Latin America as you immerse yourself into Argentinian culture through host families, cultural activities, volunteering, internships, and service learning
Day and overnight trips highlight traditional food, gaucho culture, and folk dancing in Buenos Aires and beyond

CIEE LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM
BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINA

Costa Rica

USAC Herida Program

Intensive language classes
Courses in Latin American Studies & Ecological Studies

Enhance language skills while exploring Caribbean society, culture, and politics.
Cultural activities, field trips, and excursions to places like the Zona Colonial and Herminas Mirabal Museum.

SANTIAGO
CHILE

USAC PROGRAM

- Accelerated language track: courses in Spanish, Latin American Studies, Anthropology at Universidad Andres Bello
- Cultural immersion through local theater, sports, conversation partners, and field trips to museums and sites like Valparaiso and Viña del Mar

USAC PROGRAM

Spanish students direct enroll in three courses alongside Chilean students and neighborhood excursions

PROGRAM

CIEE PORTUGAL

This semester or summer program in Lisbon allows students to improve their Portuguese language skills while exploring contemporary Portuguese culture.

LISBOA

USAC Alicante

Improve language skills while taking electives in Spanish history, culture, and gender studies.
Internship option for advanced students.
Cultural excursions and field study in Madrid

MADRID

CIEE Liberal Arts Program

Advanced, independent learning
Mix of Spanish courses for international students and standard Spanish-taught courses in business, social sciences, humanities, economics, journalism, and media studies at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

USAC MADRID

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses, internships available for advanced Spanish student, and cultural excursions and optional field studies to destinations such as Madrid and the Pyrenees.

PROGRAM

USAC SAN SEBASTIAN

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses available for advanced students.

PROGRAM

USAC BARCELONA

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses available for advanced students.

PROGRAM

USAC SAN SEBASTIAN

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses available for advanced students.

PROGRAM

USAC MADRID

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses available for advanced students.

PROGRAM

USAC MADRID

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses, internships available for advanced Spanish student, and cultural excursions and optional field studies to destinations such as Madrid and the Pyrenees.

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PROGRAM

CIEE LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM
BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINA

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses, internships available for advanced Spanish student, and cultural excursions and optional field studies to destinations such as Madrid and the Pyrenees.

USAC MONTEVIDEO
URUGUAY

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses, internships available for advanced Spanish student, and cultural excursions and optional field studies to destinations such as Madrid and the Pyrenees.

USAC MONTEVIDEO
URUGUAY

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses, internships available for advanced Spanish student, and cultural excursions and optional field studies to destinations such as Madrid and the Pyrenees.

CIEE SANTIAGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Enhance Spanish skills and explore Spanish and Basque culture through a variety of elective courses, internships available for advanced Spanish student, and cultural excursions and optional field studies to destinations such as Madrid and the Pyrenees.

USAC Herida Program

Intensive language classes
Courses in Latin American Studies & Ecological Studies

Field trips to Poás Volcano, La Paz Waterfalls, and Monteverde Cloud Forest, along with course-related trips and informal cultural activities.

USAC Herida Program

Intensive language classes
Courses in Latin American Studies & Ecological Studies

Field trips to Poás Volcano, La Paz Waterfalls, and Monteverde Cloud Forest, along with course-related trips and informal cultural activities.

MADRID

CIEE Liberal Arts Program

Advanced, independent learning
Mix of Spanish courses for international students and standard Spanish-taught courses in business, social sciences, humanities, economics, journalism, and media studies at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

USAC Program

Open to all Spanish language levels
Opportunities to improve language skills and take electives in Art, Spanish, and European Studies with excursions to Toledo, Segovia, Salamanca, and more!

Cultures of Spain Program

Taught in English by Prof. Luis Martín Estrella, this 4-week course examines contrasting views of Spain—unified, authoritarian state vs. a pluralistic, liberal one.

SANTIAGO CHILE

USAC PROGRAM

- Accelerated language track: courses in Spanish, Latin American Studies, Anthropology at Universidad Andres Bello
- Cultural immersion through local theater, sports, conversation partners, and field trips to museums and sites like Valparaiso and Viña del Mar

CIEE LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM

- Geared towards advanced Spanish students
- CIEE course and option to direct enroll in three Chilean universities, alongside Chilean students
- Culture: museums, theaters, historic neighborhood tours; day-trips and longer excursions

IES GRANADA

Explore Spain's Moorish and Jewish heritage and North African connections

Arabic language courses available for all levels. Optional internships.

Courses in English and Spanish, with Optional study at Universidad de Granada

CIEE SEVILLE LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM

Courses taught in Spanish, with some direct-enrollment options.
Excursions to Córdoba and Cádiz
Language Immersion through host families, internships, and volunteering.

CIEE PORTUGAL

This semester or summer program in Lisbon allows students to improve their Portuguese language skills while exploring contemporary Portuguese culture.

LISBOA

CIEE LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM
BARCELONA

Courses in advanced Spanish, Spanish history, culture, business, or Catalan language, European Studies, and direct enrollment in humanities courses at Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Study abroad in the summer through the **IOWA HISPANIC INSTITUTE**

Valladolid, Spain



This immersive program consists of five weeks of academic instruction and one week of independent travel.

University of Iowa
Department of Spanish and Portuguese Professor Becky Gonzalez serves as the faculty leader, remaining in Valladolid with students and guiding their experience abroad, as students improve their language skills and enhance their understanding of Spanish culture.

THE FUTURE IS MULTILINGUAL

Ten Reasons You Should Study a Language

1

90% of US employers are seeking employees with language skills

2

Half of U.S. employers report a foreign language skills gap, leading to lost business opportunities.

3

Employers across business, healthcare, education, and technology need workers who can communicate across cultures.

4

Small and midsize companies especially benefit from multilingual employees.

5

Multilingualism is a top skill across industries, enhancing cultural competence, adaptability, and problem-solving—key to success

6

A strong foundation in language learning opens doors to careers in diplomacy, business, healthcare, education, and more.

7

Bilingual employees earn higher salaries—language skills can provide a 1.5%+ pay boost.

8

Language learners have stronger cognitive skills, including memory, multitasking, and decision-making.

9

Studying a language improves your English, strengthening grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills.


10

Only 20% of K-12 students and 7.5% of college students study a language—learning one sets you apart!

**Boost your résumé, expand your opportunities!
Start learning a language today!**

CHECK OUT THE CENTER FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE LEARNING

→ dwllc-clcl@uiowa.edu

 [clcluiowa](#)

IOWA

Center for Language and
Culture Learning

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Institutional Equity, the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316, 319-335-0705, oi-e-oi@uiowa.edu.