

Learn Spanish in South America

Chile, Argentina, Perú

ECELA Spanish schools give you an enjoyable, quality-assured educational experience at an affordable cost.



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¡Habla Español!



Escuelas de Español y Cultura en Latinoamérica:

Hola! We are excited that you are seeking the opportunity to learn more about Spanish and the Latin American culture with ECELA! Thank you for your interest in us. ECELA makes sure that you make the most of your time and challenge yourself while experiencing the vibrant and varied cultures of South America.

Outside of our small, personal class environment, you will find a huge world of opportunities and a new confidence in communication when speaking with local residents on the busy city streets, ski slopes, dance floors, trails through the Andes and many other walks of Latin American life.

With six schools in three countries (Argentina, Chile, Peru), you will be able to choose the environment that best suits you. The diverse opportunities for school organized excursions, personalized attention from our instructors and staff and the famous warmth of Latin American culture make ECELA the perfect choice and essential school for your immersion experience.

Your Latin Immersion awaits!

The ECELA *Difference*

Learn the language. Experience the culture.

Leave the rest to us!

Our Commitment to You

ECELA commits itself to making both your learning and living experiences as comfortable as possible while helping you to meet your personal travel goals.

Our Staff

Giving an at-home feeling

From your school orientation to goodbye-party, the staff at ECELA will make you feel at home. Whether sharing a warm conversation over a cup of coffee or kicking around the soccer ball, you will always find your instructors and administrators to be friendly and supportive.

A Higher Quality

Growing in your skills

We are recognized by institutions of higher learning across the globe, and students receive college credit for studying at ECELA from schools from universities worldwide. Education travel agencies, university professors and quality assurance groups continually visit and validate our schools' standards.

Cultural Activities

Immersing yourself

We know you didn't come to South America to just learn Spanish in the classroom. ECELA takes you on multiple cultural activities and expeditions for you to immerse yourself in the local culture so that you will always have something new to experience.

Mini-group classes

Effective structure

You will feel at ease when placed in a small class with students (max. of 7) of similar communication abilities. After every two week course you have the opportunity to advance to the next level of our curriculum. There are 12 modules of instruction.

School Location Exchanges

Diversifying your perspectives

Our six schools are closely integrated for easy transitions, and nearly half of our students study in multiple countries, so you will likely already have friends when switching schools.



Spanish Courses

Develop your skills through conversation, listening comprehension, reading and writing



Group Lessons (20 hours a week)

With a maximum of 7 people in each group class, we ensure that you receive personalized instruction, participate in class activities and discussions, and make a connection with your professor.

Private Lessons (10-20 hours a week)

Receive one-on-one attention. Private lessons are an excellent idea for professionals seeking a specialized vocabulary for specific situations and can be a more concentrated alternative than group classes.

Group + Private (25-30 hours a week)

Supplement the standard mini-group class with additional private lessons. You may review a difficult area or focus on a specialized topic in your career or interests.



DELE Exam Preparation

If you are seeking international recognition as a Spanish speaker with DELE, ECELA will prepare you.

DELE Diploma

The Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE) is the official, international degree of fluency in Spanish. It is recognized by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain and prepared and evaluated by the University of Salamanca. Certification in any of the three levels of DELE will provide any aspiring graduate student or person seeking employment the opportunity to work in a Spanish speaking occupation.

Levels of Instruction and Academic Credit

Our complete Spanish course consists of 12 two week components.

Beginner levels: Gaining a solid foundation of spoken and written Spanish will help you navigate simple, everyday conversations and situations by instructing you in proper pronunciation, basic vocabulary, key words, greetings and phrases.

Intermediate levels: Learning to express yourself with more complex phrases in the conditional, future and subjunctive tenses will be the focus of the Intermediate levels, and further development of grammar and comprehension will make you a confident and competent communicator by the end of these levels.

Advanced and Superior levels: Perfecting your language skills will be the goal of the final set of classes, as you polish all of your Spanish communication through composition, analysis of literature, learning more specific and complex vocabulary and discussing various social themes.

Electives: Private elective courses in literature, history and composition are available to advanced-level students. Literature and history have a Latin American focus, while composition will help you learn how to compose a variety of different works, from business letters to essays. You may also choose to attend our free weekly courses on local culture, history, literature and phrases to help you understand the country and the language even more.



Academic Credit

Study for a summer, semester or any amount of time that suits you. Each four week ECELA block is equal to a college semester course.

For students interested in a more traditional academic semester or summer abroad program, we offer university credit programs in all of our school locations.

Standard Programs - College Credit

You will be able to earn college credit from four to 36 weeks of group, private or super-intensive courses. We are affiliated with universities in Chile, Argentina and the U.S.

We have hosted students who received college credit for completion of ECELA courses from more than 100 U.S. and Canadian Universities.



Before I came to Santiago I had a vague idea of the Spanish language. I had listened to some CDs, but I never had the opportunity to practice speaking with anyone else. I started in a beginner level course, but after two months at the school I can say anything I want and I will finish in an upper level intermediate course. The lessons here [at the ECELA school] explain how the language works and not just to say things, but the reason for saying things.

Tim Hurrell, 23, Zimbabwe

Medical Spanish Course



Healthcare Shadowing

Supplement your Spanish group course by adding healthcare components a few afternoons per week. The program is suitable for nursing, premed, and medical students, as well as working professionals. Depending on your needs, choose one or more of the following:

Clinical Shadowing: observe local healthcare workers on the job.

Medical Vocabulary: specialized terminology and useful phrases.

Role-playing: practice healthcare situations in the classroom.

Volunteer

Whether you choose to donate your time in cheering up children in a community hospital, by cleaning up the local environment's rivers and planting trees or by putting up the walls of new residences for nearby indigenous communities, through ECELA's Volunteer Program you will surely have an unforgettable and rewarding experience.

•After four weeks of developing your Spanish skills and familiarizing yourself with the country of your choice, ECELA will place you with one of our volunteer organizations.



Internship Program in Chile



You will build your resume, practice your profession on an international scale and learn to utilize the Spanish language within your field of work through the ECELA internship program in Santiago, a major Latin American economic hub.

4+ weeks (depending on your initial level) of Spanish followed by 8-36 weeks of internship.

Special Offers

Spanish & *Tango*

Buenos Aires, Argentina

As the tango capital of the world, Buenos Aires offers visitors the unique opportunity to experience tango in its homeland. Combine Spanish classes and tango lessons from some of the best teachers in each field.

Program Includes (per week):

One Private Lesson
Two Group Lessons



Spanish & *Ski/Snowboard*

Santiago, Chile / or Mendoza, Argentina

The massive slopes of the Andes are yours when you take advantage of the Southern Hemisphere's winter (June-September) in a ski/snowboard study abroad adventure.

Program Includes (per week):

Spanish Classes: 16 hours group
Ski Program: 2 lift and transportation tickets per week

Spanish & *Surf*

Lima, Peru

Take your Spanish to the beautiful Peruvian beaches and improve your surfing skills. Best for novice through intermediate surfers.

Program includes (per week):

Two 2-hour surf lessons per week. Surfboard rental.



Accommodations

Student Apartments

Our most popular housing option is the shared apartment, where you will live with other students. We host students from across the globe, so this is a great opportunity to make new friends and learn about other cultures. Everyone is there to learn about Spanish and Latin American culture, so you will always have something in common with your housemates. Common areas, such as kitchen and living rooms, are shared and maintained by all.



Host Family

We recommend that students take advantage of the homestay option to practice Spanish and be exposed to local culture. Our families are carefully selected and provide each student with a private room. Do not assume that you are too old for a homestay as some of our students are older than their host "parents". All of the families are experienced in hosting students from abroad in their homes and will be happy to accommodate you.

For many of our students, the connection they make with their host-families is the most rewarding part of their study abroad experience.



Types of Accommodation

Difference	Homestay	Shared Apartment
Maximum Distance to School	30 min standard, 60 min economic	30 min standard, 60 min economic
Towels and Sheets	Included	Included
Meals	Breakfast & Dinner	None
Spanish practice	High	Low
Social Life	Low	Medium
Typical Student Age	17 to seniors	21-33



I was at ECELA for one month and to be honest, it was one of my best experiences I have ever had. All the teachers are absolutely great, you can learn a lot in just a few weeks. And the school organized great events everyday, like dancing lessons, city tours, weekend trips.... I will never forget this time... thx ECELA! La mejor escuela!

Nina Degiacomi, Switzerland



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Activities & Excursions

Top 10 activities

Hiking Volcanoes

Horseback Riding

Rafting & Kayaking

Dancing Lessons: Tango & Salsa

Ski & Snowboarding

Weekend Trips to the Beach

Famous Fútbol Games

Vineyard Sampling Tours

Cooking Classes

Cultural events



Our Activities Coordinators work full time to take you to the "can't miss" places.

You will have the chance to attend cultural events, outdoor sports and social activities.



Our destinations:

We have different locations that offer beaches, mountains, cosmopolitan cities with modern infrastructures, amazing architecture, and famous Latin American nightlife!

School Combinations

Why study in only one country?

ECELA Spanish School Locations:

Buenos Aires and Mendoza, Argentina / Santiago and Viña del Mar, Chile / Lima and Cusco, Peru



Get a taste of the fast-paced life of the South American urban capitals of Buenos Aires, Santiago or Lima. Take in the fresh air and tranquility on the ski slopes near Mendoza. Witness modern-day indigenous life and behold the wonders of the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu near Cusco.

Our school combination programs allow you to have a diverse experience in South America while observing differences between countries, cities and smaller town environments. ECELA will help you choose the travel arrangements and accommodations according to your preferences.



Chile, Santiago

Considered in many ways Latin America's most progressive country, Chile offers modern amenities while still holding onto its important colonial and indigenous past.

An economic success story, Chile's first-class health and safety conditions lead our students to adjust easily, and with the help of friendly locals, find themselves comfortably exploring Santiago's big city attractions.

Santiago's central location makes it the ideal spot for those seeking adventures away from the classroom.

Nestled conveniently between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean, you can easily escape big city life in search of a different type of atmosphere.



City Highlights

Outdoor sports capital: With the Andes nearby, Santiago is a great base for snowboarding, rafting, biking, horseback riding and other adventures.

Vineyards and wine tasting: Chilean wine is exported around the world. Visit nearby vineyards and take courses on wine appreciation.

Modern & Safe: Chile has Latin America's highest standard of living and a very modern infrastructure.

Professional attitude, friendly + well organized. I would be happy to recommend the school to prospective students. And please THANK our family for making our trip especially super! I am beginner, I feel I have gained a good start on grammar and can go home with a base to continue. I will visit again when I have more time and continue learning. Thank you!

Jeff Colker, USA



Chile, Viña del Mar - Valparaíso

Viña del Mar, known simply as “Viña,” is Chile’s top holiday beach destination. The luxurious city is located less than two hours from the capital and neighbors one of Chile’s most unique cities, Valparaíso. Viña is full of diverse restaurants, numerous shopping options, and casinos and clubs to keep you busy after dark. Live the lifestyle of a permanent vacation in this seaside gem.



Highlights in the Area

Valparaíso Cerros: The cerros, or hills, of Valparaíso are its signature. Filled with brightly colored houses, innovative street art and a plethora of corner cafés and cozy pubs packed by locals, you will find yourself wanting to get lost here for days, weeks...

Seafood: Valparaíso and Viña del Mar boast some of the most amazing seafood in Chile. Caught fresh daily and brought in straight from the port of Valparaíso, you will be hard pressed to find more delicious seafood anywhere else.

Viña del Mar Beaches: An immensely popular vacation spot for both Chileans and foreigners, the Viña del Mar beaches give you a place to relax and enjoy the sound of the Pacific waves and the South American sun on your face!



Argentina, Buenos Aires

Often called the "Paris of South America", an intriguing combination of European sophistication and Latin charm makes Buenos Aires a truly world-class city.

Home of the tango, countless bars and cafes and an active nightlife, Buenos Aires is an ideal city to explore while making use of Spanish language skills with gregarious local porteños. The low prices in comparison with currencies such as the U.S. dollar, British pound, Euro and Yen make Buenos Aires an affordable and enjoyable experience.

From here you can visit the waterfalls of the impressive Iguazú Falls, nearby coastal Uruguay, and the snow-covered Andean peaks of Patagonia.



City Highlights

River-Boca fútbol: Watch impassioned porteños strive tirelessly for victory in Argentina's biggest rivalry. And those are just the fans.

Tango dinner shows: Impressive performances in the world's tango capital.

Nightlife: Explore the city's endless night time options.

Buenos Aires is lovely and friendly, an amazing city that never sleeps. The classes and teachers are well organized and the staff was very helpful.

Nicholette Coxon, UK



Argentina, Mendoza

The city of Mendoza is one of the most important in Argentina. Famous for its wineries, Mount Aconcagua (the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere), and good weather year-round.

Mendoza is located in the foothills of the Andes mountain range, and by bus it is 13 hours from Buenos Aires and seven hours from Santiago. Mendoza is also a cultural hub - you will find many museums, art galleries and festivals, the most important being La Vendimia in March.

If you like skiing, Mendoza is the place for you! Take advantage of stunning landscapes and world-class resorts in this charming and friendly city.



City Highlights

Wine: Mendoza is the wine capital of Argentina, and there are many different vineyards where you can visit and sample some of the region's most famous wines.

Gastronomy: As Argentina is known for its delicious steak, Mendoza does not disappoint. Try a local parrillada and find out what the buzz is about!

Skiing and Snowboarding: Every year, people from all over the world flock to Mendoza from June through September to take advantage of its proximity to Andean ski resorts. With some of the highest peaks in the world, skiing in Mendoza is sure to be an unforgettable experience.



Peru, Lima

Cosmopolitan attractions and a rich history mesh in Peru's capital of Lima, as contemporary and Spanish-era colonial buildings can be seen side-by-side while walking down the city's streets.

You will never be too far from the ocean, as beautiful beaches stretch along the western edge of the city. The school is located in the upscale Miraflores district, where you can taste world-renowned Peruvian cuisine, known for blending its Andean and Spanish cooking styles. You can also enjoy the night life at a dance club, pub or folklore party.



City Highlights

Surf & Handgliding: Learn to ride the waves on your board or soar over them with professional lessons.

Inca Ruins: In and around Lima are over 30 archaeological sites with ancient Inca temples and pyramids.

Peruvian food: Many consider Peruvian food the best of Latin America.

Lima, Peru is fantastic, I had a great time, the people are very friendly, I felt safe and the nightlife is very active. I would recommend Peru to anyone who is looking for an adventure and a cultural experience.

Jared Hucks, USA



Peru, Cusco

At an altitude of almost 11,000 feet, Cusco's fresh, Andean mountain air and intimate atmosphere will put you at ease. The history of the city as the former capital of the Inca Empire survives today, as you will be able to see the Temple of the Sun and many more pieces of Inca architecture that were sacred to the Incas and are sacred to today's residents.

But Cusco entertains with more than ancient ruins and Spanish colonial architecture. The city's *fútbol* stadium, which hosted to the 2004 American Cup, is the home of one of Peru's most popular teams, Cienciano, and world-class Peruvian cuisine can be sampled from numerous restaurants. As the city has grown, so have your nightlife options.

Cusco also provides the perfect jump-off point for expeditions into Peru's varied natural landscape of mountains, jungles and plains, and the breathtaking view of Machu Picchu is an unforgettable experience.



City Highlights

Machu Picchu: Look more than 500 years into the past at the *Irrecoverable Inca City*. This wonder is accessible by foot and train from nearby Cusco.

Slow-paced living: Experience traditional Andean lifestyle in Cusco and visit local markets in small Sacred Valley towns such as Chinchero and Pisco.

Diverse Nature: All of Peru's varied climate is within your reach, as dense jungles, arid plains and rolling mountains make for exciting weekend excursions.

Cuzco was a beautiful and distinct city. Although there are many tourist attractions, the city and the people maintain their rich traditional roots.

Barbara Mislán, 20, U.S.A.



Our Students



From all over the world

Our students represent a multitude of countries and professions and have unique educational goals. Some students seek college credit through our affiliated universities, while many others are professionals seeking to overcome a language barrier or simply travelers desiring a solid Spanish foundation.

While you are never too old to join us, we do have a minimum age of 17 for students traveling without a guardian or without special permission.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will I find other students around my age?

A: You will find students from every stage of life. We have hosted many teens and many adventurous seniors, and you will consistently find a broad diversity of ages at the school and activities and courses geared towards all specific tastes.

Q: What's the advantage about studying in more than one country?

A: Experiencing the cultural and dialectic differences of Argentina, Chile and Peru will give you a better understanding of South America and Spanish in general. Plus, you'll get to see more exciting things, as each school location offers totally unique attractions! Tango in its homeland of Argentina; world-famous Chilean wine; indigenous culture and ruins in Peru.

Homestay or Student Housing?

A: A homestay will ensure that you practice Spanish and give you a firsthand experience of everyday Latin American life. The student housing option gives you the opportunity to make new friends from all over the world and constant company to do excursions and activities, but you may find it harder to practice your Spanish.

What can I do outside of class?

A: You will never be short of things to do with ECELA. Our five schools are located in areas that are surrounded with exciting possibilities for daytime, nightlife and weekend excursion activities. Whether that means appreciating the mountain activities of Mendoza, visting an art exhibit in Buenos Aires or taking salsa or cueca lessons in Santiago, our Activities Coordinators make sure to immerse you in South American culture. Although we recommend our school activities, there is no need to hesitate to go discover the area on your own or with friends as well.

Q: How is the day structured?

A: Our classes start at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and last for four hours with two breaks. Our afternoon activities are scheduled around the standard class schedule, so while your course work will take up a portion of your time, you may choose guided or independent activities at your discretion.

Q: What do I need to bring for class?

A: Your textbooks are supplied in each level, but you should bring a Spanish dictionary, notebook, and pens to take notes.

Q: Final advice before I leave?

1. Read about the culture of the country to help you avoid culture shock.
2. Make sure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the end of your program.
3. Let us know if you are receiving any ongoing medical treatment.
4. Begin to train your ear to Spanish. If you have access to Spanish radio or TV stations, play them in the background when possible. Even if you are a beginner, just hearing people speak Spanish will help, whether or not you understand it.
5. As the saying goes, bring half the clothes you think you'll need, but twice the money.

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