



UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
SYDNEY • CANBERRA • AUSTRALIA

Study Spanish in México

30 December 2012 - 26 January 2013
Oaxaca, México

Global Education

Global Networks

Global Opportunities

UNSW Study Abroad, in collaboration with the UNSW Department of Hispanic Studies, offers students the opportunity to study Spanish intensively at Oaxaca in México for four weeks.

Oaxaca is a small city of 250-300,000 people and is the capital of the State of Oaxaca. It is situated 440km to the south-west of Mexico City at 5,000 feet above sea level and is one of Mexico's most beautiful cities.

Founded by Hernan Cortes in 1529, the town is architecturally interesting and culturally vibrant with a rich mixture of indigenous people, customs and languages. Its centre was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to the beauty of its colonial architecture, the richness of its cultural traditions, the wide variety of its typical foods, and its year-round, spring-like temperate climate. The Zócalo, in the heart of the city, is reputedly one of the most beautiful plazas in México.

There are many interesting sights in Oaxaca, such as the magnificent Santo Domingo Church and the beautiful Baroque cathedral, galleries and museums housing works by famous Oaxacan artists and pre-hispanic treasures. Oaxaca has much to offer in its colourful

markets, local crafts, and its famous cuisine such as *mole*, which contains a blend of New and Old World ingredients. The indigenous people of Oaxaca are the driving force behind the region's fine handicrafts and booming arts scene. The city also provides easy access to frequent colourful cultural and religious events.

Oaxaca is close proximity to important archaeological zones, including Monte Albán, one of the most significant archaeological sites in México; Mitla, Yagul, and Dainzú. In addition, numerous villages in the surrounds of the city specialise in particular handicrafts such as black and green pottery, the world famous Aztec-design carpets and hand-woven textiles.





The Program

The Instituto Cultural de Oaxaca (ICO) is a private language centre that offers intensive Spanish language and culture courses for foreign students. The ICO has organised a diverse program for UNSW students.

The following schedule describes a typical week (program subject to change):

Monday to Wednesday	
9am - 1pm	Spanish language, grammar and conversation
1pm - 2pm	Intercambio
TBC	English Language Volunteer Experience - 2 afternoons per week (Travel to Teotitlan del Valle)
Thursday:	
9am - 1pm	Spanish language, grammar and conversation
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Seminars on a range of cultural themes
5pm - 7pm	Activity Workshop
Friday	
9am - 1pm	Spanish language, grammar and conversation
Afternoon	Free
Saturday	
Optional tours to archaeological sites and the surrounding craft villages	
Sunday	
Free day	

Program Fee

The fee for this immersion language and culture program is A\$2,300 per student.

This fee covers:

- » Four weeks intensive Spanish language classes
- » Activity workshops, such as salsa and meringue dancing, regional cooking, back-strap loom weaving or ceramics
- » Weekly seminars on a variety of cultural themes, such as Pre-hispanic culture, politics in Mexico, Oaxacan artists, traditional costumes and customs
- » English language volunteer experience in the small town of Teotitlan del Valle. This is an obligatory component of the program for credit. Public transportation to location is at students expense.
- » Housing in a single room at a family homestay, including half-board
- » Travel insurance (covered by UNSW for its students on study tours).

The ICO also offers tours to nearby archaeological sites of Monte Albán and Mitla, and to the surrounding craft villages of San Bartolo Coyotepec (black pottery) and Teotitlan del Valle (carpets/weavings).

These are optional activities to be arranged at personal expense.



Credit

This program has been approved by UNSW's School of International Studies. On successful completion of this four-week program, including the completion of all assessment tasks assigned by the ICO, participation in the community assistance project, and at least 80% attendance at classes, you will be granted 6UOC as transfer credit. This will be shown on your UNSW transcript as SPAN6206.

Eligibility

Students may study beginner level Spanish language courses and therefore there are no prerequisites to be eligible to enrol in this language course.

Please note that participants are required to stay in homestay accommodation organised as part of the package.

Students wishing to apply can obtain an application form from the UNSW Study Abroad office at Level 16, Mathews Building.

Housing

Housing with families will be allocated prior to departure for Mexico.

The families will provide two meals each day. Students should ensure that they are present for lunch, most importantly, which is the main meal of the day for gathering with the family.

Getting there

The program fee does not include airfares. Flights can be difficult to obtain in late December, so look at flight options as soon as you decide to join the program.

Students should purchase their own flights for arrival into Oaxaca by the evening of Sunday, 30 December 2012. The most direct route to Oaxaca from Australia is via Los Angeles to Mexico City. There are then several connecting flights daily from Mexico City to Oaxaca (approx 1 hour).

For students arriving in Mexico earlier, the first class and deluxe bus services to Oaxaca from Mexico City (6 hours), and from other major centres, are excellent and reasonably priced.

Students will need to vacate their housing on the morning of Saturday, 26 January 2013.





Further information

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the UNSW Study Abroad office at Level 16, Mathews Building.

It is obligatory for all enrolled students to attend UNSW Study Abroad's pre-departure information session to be held on Monday 22 October 2012.

Contact

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