

# APRENDE ESPAÑOL LEARN SPANISH



Center for Spanish Language and Culture  
Centro de Lenguas Extranjeras y Español



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Learn to speak Spanish and improve your language skills in a friendly environment that will make you feel right at home. We like to give our students the best attention possible, this is why our teachers are highly qualified and we have no more than 5 students per class. OLÉ offers flexible group programs and/or tutorial classes in a unique Spanish language school founded almost in 1996.

To ensure that you learn Spanish as quickly and as well as possible and enhance your learning experience, we recommend combining any of our Spanish programs with living in a Mexican home and taking cultural activities such as cooking classes and field trips. Host families are carefully selected for your comfort and safety.

OLÉ is located in the heart of the historical downtown of the beautiful colonial city of Querétaro, just 200 km north of México City and one of the safest and cleanest cities in the country. We carefully selected the location of the school within the city, allowing the students to be within walking distance of the historical, artistic and recreational attractions of the city.

The colonial architecture of our building with its two beautiful patios, 13 classrooms, library and internet area, 2 living rooms, BBQ area, ping pong and mini basketball facilities, Mexican kitchen and cafeteria provides our students with a pleasant and family atmosphere where they can study Spanish and immerse in our culture.

We understand the importance of offering quality programs and attention, and we are committed to always giving excellent and timely service. At OLÉ, students will live an unforgettable experience in a family atmosphere. So, if you want to learn Spanish while you have fun and enjoy the magic of México, you know where to come.



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## ● QUERETARO ●

Santiago de Querétaro is rich in history and colonial architecture, besides being one of the largest industrial and business centers of modern México.

Querétaro's downtown has been officially declared "Cultural Heritage of Mankind" by UNESCO, and it offers its visitors a tradition of almost 500 years of history. Its aqueduct, temples, churches and grand colonial houses and palaces make this city one of the most beautiful places in México.

It is also one of the safest and cleanest cities in the country and only a few hours away from other beautiful cities, such as Guanajuato and San Miguel de Allende, major center for Mexican and international art.

This city is also the capital of the state of Querétaro, which includes numerous other attractions for visitors, from archaeological sites to spa resorts. In the north of the state is the Sierra Gorda; one of the largest regions of unspoiled nature in the central part of México. A vast territory that offers five beautiful missions founded in the 18th century; a sharp contrast between the warm almost tropical landscape of the northern parts of Jalpan, which belongs to the Huasteca region, and the pine-covered hills of Pinal de Amoles, a municipality located high in the mountains, where you can sometimes find snow during the winter.



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## ● METHODOLOGY ●

OLÉ has developed a methodology which uses the right combination of conversation and grammar and it is specially designed for students of all proficiency levels, ages and professional experience with creative teaching methods which enhance the nature of social, cultural, and pragmatic features of language. Our teaching objectives are to use “real-life” communication in the classroom and to get our learners to develop linguistic fluency, not just the accuracy.

Our Spanish program is designed at thirteen levels of 50 hours each, except for the Superior level which has no time limits. In order to meet student’s special needs, we have designed various practical and dynamic programs and tutor classes with special vocabulary emphasis (business, medical, law, technical, etc) to fit individual needs and also tailor-made courses for groups with specific needs.

Classes are divided into one and a half hours of grammar, half an hour of vocabulary and exercises, one hour of workshop rotated daily covering the four skills of the language. For the five hour program, we offer two more hours of cultural workshops in which students will reinforce the four skills of the language with cultural topics emphasizing in this way a total immersion of our language and our culture.

Materials and books used in our programs have been carefully selected by our Academic Department to enhance the learning of Spanish and Mexican culture.

Classes begin every Monday and are limited to a maximum of 5 students per class so that students receive personal attention.



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## ● METHODOLOGY & SECIFICS ●

Our program provides students with a comprehensive yet manageable coverage of the Spanish language and culture while integrating language into student lives. From daily situations to specialized fields, our goal is to maximize their usage of Spanish in a multi-cultural environment.

### Specifics

- Maximum number of students per class: 5 students/class.
- All “teaching hours” are 55 minutes.
- Written and oral placement exams are administered to new students in order to determine the appropriate level and group for the student.
- Each week teachers evaluate their students. Groups may be redefined as students can progress through the program at a different pace.
- There is an exam at the end of each level which covers all aspects of the language in order to guarantee that the student is ready to advance to the next level.
- A certificate is given at the end of each level.
- Teachers are rotated on a weekly basis so that students are exposed to different rhythms and pronunciations of the language.
- Spanish classes can be taken during the morning or the afternoon, depending on the season and the number of groups. Cultural classes are in the afternoon and on weekends.
- **Group classes:** If there is no group at students level, group classes may be substituted for tutor classes with fewer hours per week. Group programs of 15 hrs/week will be substituted for 12 private lessons per week. Group programs of 25 hrs/week will be substituted for 20 private lessons per week.
- Group classes start on Mondays (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).



## ● LEVELS ●

The following 13 levels are offered at OLÉ:

**1. Beginner low:** The objective of this level is to give the student the confidence and ability to communicate with basic commands in daily life situations from their immediate environment, to exchange greetings and introductions and learn the basic vocabulary.

**2. Beginner mid:** The objective of this level is for the student to be able to start simple conversations, by using isolated and memorized phrases, to ask questions and respond about his/her basic needs at home, shops, restaurants, banks and expand their vocabulary to other areas of the environment that surrounds them or particular familiar contexts in which the language has been learned.

**3. Beginner high:** At the end of this level the student will be able to express in a simple manner his/her preferences and maintain conversations in present tense centered mainly in basic personal information and limited activities. Students will be able to respond to uncomplicated communicative tasks and direct questions or requests for information as well as to recognize simple past situations.

**4. Intermediate low:** At the end of this level the student will be able to understand and identify simple historical and cultural information; give and receive instructions; narrate and describe in simple sentences. Student will handle present tense and begin to handle a variety of past tense and their conversation will be centered in topics related to personal information and will be able to apply the knowledge to new situations and into survival contexts.



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## ● LEVELS ●

**5. Intermediate mid:** At the end of this level the student will be able to describe places, express moods, habits and costumes and manage with greater fluency and confidence basic and more complex needs. Student will handle present and past tense. Students will be able to use the imperative form and also they will begin linking their ideas to form paragraphs: recombining into short statements what they know and what they hear from their interlocutor. At this level students will be generally understood and will reformulate and self-correct as they reach appropriate language forms to express themselves.

**6. Intermediate high:** At the end of this level, students will be able to carry on a conversation with confidence mainly of topics related to routine activities, and social situations; they will also be able to compare and describe non specialized situations like in school, personal interests, and some events in work; give his/her opinion in favor and against situations and make plans. Student will handle at the end of this level the present, past and future tense, and begin with subjunctive. At this level students will handle certain topics at the advance level and will be generally understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives.

**7. Intermediate advance low:** At the end of this level the student will be able to narrate and describe in all time frames but limited to a paragraph length dialogue; student will be able to handle with ease and confidence unexpected events of a routine situation, begin and maintain informal and some formal conversations of the intermediate level. Students will be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives.

**8. Intermediate advance mid:** At the end of this level the student will be able to communicate in complex situations and will begin to communicate with more specialized vocabulary pertaining to his/her



## ● LEVELS ●

area of interest as well as some current events; also students will be able to give an opinion but still not with structured argument. Students will be able to describe in all major time frames and handle unexpected turn of events of situations they are familiar with. They can narrate and describe in all major tenses; present, past, future and will start manage imperative and subjunctive. Students will be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives.

**9. Intermediate advance high:** The student will be able to communicate and express complex opinions, explain in detail and fully narrate in all time frames. Student will begin to have structured argument to support his/her opinions and begin to construct hypotheses but mostly discuss topics in a concrete way. Student will be able to compare, interview and summarize essays; elaborate curriculums and biographies. They will handle linguistic challenges presented or unexpected turn of events within familiar contexts and communicative tasks. Students will be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives.

**10. Advance low:** Students in this level are able to communicate with accuracy and fluency. Students will be able to discuss their opinions in an extensive way and give structured argument to support his/her opinions in a variety of general, technical, social and political topics; also, student will be able to develop hypotheses. This level helps the student to handle formal and informal settings from both concrete and abstract perspectives in an ample of general and specialized topics of interest. In general the objective of this level is to improve students' written and oral communication, listening comprehension and reading abilities. Students will be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives.



## ● LEVELS ●

**11.- Advance mid:** In general the objective of this level is to improve students' four abilities to a level in which there is almost no pattern of error in the use of language structures. Communicative strategies such as rephrasing are often employed to handle linguistic challenges. At this level students will contribute to conversations of familiar topics, deal with concretely, with much accuracy, clarity and precision without confusion. Students will be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives.

**12.- Advance high:** Students will perform advance-level tasks with ease, confidence and competence. In general the objective of this level is to improve students' four abilities to a level in which there is almost no pattern of error in the use of language structures. Students also will start to handle Superior level tasks. At this level students can discuss some topics abstractly, especially those relating to their particular interests and special fields of expertise.

**13.- Superior:** Speakers at the Superior level are able to communicate in the language with accuracy and fluency in order to participate fully and effectively in conversations on a variety of topics in formal and informal settings from both concrete and abstract perspectives. They discuss their interests and special fields of competence, explain complex matters in detail, and provide lengthy and coherent narrations, all with ease, fluency, and accuracy. They are able to construct and develop hypotheses to explore alternative possibilities. When appropriate, they use extended discourse without unnaturally lengthy hesitation to make their point, even when engaged in abstract elaborations. They demonstrate virtually no pattern of error in the use of basic structures.



## ● PROGRAMS ●

### Regular Programs:

- Age: 14 and up
- It is required that an adult accompanies students under 18 during their stay in Querétaro.
- All levels.
- Programs opened all year-round. It is possible to start on any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).
- All programs include 1 “OLÉ Activity” per week.

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- **Program A: “Spanish Group Program”**, 3 hrs/day (15hrs/week).
  - **Program AAA: “Spanish Group Program”**, 4 hrs/day (20hrs/week).
  - **Program B: “Spanish Intensive Group Program”**, 5 hrs/day (25hrs/week).

Program A plus two additional group hours/day of different Workshops (conversation, reading, listening comprehension, writing, etc.), all with a cultural emphasis.

- **Program D: “Intensive One-on-One”**, 5 hrs/day of private lessons, (25hrs/week).
- **Program E: “Executive Program”**, 3 hrs/day (Program A) plus 2 private lessons/day.  
( 25hrs/week).
- **Program F: “Executive Intensive Program”**, 5 hrs/day (Program B) plus 2 private lessons/day.  
( 35hrs/week).



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## ● PROGRAMS ●

### Private Lessons:

- Age: 5 and up
- All levels.
- Students may choose the amount of days or hours and make their schedule. (Monday thru Friday from 7am to 9pm and Saturdays from 8am to 2pm).
- Program opened all year-round. It is possible to start any day of the week, except on National Holidays and Sundays.

### Important notes:

- Some students combine any of our group programs with as many private classes per day as they need in order to advance at their own pace and learn specific vocabulary, grammar or cultural topics. ••
- OLÉ offers “Special Vocabulary” on private classes for people of all proficiency levels, ages and professional experience in different areas like: medical, business, tourism, law, education, etc. ••
- A 24-hour cancellation/reservation notice is required for private lessons. ••

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### Special Programs:

#### Program K: “Kids & Teens Program” (25 hrs/week)

Kids & Teens will have fun while learning a new language and interesting aspects of our culture. This program offers a dynamic methodology by combining Spanish classes with activities such as: Mexican games, arts and crafts, songs, etc., in a safe and healthy environment.

- Includes: 5hrs/day (25hrs/week) of Spanish and activities.

All required material.

1 OLÉ activity/week (1-2hrs/week).



## ● PROGRAMS ●

- Age: 5 – 13 years. It is required that an adult accompanies students under 18 during their stay in Queretaro.
- Maximum 8 students/group.
- Program minimum of one week.
- Program opened: during summer starting every Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday). Check our price list for specific dates.
- Minimum of 3 booked students is required to open the program.
- • When a minimum of three students with same Spanish level book together, the program can be opened on any Monday of other months (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday), or for less hours/day. • •

### **Program S: “Senior Program”** (19 hrs/week)

Our specially designed program for the young at heart (55 and over) is a great opportunity to live the experience of studying abroad and living the Mexican culture. Our program combines Spanish classes, cultural classes (One Mexican cooking class/week and one visit to points of interest in the city/week) and our OLÉ activity (Mexican lottery and games, movies, etc.) for all levels from beginner to advance. It is conducted in small, same-level groups in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

- Includes: 3hrs/day of Spanish (15hrs/week)
- 2 cultural classes/week (4hrs/week)
- 1 OLÉ activity/week (1-2hrs/week)
- Age: 55 and up
- Maximum of 5 students/group.
- This is a three week program. Students can stay longer if they wish.
- Program opened: from January to March, September and November. Check our price list for specific dates.
- Minimum of 3 booked students is required to open the program.
- • When a minimum of three senior students with same Spanish level book together, program can be opened on



## ● PROGRAMS ●

any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday). ••

- Spanish is in the mornings and cultural classes and activities in the afternoons. ••
- Many of our senior students like to combine this program with golf. In Querétaro there are several golf courses available for a nominal fee. ••

### **Program V: “Volunteer Program”**

Students gain better understanding and appreciation of the language and culture from people that really need extra care and attention. Volunteer work is rewarding.

- Age: 18 and up
- Programs opened all year-round. It is possible to start on any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).
- This program has no cost, but it must be combined with any of our Spanish programs that do have a cost:
  1. Volunteering in the afternoon and studying Spanish in the mornings.
  2. Full time volunteer work for the same amount of weeks of Spanish program (example: 4 weeks of Spanish and 4 weeks of full time volunteer work).
- Volunteer work available: people with disabilities, Down syndrome, learning disabilities, language delays, girls and young ladies with social problems, elderly people, among many others. ••
- For most of the volunteer work available, it is required for the student to have at least an intermediate low level in order for the student to be able to communicate with the organization and people he/she will be helping. ••

### **Program IBB: “International Bilingual Business Program” (40 hrs/week)**

This Program is a great complement for students studying business. It is completely focused on the international business world. This is a 6 week program (Total: 240 hrs) and the student can obtain 16 academic credits.



## ● PROGRAMS ●

- Includes: 8hrs/day- 6hrs/day group classes & 2hrs/day private classes (40hrs/week) for 6 weeks.
- 4 main courses are given of 45 hrs each = 3 academic credits per course. Total of 12 academic credits.
- Plus one conversational Spanish (Tutorial) course of 60hrs= 4 academic credits.
- Maximum of 5 students/group.
- 6 week program. Students may shorten or extend their stay receiving less or more credits depending on the length of their stay. (15 class hours= 1 academic credit).
- Program opened: Three start dates throughout the year, check our price list for specific dates.
- Minimum of 3 booked students is required to open the program.
- Prerequisite to enroll in this program: high intermediate level proficiency in Spanish as determined by the ACTFL ORAL PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION or equivalent.
- Students who do not have this level of Spanish can study some weeks of our regular Spanish Programs in order to achieve level required.
- • When a minimum of four students book together, program can be opened on any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday). • •

### **Program T: “Tailored programs for groups”**

OLÉ offers courses specially designed for groups. On request we provide any special package. Special group rates for teachers coming with groups or for students with their own group.

Groups can also combine any of the regular and special programs with weekend trips, fieldtrips, cultural classes, etc. (Mexican cooking & Spanish, Golf & Spanish, Spanish & cultural program, etc.) or we can organize a program tailored to their specific needs.

- Minimum of 5 students is required and program can be opened on any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).



## ● PROGRAMS, CREDITS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ●

- Special discounts for groups of more than 10 students.
- For student groups under 18 years of age: At least one adult for every 10 minors. (Adult will be responsible for the students during their stay with us).

### **Academic credits available:**

OLÉ awards academic credit for transfer to academic Institutions abroad. OLÉ's competency levels readily coordinate with most U.S. universities' first three years of language instruction. Please contact us for additional information.

### **Extracurricular Activities:**

OLÉ will help students take advantage of their stay by arranging cultural, recreational and sports activities. There are a wide variety of activities and classes to be combined with the Spanish programs. Prices vary depending on activity.

#### **1. Cultural classes:**

OLÉ is not just about Spanish classes, but is an all around Mexican experience. We strongly recommend combining cultural classes with any Spanish program. This will give the student a total immersion experience not only of the language, but of the culture, customs, and way of life of Mexican people. Some of our cultural classes are: Mexican cooking, Mexican history, Mexican literature, round-table discussions, arts and crafts, visit to traditional Mexican markets, museums, churches and historical sites throughout the city.

Classes take place in the afternoons or Saturdays.

Approximate time per class: 2 hours

Minimum of 3 students per class.



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## ● EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ●

### 2. “OLÉ Activity”:

Once a week, students are invited to our “OLÉ Activity”, which is free for all of our students. The activity will take place if a minimum of 3 students sign up. Activities included: Mexican lottery, games, movies, ping-pong tournament, darts, Mexican songs, audio activities, among others.

### 3. City tours, fieldtrips and weekend tours:

Organized city tours of Querétaro are available in the afternoons or on Saturdays. Approximate time: different options between 2 hour tours to half-day tours.

Fieldtrips and weekend trips to nearby points of interest such as: Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende, Teotihuacán pyramids, México City, Morelia and Sierra Gorda of Querétaro among others are also available.

### 4. Additional activities:

OLÉ helps students find special courses, sports facilities, advice about trips, cultural events throughout the city, etc., which are available in specialized Institutions, Sports Clubs, Museums and Travel Agencies in Querétaro.

- There are several gymnasiums, golf courses, tennis and basketball courts, swimming pools, bowling allies and salsa classes available in the city. Prices vary depending on activity or classes.
- There are announcements posted on the school boards of activities that are taking place throughout the city such as: theatre, expositions, fairs, concerts, among others. Sometimes OLÉ’s Staff and students participate together in some of these events (Prices vary depending on activity).



## ● HOMESTAY ●

One of the best ways to learn Spanish is to combine formal studies by living with a Mexican family. This creates multiple opportunities to learn new words and daily life expressions, and it gives insight into daily life in México. It is an enriching cultural experience that opens many doors and it is long remembered.

Families have been carefully selected to provide security and a comfortable atmosphere for OLÉ students. The families that work with OLÉ offer family involvement and they enjoy it!

Homestay is offered in private room or shared room (students must come with his or her own companion).

### **Specifics:**

- Homestay is booked from the Sunday night before the course begins to the Sunday morning after the course finishes. Students may also choose from Saturday to Saturday. Minimum stay is one week and additional nights can be hired.
- Homes are no more than 15 minutes away from the school, either walking or by public bus.
- Includes 3 meals/day. Mothers prepare meals only 6 days a week. On Sundays, students can make use of the kitchen and prepare their own meals.
- Includes towels and sheets. This will be changed weekly.
- Families may also invite the student to some family activities such as: eating out, trips, fieldtrips, etc. Student decides if he/she wishes to attend and any cost that the student can generate with these activities will be absorbed by the student. Families won't pay for the student.



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## ● HOMESTAY ●

- The first day of class, a member of the family will take the student to the school and will pick him/her up, this way the student can learn how to go to school and go back home.
- Student will have access to all the common areas in the house (patios, garden, kitchen, TV. room, living room, etc.)

### **Other accommodation options:**

If a student does not wish to stay with a family, there is a great variety of hotels and inns in the City. There are also options to rent furnished apartments and houses. Please contact us for information.

OLÉ will provide information and help the students find the one most appropriate for his/her needs.



## ● GETTING TO QUERETARO ●

There are two airports that give service to Querétaro:

**1) Mexico City Airport-** this airport is located aprox. 3 hours by bus from Querétaro.

We offer pick-up and drop-off service as follows:

- A person from our Staff will receive students at the International Exit and escort them by bus to Querétaro. Buses leave directly from the airport. On arrival to Querétaro, they will take a taxi to student's accommodation. Drop off is also by bus to the airport.
- We also offer this service by car with a chauffeur who will wait for the students at the International gate and bring them to Querétaro by car. Drop-off can be also by car to the airport.
- • Students who prefer no pick-up nor drop-off, can take a bus to Querétaro directly from the Airport. Buses leave every hour from 7:00 am until 22:15 pm. Price: \$22 U.S. approx one way. (This price may vary) • •
- • On arrival, students can take a taxi to their accommodation. (approx \$5 to \$7 US/one way, this price may vary) or we offer Pick-up at Querétaro's Bus Station. • •

### 2) Querétaro Bus Station

Someone from our staff will receive students at the bus station and take them to their homestay by car.

**3) Querétaro Airport-** this airport is located about 25 min by car from downtown Querétaro. This is a new airport so not many flights arrive here yet. Continental flights from Houston and L.A. fly directly to this airport.

We offer pick-up and drop-off service by car with chauffeur.

- • Students who prefer no pick-up nor drop-off can take a taxi from the Querétaro Airport to their accommodation. Taxis charge aprox. \$20 US/one way (This price may vary).• •

