Academia Buenos Aires
Spanish courses

Academia Uruguay
Spanish courses

Instituto Cervantes
Centro Acreditado

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Academic excellence

Academia Buenos Aires and Academia Uruguay, founded in 2004 and 2007, are among the leading Spanish schools in Latin America and attract over a thousand students from more than 40 countries and all age groups, year after year. Both schools are accredited by the Spanish Instituto Cervantes and as such comply with strict quality standards with respect to teaching, housing, extracurricular activities and organizational aspects. They are run by their owners and share the same curriculum and approach to teaching. Our schools are centrally and safely located in Montevideo and Buenos Aires in fully refurbished historic buildings.

Both Academias cater to students of all levels, from beginners to native speakers, as measured by the European or ACTFL frameworks. We also offer teacher training courses, differentiated by native and non-native speakers. Maximum group size for all our courses is 7 students and the minimum course duration is one week. Students can combine destinations and take classes in Buenos Aires and Montevideo as well as with external partners around South America.

Our study material is original, immediately useful, practical and built for intensive learning, with local cultural content. When we say we use a communicative approach to language teaching, we mean it: we make sure that you are well prepared to communicate in different real-life situations.

Apart from on-site classes, Academia started teaching online courses in 2011 and has developed a full program of asynchronous virtual content that complements synchronous video classes. This includes specific audio and video content and exercises, all of which can be used online or through our own app. We believe in the power of real interactions between teachers and students, in our case facilitated by a technological platform, as opposed to learning on stand-alone apps.

Dear students,

One online search allows you to find hundreds of Spanish schools around the world. Why choose Academia Uruguay or Academia Buenos Aires to study Spanish?

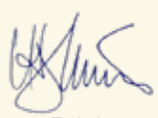
Of course, the choice of the *country* should be motivated by your personal interest in the culture, the attractions and the way of life of your destination and not so much by the subtle differences in accent and vocabulary between the different Spanish-speaking countries.

When choosing a *school*, you will want to look for academic excellence, a wide range of course levels, commitment to a communicative learning approach, a good learning environment and atmosphere, state-of-the-art teaching methods, small group sizes and like-minded students. Our schools have the critical size to offer you all of the above. Smaller schools can be cozy, but can also lack the necessary resources. Large chain schools have the economies of scale, but may lack flexibility and personalized attention.

What sets us apart is our team. Administrative and teaching staff are long-term employees of the schools and dedicated to excellence in international education. Our university-trained teachers participate in the creation of contemporary study materials and are passionate about sharing their culture and helping you explore their country. Our multilingual administrative staff help you with the logistics before, during and after your stay.

In case you cannot travel to immerse yourself on site, our online learning platform and app elegantly complement your synchronous (video) classes with our teachers.

We hope to see you soon!



Federico
Co-founder Academias

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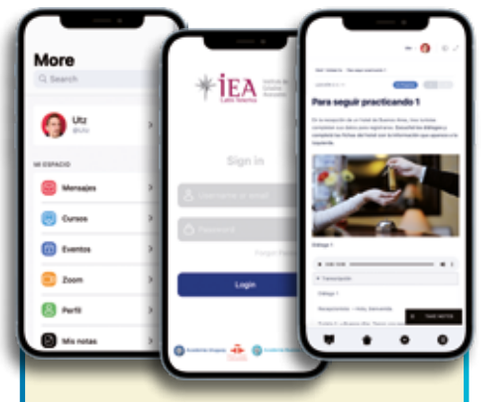
Courses

All our courses are taught by teachers who have university training and years of experience in teaching Spanish as a foreign language. Many of them are teacher trainers and international exam jurors. Teaching more than 10'000 students has allowed us to perfect our course design for effective learning using the communicative approach. Our comprehensive teaching method allows students to develop simultaneously and in a harmonic way all language learning skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing), together with strategic skills, facilitating the integration of students' different learning styles and abilities. All courses include carefully chosen local historic, literary and cultural content. Courses start every Monday, year-round.

Intensive Spanish courses: levels A1-C2, maximum 7 students per class, 20+ hours per week, minimum 1 week. This is our standard intensive course preferred by the large majority of students. Also approved for German Bildungsurlaub.
Individual courses: frequency and length adapted to your needs.
Online courses: levels A1-C2, asynchronous (platform) and synchronous (video) learning with state-of-the-art technology.
Semester courses: minimum 10 weeks of 20+ hours per week. Designed for exchange students, CSN students, Lånekassen scholarships, etc.

Exam preparation courses: preparation for DELE and SIELE exams.
Teacher training courses: for native and non-native speakers.
Specialized courses: for medical personnel, lawyers, diplomats, businesspeople, etc.
Groups: we develop special programs for university and high-school groups.



Academias' very own app can be downloaded from Apple's Appstore and Google's Playstore and allows you to also study offline, prepare your zoom online classes, do specific exercises and communicate with your teacher asynchronously.

Housing

Academia offers students a range of housing options, including homestay in selected host families with different meal plans, shared housing, apartments/studios, hotels, hostels, etc. All are within a range of 30 minutes by public transport or within walking distance of the Academias.

Activities

Every week, the Academias offer at least two or three free extracurricular activities. These can be academic workshops (phonetics, conversation, etc.), excursions to different parts of town, guided visits to cultural attractions, milonga evenings, asado dinners, movie screenings, etc. The idea is for students to immerse in local culture, also outside of formal classes, and to practice their Spanish skills. Academia can also organize weekend activities (i.e. short trips), but these usually come at a cost.

Volunteering

From their very beginning, the Academias have supported the work of several NGOs, either economically or by facilitating volunteers. If you are interested in participating in social, environmental or educational projects and have an intermediate Spanish level at the start of the project, we will organize volunteering opportunities for you, usually free of charge. The only conditions are to stay at least four weeks on the project and to take three weeks of immersion Spanish classes with us. Volunteering is an excellent way to interact and share experiences with locals.

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Argentina

Argentina forms the eastern half of South America's long, tapering tail and is the eighth largest country in the world. It is perhaps best known for its tasty beef and delicious wine, soccer players and gauchos, sensual tango, boundless Patagonia, and for Madonna, alias Evita, asking Argentina not to cry for her. At Academia we will not deny that this constitutes part of what draws thousands of international students to Argentina each year. We will even encourage you to experience all of this and more. We want you to travel this safe and beautiful country and will help you plan your trip if you like.

However, we will also encourage you to scratch below the surface and get an understanding of what lies behind today's Argentina, what constitutes Argentine culture, what makes Argentines "tick". Extensive and fertile farmlands, subtropical forests, desert highlands, glaciers, and the long Atlantic coastline are not only attractions for our visitors, but have influenced Argentine history, its economy and its politics and have led to a country where Nobel-prize winning scientists, world-renowned writers and millions of families living in poverty coexist. A country where you will meet passionate and easily accessible people wherever you go, a country of stark contrasts between the urban and rural areas, a country marked by waves of European and Latin American immigration, a country that won't get you bored.

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires

Some people refer to the city of Buenos Aires as the "Paris of the southern hemisphere". Others consider it to be one of the economically most powerful cities in Latin America. Artists see it as a singular cultural experimentation field. Besides being the capital of Tango, Buenos Aires is also one of the most famous cities for street art. For tourists, Buenos Aires is an attraction by itself and the gateway to Argentina's enormous hinterland. For its citizens, the "porteños", the capital is all of this plus a bit of nostalgia for the good old times. And for you? Find out by coming here!

Academia Buenos Aires

Our school is located in the very city center, just opposite Plaza de Mayo and the presidential palace, in one of the first office buildings of the city. Academia occupies the top two floors and has a rooftop terrace for students to relax, enjoy the sun and even an occasional BBQ. All 16 classrooms are comfortable, well-lit and air-conditioned. Three subways end directly at the Academia and more than 20 bus lines pass by Plaza de Mayo, making public transport to all parts of town very easy and efficient.

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Uruguay

Well-positioned along the Rio de la Plata and the Atlantic coast, Uruguay ("river of the painted birds" in Guaraní) has slightly more than 3 million inhabitants, of which nearly half live in the capital city of Montevideo. While neighboring Argentina and Brazil are the largest countries in South America, Uruguay is one of the smallest of the continent. Because it has one of the best natural harbors in South America, the country was born as a strategic attempt by the Spanish Crown to consolidate a second stronghold in America (the first was Cartagena de Indias).

At Academia Uruguay, students are often surprised by its intrepid history and bold cultural traditions. The legalization of cannabis, same-sex marriage and abortion, its leadership in renewable energy, and its cutting-edge software development and "one laptop per child"-initiatives have all led Uruguay to become one of the most liberal and modern nations in the world. By all accounts, Uruguay is a remarkable leader in Latin America for democracy, peace, safety, low corruption, household income and equality and freedom of the press.

Also called "the Switzerland of America," the Oriental Republic of Uruguay is a country that offers many options to enjoy nature, peace, fresh air and hundreds of miles of beautiful sandy beaches and hilly farmland.

URUGUAY

Montevideo

Considered the city with the best quality of life in Latin America, Montevideo has an outstanding location on the banks of the Rio de la Plata. In summer you can enjoy the beach, a short walk from downtown, or one of the many parks. Nightlife takes place in various parts of the city such as Pocitos, Buceo, Parque Rodó and the Ciudad Vieja. There is a range of pubs, clubs and restaurants with a great variety of food and music from Tango and Salsa, to Brazilian music, Cumbia, Reggaeton, Pop and Electronic, and more.

A wide range of cultural activities are on offer throughout the year: museums, world-class dance venues, theaters, exhibitions, concerts, festivals, etc. Of particular importance is our Carnaval, which is completely unique and consists of daily activities for one month and a half and is the longest in the world. Candombe drum music of African origin is very important in Montevideo's culture and can be heard and seen every Saturday and Sunday in neighborhoods all around Montevideo.

Academia Uruguay

Our school is located in the old part of Montevideo, the Ciudad Vieja. It occupies the top floor of a historic building that has been restored and fitted with all necessary equipment for a modern school building. Students can enjoy the rooftop terrace or the pedestrian area and parks closeby. Public transport connects the Academia with the rest of the city, but many parts can also be reached by walking. Indeed, locals and tourists alike love taking walks along the coastal "Rambla" which connects many different "barrios".

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Testimonials

Linda Å, Sweden
former language student

“Tomé clases en español en Academia durante casi cuatro meses y realmente cambió mi vida. Ahora trabajo en una organización que protege los derechos de niños que se llama Plan International! […] trabajo con por ejemplo Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia y Nicaragua! Soy grants controller […] Sin toda la ayuda y el esfuerzo de Academia no hubiera entendido tanto como ahora. Estoy muy agradecida …”

Prof. Paul A. Bases
Martin Luther College (USA), Spanish and Methods professor

“It has been a wonderful experience working with Academia Buenos Aires. I’ve worked with language schools all over Latin America for over 20 years and I think the Academia is one of the best. I personally accompany my students and so I know first hand how good the Program is there. Their directors and his staff are real professionals. They have helped me organize study programs with my own groups from beginners to advanced level students. They even have offered my groups a highly specialized Survey of Spanish and Latin-American literature course and I have been very pleased with the results. They have also given me and my assistant access to our own personal classes!”

THE WORLD BANK

Maria Lopez
World Bank,
Learning officer

“Academia Buenos Aires has hosted World Bank staff for a number of years on immersion programs in Argentina and we keep choosing it due to their professionalism and excellent service. […] Academia helps students with all the logistics related to immersion programs such as lodging, extracurricular activities, airport pick-up, etc., making the immersion experience hassle-free and enjoyable.”

Tripadvisor

●●●●●
@JoicyRicci
Londrina, Brasil
Student at Academia Buenos Aires (2019)

“Fiquei surpreendida positivamente em todos os aspectos! TODOS sem exceção são gentis, atenciosos e amáveis! Adorei a metodologia do curso e a forma paciente, gentil e dinâmica com que o meu professor (Lucas) nos ensinava. Fui por duas semanas em um curso intensivo do qual concluí com um nível bem melhor do qual comecei. Fiz muitos amigos, tem atividades extras. As que eu mais gostei foram a inicialização no Tango (amei) e o passeio no bairro La Boca com o querido prof Juliano do qual nos explicou cada história e sua importância andando pelas ruas. Tem pessoas de todas as idades e todos, acredito que se sentem confortáveis. Super recomendo, foi SENSACIONAL! Ah! Tem chá e café a vontade todos os dias e nas segundas medias lunas :)”

●●●●●
@CourtneyL1987
Melbourne, Australia
Student at Academia Uruguay (2019)

Spending two weeks studying Spanish at Academia Uruguay is the single best thing my partner and I have done on our yearlong South America backpacking trip. We had considered buying some books and teaching ourselves, and just popped in to the Academia offices to check them out. After chatting to the lovely administration staff and taking a Spanish test (they accommodated us without warning on a Friday afternoon!), we were confident that taking a week’s worth of lessons was the right thing for us. By Tuesday, the excellent standards of teaching at the Academia Uruguay as well as our progress and (almost as important) the great friends we had already made had convinced us to sign up for a second week.

My partner and I were in different levels and both had fantastic experiences with the teachers and material provided at Academia Uruguay. It is in the heart of the Ciudad Vieja, so we were able to extend our 4-hour lessons with city walking tours, visits to museums, and many lunches in nearby restaurants where we conversed with our fellow students (all from different countries in the world, so there was no excuse to revert to any other language).

Our two-week experience at Academia Uruguay was rich enough on its own and has made us lifelong friends, but the real benefit is coming now that we have left Montevideo and are traveling again. In only two weeks (of fun!), my partner has gone from making short comments and asking a few questions to having full, complex conversations with our hosts and other travelers, and I’ve gone from saying nothing but “si!” to being able to participate in those conversations. To me, that’s a priceless gift that Academia Uruguay has given us.

TESTIMONIALS

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