

Travel Study FAQs

How much does the program cost?

Approximately between \$5400-\$6000 per summer, depending on the country visited. Spain tends to be the most expensive area, Central and South America the most inexpensive, and Mexico falls somewhere in the middle.

What is included in the program cost?

Two classes (6 units), all lodging and transportation within the country visited, all museum and entry fees, tour guides, and most meals (two meals per day during the cultural tour, three meals per day during the home stay).

What is NOT covered in the program cost?

Students must pay their own airfare separately and make all their own travel arrangements to and from the country visited for the days indicated in the brochure. In addition, students buy their own books and should take money abroad for incidental expenses such as souvenirs. Students must pay for their own laundry during the cultural tours and during some—but not all—of the home stays.

Can I also take classes in Sacramento?

Yes.

How many summers do I have to attend?

A minimum of three unless you also take classes in Sacramento. CSU residency requirements for a 30-unit MA program state that 21 units must be taken in residence (abroad or in Sacramento). SPAN 500 (Culminating Experience) does not count among these 21 units.

How many classes do I take each summer?

Two or three, including no more than two 200-level courses. Students in their final summer must also register for SPAN 500 (Culminating Experience) if they have been advanced to candidacy by the Office of Graduate Studies. Many students prefer a more relaxed pace and take two classes, while other pay extra unit fees and take a third class so that they can finish all course work over three summers.

Can I skip summers?

Yes. You may skip one summer. If you skip two consecutive summers, you must re-apply to the Office of Graduate Studies, but may be subject to declassification and/or removal from the MA program if it is determined that you are not showing sufficient academic progress.

How many classes am I allowed to transfer in from another institution?

Two (6 units). Seven of the nine classes needed for the MA must be taken through CSUS, whether abroad or in Sacramento, to meet residency requirements. (See above)

Can I just take classes and not apply to the MA program?

Yes. If you are fluent in Spanish and have the appropriate academic background, you may take two classes through the Open University program of the College of Continuing Education.

Do I have to stay with a family?

Yes. We consider this a unique and fundamental part of the overall travel study experience.

What if I don't like my family?

If you are not satisfied with your family, all efforts will be made to place you with another.

Can my spouse or family or friends come with me on the cultural tour?

No. Only official program participants may take part in the cultural tour. Many students, however, travel with family before or after the program.

Can I just attend the academic session and not participate in the cultural tour?

All program participants pay the same published program cost and are expected to take part in all aspects of the program. Those students who miss any part of the cultural tour will not be reimbursed by the College of Continuing Education.

Where will the program be in the coming years?

We alternate between Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and intend to go to the following countries in the next four years: Guatemala (2010), Peru (2011), Mexico (2012), and (Spain 2013). All programs are considered tentative until formally approved each fall by the Deans of the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Continuing Education in the fall of the preceding year.

What is SPAN 500?

SPAN 500 (Culminating experience) refers to the 3 or 4 units you must register for during your last summer as you begin preparations for your comprehensive exams (3 units) or completing your thesis or project (4 units). It is not an actual class.

When are the comprehensive exams taken?

The comprehensive exams are offered twice a year, usually the week before Thanksgiving and also late March before the CSUS Spring Break. Students must travel to Sacramento to take four 2-hour exams in sub-areas of these four areas: Hispanic Linguistics, Hispanic Culture, Peninsular Literature, and Latin American Literature. Two exams are given on a Monday and the final two on a Wednesday.

What if I wish to do a thesis or a project?

Though most students take the exams, if you have a 3.75 GPA in your MA course work at the time you apply for candidacy, you are eligible to approach a faculty member to discuss the possibility of writing a thesis or project. Please see the CSUS Spanish MA website for more details about this process.

<http://www.csus.edu/fl/spanish/SpanishGradRequire.htm>