

Spain

Language, Community, and Social Change

Rapidly improve your Spanish through complete immersion in Granada, a vibrant historic city shaped by a blending of Christian and Muslim traditions, and home to one of the largest universities in Spain.

Coursework

Intensive Language Study: Spanish

SPAN 1500–3500 (Two 4-credit courses / 120 total class hours)

Spanish courses range from the 1500–3500 level. Students take two four-credit Spanish language courses (for a total of eight credits) during the semester at SIT's partner institution, CELEI (Centro de Lenguas y Educación Intercultural).

Students are completely immersed in Spanish. Emphasis is on field-based instruction, which enables students to become functional in the host community and gain the linguistic instruments necessary to carry out academic work in the target language. Spanish classes rely heavily on student involvement and inquiry as a way of developing their responsibility in the language learning process. Formal instruction focuses on linking classroom instruction with the informal language learning that takes place in the students' extensive involvement with the community, academic work, and daily functioning in the host culture. Language placement is based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing. The course includes class work, community-based experiences, supplementary readings, and audiovisual and media sources. Classes incorporate further language practice, which occurs in homestays, seminars, and field activities.

Community and Social Change Seminar

EURO 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course examines the primary political, social, and cultural forces shaping contemporary Spain in the context of the country's turbulent history, growing diversity, and deeper integration within the European Union. Lecturers are drawn from the University of Granada, government agencies, local nongovernmental organizations, and experts from the community.

Seminar topics typically include:

Al-Andalus Legacy in the Local Society

Andalusian identity and Spain's multicultural heritage; Islamic influence on the arts; flamenco-fusion; urban development in the Moorish neighborhood of El Albaicín; Lorca and the Andalusian soul; unsustainable development.

Spanish Politics and Political Actors

Spain's transition to democracy; state configuration; regional autonomies and nationalism; the role of political parties and trade unions; economic policy.

Immigration and Integration

Spain as the gateway into Europe; relations with North Africa; legal and humanitarian challenges on the borders; immigration policies; support organizations.

Society in Transformation

Social agents and generational change; education and religion in social change; new gender roles and domestic violence; response of civil society groups to minorities—inclusion and exclusion; Spanish cinema and artists as agents of change.

Educational Excursions

Excursions focus on the themes presented in the seminar. Destinations include Madrid, Toledo, or Segovia during the orientation period; a three-day rural stay in the village of Sorvilán; the cities of Cordoba and Seville; and a five-day academic excursion to Morocco.

Community Service Project

PRAC 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures through a reciprocity project. Students practice their communication skills through volunteer service or by participating in a community group, class, or study related to social change in Spain. Examples of projects include providing academic support to disadvantaged children; assisting language teachers with extracurricular activities such as arts or sports; and teaching Spanish to



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Granada

Language Study Spanish

Homestay Granada, 13 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Sorvilán, 3 days

Other Accommodations Hotels and hostels

Prerequisites One college semester of Spanish or two semesters of another Romance language or equivalent, as assessed by SIT.

immigrants. Students must complete a final oral presentation and submit an eight- to ten-page paper in Spanish. Students receive linguistic support throughout the course, enabling them to write a relevant and rigorous academic paper in Spanish.