



Study Abroad Information for Spanish Majors and Minors



Studying abroad can be a life-changing experience for students. For undergraduates studying a foreign language, it can be essential in bridging the gap from proficient to fluent. The cultural immersion and daily use of the language cannot be fully replicated in a classroom. Whether you chose to study in one of a number of countries in Latin America or the Caribbean or you choose to venture across the Atlantic Ocean to Spain, living and learning in a Spanish-speaking country strengthens language skills, builds cultural understanding, and enhances personal growth.

Any three-credit study abroad experience can fulfill the [Experiential Learning](#) requirement of the 33-credit Spanish Major.

This document offers information about studying abroad at Eastern with a particular focus on the needs and interests of Spanish Majors and Minors. After using this guide as a starting resource, students should follow up with the Office of Global Learning for more details and to take the next steps.

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Ways to Study Abroad at Eastern

There are a number of ways to study abroad at Eastern. Each opportunity has its positives and drawbacks. Students need to evaluate each option for their own potential needs and situations.

1. National Student Exchange (NSE)
2. Global Field Courses
3. Third Party Providers

See below for fuller descriptions of each option. Eastern also offers study abroad experience as [Partner Universities](#) in Europe and Canada, but as of Fall 2025, Eastern does not yet have a Partner University in a Spanish-speaking country. Therefore, studying through a Partner University is NOT yet a good option for Spanish Major or Minors.

1. National Student Exchange (NSE) - An affordable and practical way for students to study in different locations across the territories of the United States, including Puerto Rico.

Most courses at participating NSE universities in Puerto Rico are taught in Spanish, making it a good option for Spanish majors or minors looking for an immersive language experience.

With the NSE, students can apply their regular financial aid and scholarships to pay Eastern's tuition but then pay the room and board costs and some use/activity fees to the host institution. Relative to room and board fees in Connecticut, fees at Puerto Rican universities tend to be very reasonable, making NSE an affordable way to 'study abroad.'

Another benefit of 'studying abroad in Puerto Rico' is that American citizens are legally eligible to work in Puerto Rico without a visa or special permit. There is no guarantee to finding employment while studying abroad, but for some students, it is a financial necessity to work while going to school. In Puerto Rico, it is *possible* to do so.

Students should explore the [NSE website](#) for the details on studying in Puerto Rico but below are some quick highlights.

4 universities in Puerto Rico participate in the NSE (information collected 08/2025, subject to change)

- University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras (San Juan) -
 - University of Puerto Rico's flagship campus with an enrollment of 14,000
 - Highly competitive courses in Computer Sciences, Communication, Psychology and Business Administration.
 - Limited on-campus housing (\$1,274/semester); off-campus housing available
 - Estimated UPR fees: \$415/semester
 - Meal plan estimated at \$3,500/semester
- University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez
 - Located on western coast with an enrollment of 10,000
 - Most course are taught in Spanish, but a variety of courses are offered in English.
 - No on-campus housing. Off-campus housing estimated at \$365/month
 - Meal plans not available
 - Host institution fees estimated at \$435/semester
- Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo
 - On northwest coast of PR. Enrollment of 2,600
 - Only off-campus housing available, estimated at \$250-\$250/month
 - Meal plans not available
 - No additional host fees
- University of Puerto Rico, Cayey
 - Located in the mountains of central PR (approximately 45 minutes from San Juan).
 - Enrollment of 1,900

- Spanish language courses may have limited availability.
- No on-campus housing. Off-campus house estimated at \$300/month.
- Meal plans not available
- Host university fees estimated at \$1,255/semester
- Book fee is estimated at \$1,084

2. Global Field Courses (GFC) – are a unique way to study abroad. GFC are taught by Eastern professors and directly confer Eastern credit, but are taught, in part, abroad. Courses offered vary year to year and are only offered in the spring semester. The duration of the trip abroad and number of credits awarded varies by course. The travel portion of the course can occur during Spring Break or in the weeks immediately following the end of the spring semester. Typically, some on-campus class meetings (for trip preparation or debriefing) are part of the experience.

Each fall the Office of Global Learning releases the list of GFCs that will be offered the following spring.

Positives of GFC - Because GFCs are offered by Eastern, there are several benefits to students. One, the potential hassle of transferring credits from another institution is eliminated because GFC offered by Eastern. Secondly, a student's regular financial aid package at Eastern can be applied to GFC.

Cost & Financial Aid - The cost of GFCs vary by course, depending on the duration and location of the trip, as well as the activities included. Students can apply their regular Financial Aid awards toward GFCs. In addition, students can apply for Eastern-based scholarships (up to \$1,000) to help defray GFCs costs. Information and application for this scholarship is usually posted on the [Global Learning](#) website by mid-October.

Examples of past trips that are relevant for Spanish Majors & Minors

- **Spring 2026 – ANT 380 – Puerto Rico: History, Culture, and Environment** – A trip led by Prof. Pérez, an Anthropology professor. Spanish language skills not required but recommended. Stays in San Juan, El Yunque, and Casa Pueblo. Travel over Spring Break, along with several on-campus class meetings before and after travel. 4 credits. Estimated \$3,900.
- **Spring 2017 – BUS 463 – Seminar International Business** – A trip led by Prof. Villaneuva, a Business professor. Spanish language skill not required but useful. Stays in Barcelona and Madrid. Travel in May. 4 credits.

3. Third Party Providers – offer ‘traditional’ study abroad experiences, as well as internship-based abroad experiences to a variety of Spanish speaking countries across Latin America and Europe.

- Programs are available for Fall and Spring semesters, as well as shorter summer and winter programs. Summer and winter programs are potentially appealing for Eastern athletes that need to be on campus during their sport season.
- Because there are a wide range of programs offered by Third Party Vendors, the language proficiency needed varies. Some programs are for beginners, offering courses in English as well as in Spanish. Other programs are for intermediate and advanced Spanish learners. Students can search for programs that are a good fit for their individual language-learning needs. To ensure the right fit for students, proficiency tests are administered by the provider or the host university.
- Currently, Eastern has relationships with four (4) Third Party Vendors: [API – Academic Programs International](#), [CEA – CAPA](#), [CIS Abroad – Center for International Studies](#), [World Strides](#). More information about how Eastern students can use a Third Party Vendor can be found the [Office of Global Studies](#) webpage. A profile of the Spanish language program options for each vendor is provided below.
- Each provider and program sets its own price and determines what is included in the price (tuition, room & board, excursions, flights). In addition to the Third Party Provider fees, Eastern students need to pay Eastern \$150 per program.
 - If students use one of Eastern’s four (4) approved Third Party Vendors, then a student’s regular financial aid or scholarships can be applied to the study abroad fees of the Third Party Vendor. The process for applying the financial aid requires consultation with an advisor in the [Financial Aid Office](#).

[API – Academic Programs International](#)

- Study abroad and internship programs
- Countries: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, and Spain.
 - Cities in Argentina: Buenos Aires, Mendoza
 - Cities for Chile: Valparaiso, Viña del Mar, Santiago
 - Cities in Costa Rica: San Jose, San Joaquin
 - Cities in Spain: Barcelona, Bilbao, Granada, Madrid, Salamanca, Sevilla, Valencia
- Fall, Spring and Summer term options available; Winter (January) term only available in Salamanca, Spain.
 - Academic calendar for Argentina & Chile is different than US or Europe. Typically, ‘Fall’ semester runs June/July – November. ‘Spring’ semester runs February – late May/June.
- Programs offered with intensive language study, as well as culture, tourism, business, health science, politics, history, and environmental studies.

- Example programs (as of Fall 2025, subject to change):
 - *Short-term Intensive Language Studies*, January 2026
 - Universidad de Salamanca
 - Jan. 5 – Jan. 22, 2026 (17 days)
 - 3 credits
 - Starting at \$4,999
 - *Spanish Language and Culture, Barcelona*, Spring 2026
 - Universitat de Barcelona
 - Jan. 14 – May 1, 2026 (16 weeks)
 - 12 credits
 - Starting at \$17,399
 - *Multidisciplinary & Environmental Studies in Costa Rica*, Spring 2026
 - Universidad Veritas
 - Jan. 31 – May 1, 2026 (14 weeks)
 - 12-14 credits
 - Starting at \$12,999
 - *Argentine & Latin American Studies in Buenos Aires*, Spring 2026
 - Universidad de Belgrano
 - Feb. 22 – Jun. 13, 2026 (16 weeks)
 - 12 – 15 credits
 - Starting at \$15,999
 - *Medical Spanish and Shadowing in Mendoza*, Summer 2026
 - Universidad de Congreso
 - Jun. 26 – Aug. 1, 2026 (6 weeks)
 - 7.5 credits
 - Starting at \$6,899
 - *Business and Latin American Studies in Viña del Mar*, Fall 2026
 - Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez: Viña del Mar
 - Jul. 27 – Nov. 29, 2026 (18 weeks)
 - 12 – 17 credits
 - Starting at \$16,799

CEA – CAPA

- Study abroad and internship programs
- Programs in Argentina, Costa Rica and Spain
- Fall, Spring and Summer terms
- Programs with intensive language studies as well as business, medical Spanish, culture, and environmental science.
- Example program (as of Fall 2025, subject to change):
 - *History, Politics and International Studies*, Madrid, Spring 2026
 - Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

- Jan. 16 – May 30, 2026 (19 weeks)
- 12 – 15 credits
- Starting at \$21,995
- *Intensive Spanish Language, San Jose, Summer 2026*
 - Veritas University
 - Early Jul. – Aug. 2026 (4 weeks)
 - 4 credits
 - Starting at \$4,995
- *Medical Spanish & Health Sciences, San Jose, Summer 2026*
 - Veritas University
 - Late May – Jun. 2026 (5 weeks)
 - 7 – 8 credits
 - Starting at \$5,895
- *Latin American Studies, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Summer 2026*
 - Universidad de Belgrano
 - Jun. 16 – Jul. 25, 2026 (5.5 weeks)
 - 6 credits
 - Starting at \$6,595
- *Study + Internship in Barcelona, Summer 2026*
 - CEA CAPA Barcelona Center
 - May 20 – Jul. 25, 2025 (9.5 weeks)
 - 6 – 7 credits
 - Starting at \$8,595
- *Advanced Spanish Language and Culture, Seville, Fall 2026*
 - University of Seville
 - Early Sept. – mid Dec. 2026 (15 weeks)
 - 12 – 15 credits
 - Starting at \$18,295

CIS Abroad

- Programs in San Jose, Costa Rica and Barcelona, Spain.
- No internship programs available.
- Fall, Spring and Summer terms available.
- Spanish language courses offered. In addition, students can take courses in English in social science, humanities, art, business and health science. Course offerings vary by program and host university.
- Example programs (as of Fall 2025, subject to change):
 - *Summer in Barcelona, Summer 2026*
 - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
 - May 28 – Jul. 16, 2026 (6 weeks)
 - 6 credits (3 credits in Spanish language and 3 in a choice of disciplines).

- Program includes several excursions and activities.
- Starting at \$7,190
- *Semester in Costa Rica, San Jose, Fall 2026*
 - Universidad Veritas
 - Sept. 19 – Dec. 12, 2026 (12 weeks)
 - 12 – 16 credits (numerous Spanish courses offered in language development, literature, culture, speaking, business, and medical, as well as other disciplines.)
 - Program includes several excursions to nearby cultural and historical sites.
 - Starting at \$11,990

World Strides

- Programs in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Spain
- Study abroad programs, as well as study and internships and study and community engagement (volunteer work).
- Offers wide variety of program durations. Traditional fall and spring semester options are available. Summer terms, as well as winter inter-session (called J-term) options. Also offers rolling month-long programs.
- Program for intensive language study as well as coursework in business, Latin American studies, sustainability, STEM, health sciences and tourism.
- Example programs (as of Fall 2025, subject to change). Many more options available.
 - *Intensive Spanish Language, Málaga, Spain, J-term*
 - Universidad de Málaga
 - Jan. 7 – Jan. 21, 2026 (2 weeks)
 - 3 credits
 - Starting at \$2,950
 - *Spanish Language & Latin American Studies, Chile, Spring 2026*
 - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso
 - Mid Feb. 2026 – Late June 2025
 - 12 – 16 credits
 - Starting at \$15,450
 - *Sustainability & Community Studies, Peru, Spring 2026*
 - WorldStrides Global Campus, Cusco, Peru
 - Jan. 23 – May 2, 2026
 - 12 – 17 credits – take intensive language course, as well as other discipline courses. Can add a credit-bearing community engagement (volunteer) aspect to experience.
 - Starting at 11,995
 - *Medical Spanish Immersion, Buenos Aires, Summer 2026*
 - Universidad de Belgrano

- Jun. 20 – Jul. 24, 2026
- Designed for upper intermediate Spanish speakers interested in pursuing a career in medical field.
- 8 credits
- Starting at \$7,450
- *Business, Latin American Studies and Spanish Language, Peru, Summer 2026*
 - Universidad de Piura, Lima
 - Mid-May – Mid Jul. 2026
 - 6 – 10 credits
 - Starting at \$5,750

Financial Aid

Paying for study abroad can be one of the main roadblocks for students interested in an experience abroad. There are a number of scholarship and grant opportunities available to students that can make study abroad more affordable. Some scholarships can come directly from Eastern, others can come from the Third Party Provider, and then there are other grants from non-profit foundations, for-profit companies, and governmental agencies. Below is a brief introduction to some of these options.

Students are advised to meet with a representative from the [Financial Aid Office](#) to explore all potential financial aid options. Study abroad should be financially accessible to most students with financial assistance.

Eastern-based Financial Aid

[Global Citizenship Council \(GCC\)](#) – an initiative of Eastern to help develop well-rounded and productive citizens of the world. The GCC provides support for students studying abroad. Awards are based on a student's financial need up to \$1,500 (as long as funds are available). A FAFSA must be on file in Financial Aid offer for consideration. Students can apply [online](#). Deadline: November 1.

[Lee \(LeClaire\) B. Watts Endowed Scholarship](#) – an Eastern Foundation scholarship that was founded in memory Dr. Lee B. Watts, a dedicated Spanish Language & Literature professor. Recipients of the Lee B. Watts Scholarship will be students who have a sincere interest in Spanish and Spanish Literature and are in good academic standing. Award recipients are not restricted to study abroad students. There is no separate application process. [Eastern's Financial Aid Office](#) works to match students with appropriate scholarships. Students are encouraged to file the FAFSA by March 1 to receive the best consideration for scholarships and other financial aid.

[Tammy E. Schaeffer Memorial Endowed Scholarship](#) – An Eastern Foundation scholarship in memory of a Tammy Schaeffer, an Eastern alumna whose passion in life was the Spanish language. The recipient must be a promising student with unmet financial need, in good academic standing, and planning to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country. There is no separate application process. [Eastern's Financial Aid Office](#) works to match students with appropriate scholarships. Students are encouraged to file the FAFSA by March 1 to receive the best consideration for scholarships and other financial aid.

[John D. Heredia Endowed Scholarship](#) – An Eastern Foundation scholarship for students with unmet financial need and interested in pursuing Latin American (or Native American) Studies or who have made a contribution to Latin American (or Native American) culture. This scholarship is relevant for students interested in studying abroad in Latin America. There is no separate application process. [Eastern's Financial Aid Office](#) works to match students with appropriate scholarships. Students are encouraged to file the FAFSA by March 1 to receive the best consideration for scholarships and other financial aid.

[Polly Bogue Memorial Endowed Scholarship](#) – An Eastern Foundation scholarship in memory of Polly Bogue, an Eastern alumna and one of the founding members of the Nu Chi Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. This scholarship is for students with financial need with preference to those who are majoring or minoring in World Languages & Cultures (Spanish or French) or minoring in Latin American Studies. There is no separate application process. [Eastern's Financial Aid Office](#) works to match students with appropriate scholarships. Students are encouraged to file the FAFSA by March 1 to receive the best consideration for scholarships and other financial aid.

Third Party Vendor Financial Aid

Each of the Third Party Vendors offer financial aid for their programs. Application award amounts, deadlines and requirements vary by vendor. Below are links to each of their financial aid webpages.

- [API – Academic Programs International](#)
- [CEA – CAPA](#)
- [CIS Abroad – Center for International Studies](#)
- [World Strides](#)

Other External Scholarships & Financial Resources

- [Hosteling International](#) – offers two scholarships that may be relevant to study abroad students.
 - [Explore the World Travel Scholarship](#) – a \$2,000 need-based award for young Americans embarking on an international educational or service trip.
 - [First Passport Edition](#) – a \$3,000 stipend to assist young Americans that have never had a passport and plan to embark on an international education or service trip.

- [Gilman-McCain Scholarship](#) – a \$5,000 award for child or spousal dependents of active or activated United States military personnel to study or intern abroad on a credit-bearing program.
- [Sigma Delta Pi Undergraduate Study Abroad Award Program](#) – A \$2,500 award for a summer or semester abroad program. Must be a Spanish major or minor AND a member of Sigma Delta Pi.
- [Fund for Education Abroad \(FEA\)](#) – a non-profit study abroad scholarship provider that provides up to \$5,000 for approved study abroad programs. Two of the Third Party Vendors that Eastern works with (CEA – CAPA and WorldStrides) are FEA-approved study abroad program providers.
- [Assorted monthly scholarships](#) – there are a number of scholarships that are not specifically for study abroad, but they are easy to apply for and their awards are sent directly to a student's Eastern account, and can then be applied to any Eastern-approved study abroad program. Just one example of these types of scholarships is the No Essay Scholarship by Sallie. You can apply online monthly with a simple online form. The \$2,000 award winner is selected monthly.

Important Reminders

- Most students study abroad in their sophomore or junior year, but students can study abroad anytime after their first semester at Eastern.
- Students must meet with their Faculty Advisors to discuss how a study abroad experience can impact their graduation plan. All Faculty Advisors of traveling students need to complete an Academic Approval Form prior to travel.
- ELAC requirements can be completed during a study abroad experience. Consultation with Faculty Advisors is necessary.
- Major and minor requirements can also be completed during a study abroad experience. The Chair of the World Languages and Cultures Dept, currently [Prof. Chan](#), needs to approve if a study abroad course can fulfill requirements for a Spanish major or minor.
- Deadlines (generally, check on individual program deadlines)
 - For Spring or Winter Terms - October 15
 - For Summer or Fall Terms – March 15
- A minimum 2.5 GPA is required for all study abroad options.
- Courses taken through Third Party Providers or foreign universities do NOT impact a student's Eastern GPA. However, grades earned via NSE experience DO affect a student's Eastern GPA.
- Students need to earn C- or higher in any course for credits to transfer back to Eastern.