

Study
Spanish
in **Querétaro**



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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 strive to give our students the best service 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 private classes in a unique Spanish language school founded in 1996.

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

Olé is located downtown of the beautiful, historical, colonial city of Santiago de Querétaro, México. In 1996, the historical downtown was declared "Cultural Heritage of Mankind" by UNESCO; 500 years of history represented in the aqueduct, temples, churches, grand colonial houses and palaces that make this city one of the most beautiful places in México. There are many interesting places to visit during the day or night, it is just 200 km (120mi) north of México City and it is one of the largest industrial and business centers of México.

It is one of the safest and cleanest cities in the country and only a few hours away from other beautiful colonial cities, such as Guanajuato and San Miguel de Allende; major centers for Mexican and international art. This city is the capital of the state of Querétaro, which includes numerous attractions for visitors, from archaeological sites to spa resorts. In the northern part of the state is the Sierra Gorda; one of the largest regions of natural areas in the central part of México. A vast territory that offers five beautiful missions founded in the 18th century by Franciscan monks; a sharp contrast between the warm almost tropical landscape of 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.

Our school is located in an old colonial home with two beautiful patios, 18 classrooms, a living room, kitchen and a BBQ area. The school grounds provide our students with a pleasant atmosphere where they can study Spanish and immerse in our culture; always making them feel part of our **Olé** family.





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

Our Spanish program is divided in thirteen levels of 45 hours each, except for the Superior level which has no hour limits. We also have designed various practical and dynamic programs and private classes with special vocabulary emphasis (business, medical, law, technical, education, etc.) to fit individual needs as well as tailor-made programs for groups.

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 a very personal attention.



The following 13 levels are offered at Olé. Our levels correspond to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines as well as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) levels:

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.

At the end of this level, students will have a basic ability to communicate and exchange information in a simple way which corresponds to the **A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**.

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.

At the end of this level, students will have the ability to deal with simple, straightforward information and begin to express oneself in familiar contexts which corresponds to the **A2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference form Languages (CEFR)**.



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 student will be generally understand 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.

At the end of this level, students will have the ability to express oneself in a limited way in familiar situations and to deal in a general way with nonroutine information; which corresponds to the **B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).**

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 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.

At the end of this level, students will have the capacity to achieve most goals and express oneself on a range of topics; which corresponds to the **B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference form Languages (CEFR)**.

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 with out 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.



At the end of this level, students will have the ability to communicate with the emphasis on how well it is done, in terms of appropriacy, sensitivity and the capacity to deal with unfamiliar topics; corresponding to the **C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference form Languages (CEFR).**

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.

At the end of this level, students will have the capacity to deal with material which is academic or cognitively demanding, and to use language to good effect at a level of performance which may in certain respects be more advanced than that of an average native speaker; corresponding to the **C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference form Languages(CEFR).**



Group 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. Classes start on any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).

- **Program A: “Spanish Group Program”, 3 hrs/day (15hrs/week).**

2 hours of grammar and vocabulary & 1 hour of conversation.

- **Program AAA: “Spanish Group Program”, 4 hrs/day (20hrs/week).**

2 hours of grammar and vocabulary, 1 hour of conversation & 1 hour of cultural workshop covering skills of the language.

- **Program B: “Spanish Intensive Group Program”, 5 hrs/day (25hrs/week).**

2 hours of grammar and vocabulary, 1 hour of conversation & 2 more hours of cultural workshops in which students will reinforce the 4 language skills with cultural topics, creating a total immersion of our language and our culture.

- **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).

Specifics for group programs

- Maximum number of students per class: 5 students/class.
- All “teaching hours” are 55 minutes per class.
- 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.
- Group classes start on Mondays (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).
- * All programs include one **Olé** Activity per week: Mexican songs, Mexican movie, Mexican games, round-table discussions, “mexicanismos”, among others.
- * All programs include a Welcome walking city tour on the first day of class.
- Group classes: If there is no group at students' level, group classes may be substituted for private classes with fewer hours per week:
Group program A of 15 hrs/week will be substituted for 12 private lessons per week. Group program AAA of 20 hrs/week will be substituted for 16 private lessons. Group program B of 25 hrs/week will be substituted for 20 private lessons per week.
- * Any missed classes are not made up.
- **Olé's Cancellation and Refund Policy apply if cancelling, whether you have begun or not.**

Private Lessons:

- Age: 5 and up
- It is required that an adult accompanies students under 18 during their stay in Querétaro.
- All levels.
- Program is opened all year-round. It is possible to start any day of the week, except on National Holidays and Sundays.
- Students may choose the amount of days and hours. (Monday thru Friday from 7am to 9pm and Saturdays from 8am to 2pm).

Specifics for private classes

- All “teaching hours” are 55 minutes per class.
- Written and oral placement exams are administered to new students in order to determine the appropriate level.
- 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.
- * All programs include one **Olé** Activity per week: Mexican songs, Mexican movie, Mexican games round-table



discussions, “mexicanismos”, among others.

* All programs include a Welcome walking city tour on the first day of class.

• **Olé** offers “Special Vocabulary” in private classes for people of all proficiency levels, ages and professional experience in different areas like: medical, business, tourism, law, education, etc. •

•• 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’s Cancellation and Refund Policy apply if cancelling, wheather you have begun or not.** •

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 is included.

• Age: 5-13 years. It is required that an adult accompanies students under 18 during their stay in Querétaro.

Specifics for Kids & Teens program:

• Maximum 8 students/group.

• All “teaching hours” are 55 minutes per class.

• Each week teachers evaluate their students.

• A certificate is given at the end of each level.

• Program minimum of one week.

• Program opened: during summer starting every Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).

* All programs include one **Olé** Activity per week: Mexican songs, Mexican movie, Mexican games, round-table discussions, “mexicanismos”, among others.

* All programs include a Welcome walking city tour on the first day of class.

• Minimum of 3 booked students is required to open the program. If not, group classes may be substituted for 20 private

lessons per week using the same methodology for the Kids & Teens program.

•• When a minimum of three students with same Spanish level book together, the program can be opened on any Monday of any other month (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday), or for less hours/day. ••

• **Olé's Cancellation and Refund Policy apply if cancelling, wheather you have begun or not.** •

Program V: "Volunteer Program"

- Age: 18 and up
- Student must have at least an intermediate low level in order to be able to communicate with the organization and people he/she will be helping. •
- Programs are opened all year-round.

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

•• Volunteer work available is with: people with disabilities, Down Syndrome, learning disabilities, language delays, girls and young ladies with social problems, elderly people, among others. ••

Specifics for Volunteer programs

• This program has no cost, but it must be combined with any of our Spanish programs. The duration of the Volunteer program cannot exceed the duration of the Spanish program. (example: 1 week of Spanish and 4 weeks of Volunteer is not possible. Nor studying one hour per day and volunteering 5 hours per day, etc.).

Two options available:

1. Volunteering in the afternoon and studying Spanish in the mornings.
2. Full time volunteer work for the same amount of weeks of the Spanish program already taken. (example: 4 weeks of Spanish and 4 weeks of full time volunteer work). Student will take the Spanish program first and then do the Volunteer program.

* Spanish program must be paid in full before beginning the Volunteer program.

• A letter of appreciation is given at the end of the Volunteer program indicating the amount of hours and type of volunteer work done.

* The schedule of volunteering depends on the Schedule and needs of each organization.

English Practicum program



- Age: 22 and up
- * Practicum student must have a TESOL diploma or similar.
- * Teach English for 30 hours per week (at **Olé** or at the address of an **Olé** client) in exchange for private homestay with three meals included (except on Sundays but student can use the ingredients in the kitchen to prepare his/her own meals). *Transportation to other teaching sites will be covered by **Olé**.
- Student can join one of our Spanish group classes opened at that time, no private classes. (If the student level is different from the groups we have open at that time, the student will be placed in the group that has the closer level to his/her level). Priority will be given to the schedule of teaching English not the Spanish classes.
- * Program is five months and a half long. Student must commit to this time.
- * At the end of the practicum, a letter of recognition will be given, indicating the amount of hours taught.
- Program opened all year-round.

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 programs, etc.) or we can organize a program tailored to their specific needs and/or with an emphasis to specific vocabulary such as: law, education, religion, psychology, nursing, etc.

- Minimum of 5 students is required and program can be opened on any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).
- 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)
- **Olé’s Cancellation and Refund Policy apply if cancelling, wheather you have begun or not.**



DELE preparation program

- Age: 14 and up
- It is required that an adult accompanies students under 18 during their stay in Querétaro.
- All levels: A1, A2, A2/B1 escolares, B1, B2, C1 and C2.
- Programs opened all year-round. Classes start on any Monday (Tuesday when Monday is a National Holiday).
- * Private classes
- * 2 weeks
- * Schedule: 9:00 am – 14:30 pm
- * 50 hours
- * All “teaching hours” are 55 minutes per class.
- * Missed classes are not made up.
- **Olé’s Cancellation and Refund Policy apply if cancelling, whether you have begun or not.** •

Program is focused on preparing students to take the **DELE** level exam they wish to apply (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 & C2). This is not a grammar course, it is designed to practice what students already know; practice and simulation according to the sections the **DELE** exam covers:

Reading comprehension, wording, listening comprehension and oral practice.

academic credits

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.

Olé is not just about Spanish classes, but is an all around Mexican experience. We strongly recommend combining extracurricular activities with any Spanish program.



Olé will help students take advantage of their stay by arranging cultural and recreational 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 with visits to downtown:

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.

- Classes take place in the afternoons or Saturdays.
- Approximate time per class: 2-3 hours depending on the class.
- Most sites are walking distance from **Olé** and are some classes are divided by themes of Mexican history. You can choose as many cultural classes as you wish to include in your program.

For example:

- **“Independence of Mexico”** Visit Jardín de la Corregidora, Casa de la Corregidora, Casa de Conspiradores, Plaza de Armas, Casa Ecala, Casa de Don Bartolo”.
- **“Maximiliano, the Emperor (first part)”** Visit “Iglesia de Teresitas and Ex-Convento de la Cruz y Panteón de los hombres ilustres”.
- **“Mexican Revolution and Constitution”** Visit “Teatro de la República, Casa Mota, Antiguo Hotel Iturbide, Jardín Zenea, Plaza de la Constitución y Alameda Hidalgo” Visit “Market”. Going to a local market to buy ingredients to make a guacamole.
- Visit **CEDAI Museum** and Center (Centro de desarrollo artesanal indígena): they promote the economic and cultural development of indigenous people near our city. Students will do an ART ACTIVITY.
- Among other visits and museums.

2. Mexican pal:

- Each session has a duration of two hours each.
- Ratio of 3-4 students to 1 Mexican Pal.
- Classes take place in the afternoons or Saturdays.
- Minimum of 2 students per class.

The Mexican Pal Program pairs a native Spanish speaker with three or four students. Together, they will practice Spanish, get to know the city and understand more about Mexican culture in an informal way. The Mexican Pal is not a teacher nor a tourist guide, thus providing a different way to view our city and our culture.



3. Cooking class and visit to market:

- Approx 4 hours each. The group will go to the market to buy the ingredients, come back to **Olé** and learn to cook a full
- Mexican meal and enjoy it at the end of the class.
- Class takes place in the afternoons.
- Minimum of 3 students per class.

4. Dance class:

- 1 hour each class
- Salsa or Mexican Folklore to choose from.
- Class takes place in the afternoon.
- Minimum of 3 students per class.

5. "Olé Activity":

- Once a week, in the afternoon. **FREE** for all of our students.
- Mexican lottery & games, Mexican movies, Mexican songs, "mexicanismos" among others.

6. Welcome City tour:

- Welcome walking tour of the historical downtown is **FREE** for all students on the first day of class.

7. Fieldtrips and weekend tours:

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

8. Additional activities:

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).



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 (for shared room, students must come with his or her own companion).

Specifics:

- Homestay is booked from the Sunday to Sunday or Saturday to Saturday. Minimum stay is one week and additional nights can be booked.
- Homes are no more than 40 minutes walking distance from school or 15 minutes by public bus.
- It 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.

Your family is aware of the food preferences and allergies you specified in your registration form. It is very important for you to talk about your food preferences. You have to let them know what you usually eat and what you don't like. If you do not feel confident/fluent with your Spanish to be able to do this, please let us know and we can help you with that.

Please notice that in México, meals are at different times from other countries.

Breakfast (Desayuno: 7:00-9:00 am),

Lunch (Comida: 2:00-4:00 pm, main meal)

Dinner (Cena: 7:30-9:00 pm, light meal)

- You will have a house key. PLEASE take good care of it and do return it the day you leave.
- You will have access to all the common areas in the house (patios, garden, kitchen, TV room, living room, etc.).



- We strongly encourage you to participate in your homestay family events. All costs incurred by the you because of activities and invitations with the host family, must be paid by you. You are free to decide if they want to attend or not.
- You can wash your clothes at your homestay, please ask the host mom first in order for them to show you how it works; you must buy your own soap. If you prefer you can hire a laundry service with pick-up & drop-off service at **Olé** or at your homestay.
- Homestay includes towels and sheets. These will be changed weekly.
- As to your bedroom, it is important that you feel comfortable from day one. So if you need a blanket (Cobija), sheets (sábanas), pillow (almohada), or additional towel (toallas), do not hesitate to request the family for one.
- The first day of class a member of your family will take you to school and pick you up at the school to take you home. This way you will learn how to get from your home to school and from school to your home.
- All homestay situations, problems, etc. must be dealt directly with the school, not with the host family.

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.

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



There are two airports that give service to Querétaro:

Querétaro Airport

We offer pick-up and drop-off service by car with chauffeur or someone from our staff. Students will be received at the Querétaro airport station and taken to their homestay by car.

- Maximum 3 students per car.
- • If for any reason, you do not find the chauffeur, please wait outside the arrivals area, he/she will look for you. ••

Querétaro Bus Station

We offer pick-up and drop-off service by car with chauffeur or someone from our staff. Students will be received at the Querétaro bus station and taken to their homestay by car. To give us an estimated time of arrival at the Querétaro bus station, you need to add about 4 hours from your arrival time in México City.

- Maximum 3 students per car.
- • We will be waiting for you outside the boarding area (inside the station) near the taxi ticket sales stand. If for any reason, you do not find our **Olé** staff member, please wait there; he/she will look for you. ••

México City airport

There are buses that leave directly from this airport to the city of Querétaro. It is very easy, only a 3 hour ride and the buses are very comfortable.

