

DISSTA: The Spanish Experience

The University of Akron - Department of Modern Languages
Study Abroad Program, Valladolid – Spain

6 credits

Scheduled to run

Tuesday May 29th to Monday July 2nd

2018

The Spanish Experience is a one-month, six-credit, immersion learning experience spent living and studying in Spain.

The program is centered for four weeks in the city of Valladolid, whose university (UVA) was founded in the early 13th century by Alfonso VIII, King of Castile. The *Centro de Idiomas* of the university is well known for its summer *Spanish as a Second Language* program for foreign students. The classes are held in the Miguel Delibes campus, located about 15 minutes outside of downtown Valladolid. In addition to providing intensive practice in all four language skills in Spanish, the Spanish Experience introduces students to the various facets of contemporary life in Spain as a means of gaining a basic understanding of past and present Spanish society. Students participating in the *Spanish as a Second Language* program also have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of additional cultural and academic activities.

ELIGIBILITY, ADMISSION, ENROLLMENT: Participants in the program must have completed successfully Spanish 202 at UA or the equivalent to enroll in The Spanish Experience. (If you have only completed 102, there is a possibility that you may be allowed to go, based on taking an informal Oral Proficiency Test). The program is open to undergraduate students in good standing and other qualified individuals. You must also have above a B- average in your Spanish classes. Space in the program is limited and the program director reserves the right to select students. All participants must demonstrate evidence of personal maturity and serious commitment to the purposes of the program.

CREDIT: The students will receive 6 credit hours for four weeks of study during the month of June.

- You will receive 6 credit hours of 300-level Spanish electives.

In addition to the 5 credit hours earned in Valladolid, the students will complete a 1-credit hour hybrid UA course. This course is an orientation designed to prepare students for studying abroad. They will learn about differences in Spanish culture, the importance of being culturally respectful when traveling, and will be given the tools necessary to make the most out of their experience. The class will meet approximately 3 times in the Spring semester and again in May during the Intersession before leaving for Spain. These meetings are followed up with online discussions and readings. The student will complete the course with a variety of assignments while abroad.

*There may also be an opportunity to earn additional credits by doing an independent study within the student's discipline. For example, students have signed up for an International Business Practicum or Independent Study in the field and wrote a research paper abroad to receive additional credit hours in their major. This would have to be discussed with your advisor and is independent from this program.

COURSES WHILE ABROAD: Each participant is placed at the *Universidad de Valladolid* in one of the various levels of the Spanish as a Foreign Language program. Students devote approximately five hours per day, five days a week to formal study of the Spanish language and its culture. At each level, coursework includes the study of grammar (generally 2 hours per day), conversation practice (generally 1 hour per day), and culture (generally 1 hour per day). All students keep their own on-line blog in Spanish describing daily activities, cultural visits, overall impressions of notable differences between the United States and Spanish customs and more, and a record of the student's experience in Spain in general. In addition to the coursework, the student will sign a contract before leaving promising that he/she will speak Spanish 100% of the time while abroad. If this contract is broken, the student will be sent home and be responsible to pay for his/her return flight.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION: While in Valladolid, students generally are housed in double rooms in selected Spanish households, one or two per household. Housing is within walking distance or with easy access to public transportation to classes. The program fee for lodging in a Spanish household includes three meals per day and laundry once a week. Alternative housing in a university residence or an apartment may be arranged in special cases (Additional costs will apply).

Upon arrival, there is a special introduction to the city and to Spanish daily life. This introduction involves walking tours and demonstrations of how to use the different means of transportation, planned activities such as visits to different kinds of stores, cultural landmarks, recreation/entertainment facilities, and with telephone, banking, and postal procedures, etc. The program director is available to meet with and assist students on an individual basis throughout the entire program.

ACTIVITIES: The Program offers additional cultural events, such as literary discussion sessions, a contemporary Spanish cinema cycle, traditional Spanish dances, traditional Spanish songs, concerts and theatrical activities, guided tours to museums and varied sports activities. Likewise, the modern facilities of the UVA include a library and video library; up-to-date language laboratories; individualized tutorial assistance; and native-speaking conversation.

The city offers ample opportunities for dining out, night life, and enjoyment of the countryside. While in Valladolid, the program includes guided weekend excursions to places of historical or scenic interest which include Santander and Segovia. The cost of these excursions is included in the basic program fee. Also included are evening excursions by train or bus to cities such as Burgos, Peñafiel, and Ávila. In addition, there will be an overnight trip to San Sebastian, on the northern coast of Spain. A group trip to Madrid is also organized during our stay in Spain. The trip lasts 3 days and involves organized cultural activities both in Madrid and in nearby sites of particular historical and cultural interest. There are visits to museums and scenic/historic locations in the capital city as well a trip to the historical city of Toledo, just outside of Madrid. Students will also have ample opportunities to engage in activities of their own interest while in Madrid. *Keep in mind that while in Madrid you will be responsible for paying for your own food.*

APPROXIMATE COSTS for 4 weeks in Valladolid:

UA tuition 1 credit hour:~ \$420 (In-State Tuition)

DISSTA Program Fees*: \$3425

*This fee includes Tuition, Room and Board, Transportation & Director Fees, and Health Insurance.

Total program: \$3845

Please note that this price does **NOT** include Airfare. You will purchase this separately and should budget \$1300.

For more information or questions, please contact:

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