



Northern Illinois University

Study Abroad Office

# *Spanish Language and Culture in Toledo, Spain*

*June 14 - July 17, 2015*

This program is coordinated by Northern Illinois University's Study Abroad Office (SAO) and sponsored by the NIU Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Español en Toledo (ESTO), an affiliate of the Universidad de Castilla - La Mancha.

**PROGRAM DATES:** Students should plan to arrive in Toledo on Sunday, June 14, 2015 (see "Arrival in Spain" section). The academic portion of the program will officially begin with the commencement of classes on Monday, June 15, 2015. Classes will end on Friday, July 17; however, students may reside in the dormitory or with their host families until Sunday, July 19.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** Every year since 1984 ESTO (Español en Toledo) has been offering a variety of courses on Spanish Language and Culture, aimed at non-natives, under the auspices of the University of Castilla - La Mancha and the sponsorship of the Patronato Universitario de Toledo. The overall objective of this program is to provide students with the opportunity of living in Spain for five weeks, while also being immersed in the language and culture of contemporary Spain. The program endeavors to provide enrichment of the student's general culture through small classes in the picturesque old part of the city, along with a strong orientation toward both humanistic learning and more pragmatic studies in Spanish business and commercial correspondence. Not only does the program increase the student's knowledge of Spanish, both written and oral, but a series of afternoon cultural lectures and field trips on dance, film, cuisine, historical monuments and museums provides opportunities to expand one's cultural knowledge beyond the formal literary, historical and commercial course work of the morning classes. In addition, the program includes various field trips to unique and exciting cultural and historical sites.

**NIU PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Professor Stephen Vilaseca is an associate professor at NIU. He earned a PhD in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Linguistics from the University of Minnesota. His research interests include 20th and 21st-century Spanish Peninsular literature and film, urban studies, cultural geography, and spatial theory. He has published a book on Spanish squatters and articles on the relationship between public and private space, urban growth and cultural resistance in Spain. He is looking forward to directing the program and to interacting with students in Spain.



**UNIVERSIDAD DE CASTILLA - LA MANCHA FACULTY (UCLM):** FLSP 301, 302, and 311 will be taught by instructors from the Universidad de Castilla – La Mancha.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CASTILLA - LA MANCHA:** Classes will be held at the beautiful Palacio de Lorenzana, formerly the residence of a Spanish Cardinal. The University of Castilla - La Mancha is a modern comprehensive Spanish university, with campuses in Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca and Toledo. It was founded in 1982 by combining several university centers which had formerly been under the direction of the University of Madrid. Today it consists of 33,000 students, 7,000 of them at the Toledo campus, and 1,200 faculty organized into 25 departments. The Toledo campus consists of Faculties of Law and Social Sciences; Environmental Studies; Humanities; Engineering; Nursing and Physical Therapy; Physical Education; and Education.



Toledo's cathedral

Participants in this program will have access to the University library, housed in the lovely San Pedro Mártir Building, along with the same rights and privileges as Spanish students (sports clubs or cultural activities) for free or reduced prices.

**TOLEDO: THE SITE OF THE PROGRAM:** Toledo, the most important city in Medieval Spain, has a very rich cultural history and is one of the most picturesque and beautiful places in all Castile. A fortress town since pre-Roman times, Toledo was the ancient capital of the Visigothic Kings. Retaken from the Moors by the King Alfonso VI in 1085, it became the most important political and social center of Spain throughout the Middle Ages and early Renaissance. It was the scene of a fusion of Christian, Arab, and Jewish culture, an example of which was the School of Translators established by Alfonso X the Wise in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Many of its buildings show Islamic influences, including former mosques and the Mudéjar synagogues of Santa Maria la Blanca (12<sup>th</sup> century) and El Tránsito (14<sup>th</sup> century). The Cathedral is generally considered the most Hispanic of Spanish Gothic cathedrals. In fact, the historical heritage is so rich that the whole city is a veritable museum. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was the home of the great Greco-Spanish artist, El Greco, many of whose paintings can be seen in some of the buildings of the city, as well as in his former home which has been preserved as a museum.



The Alcázar or fortress which dominates the city was begun about 1531 to a design by Alonso de

Covarrubias, with a fine patio by Francisco Villalpando. Toledo's narrow winding streets, its ancient walls, medieval castles and bridges, make it one of the most picturesque cities in Spain. Currently, it is home to over 60,000 Spaniards and a direct 30-minute train ride from Madrid. Toledo is one of the most attractive possible sites in which to learn the language and absorb the atmosphere of Spain.

**PROGRAM AUDIENCE:** This program is open to intermediate and advanced undergraduate level and graduate level students. Students should have an interest in Spanish language and culture, along with a desire to increase their knowledge of these areas through the means of an on-site experience (see section entitled, "Eligibility Requirements").

**CLASSES:** The program will be conducted totally in Spanish.

*Students may enroll for a maximum of two courses, or 6 semester hours of credit.* Each class will meet for approximately two hours per period each day of the week in addition to other outside-the-classroom assignments. Students enrolled for graduate level courses will meet for an additional one hour session daily with Professor Vilaseca.

Class attendance is mandatory.

Students will also be required to attend informal meetings each day that will provide orientation, exploration and study of Toledo and its culture and history. All students will be required to submit a paper for each class on a designated topic by a deadline to be designated by the professors. Ten-page papers are required of undergraduate level students and 15-page papers are required of graduate level students. The papers will be submitted to Professor Vilaseca on the last day of classes, Friday July 17, 2015.



Toledo and its Alcázar

attend

**ACADEMIC CREDIT:** Participants are *required* to enroll in one or two of the following courses. The courses taken while participating on a study abroad program **cannot** be audited.

**Undergraduate Credit:**

FLSP 301, *Advanced Spanish Grammar*

FLSP 302, *Advanced Spanish Composition in Spanish*

FLSP 311, *Advanced Spanish Conversation*

FLSP 461, *Special Topics in Spanish Civilization*

FLST 481, *Special Topics in Literature I*

**Graduate Credit:**

FLSP 561, *Spanish Civilization*

FLST 581, *Special Topics in Literature I*

**UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT**

<b>FLSP 461: Special Topics in Spanish Civilization</b> <b>Instructor: Professor Vilaseca</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Development of the Spanish pattern of civilization from pre-Roman times to the present. <b>Prerequisite:</b> FLSP 361 or FLSP 362.	
<b>FLSP 301: Advanced Spanish Grammar</b> <b>Instructor: UCLM Instructor</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Emphasis on understanding grammatical concepts and terminology, recognition of grammatical forms and structures, and understanding their use to communicate meaning. Attention also given to conventions of orthography. Taught in Spanish. <b>Prerequisite:</b> FLSP 202 or FLSP 215, or equivalent.	
<b>FLSP 302: Advanced Composition in Spanish</b> <b>Instructor: UCLM Instructor</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Introduction to different forms and styles of written Spanish. <b>Prerequisite:</b> FLSP 301 or equivalent.	
<b>FLSP 311: Advanced Spanish Conversation</b> <b>Instructor: UCLM Instructor</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Intensive practical training in conversational skills to achieve fluency of expression. <b>Prerequisite:</b> FLSP 202 and FLSP 211, or FLSP 215.	
<b>FLST 481 Special Topics in Literature I</b> <b>Instructor: Professor Vilaseca</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Study of a major author, genre, theme, period, or literary movement. Topics announced. Multiple enrollments in a single term are permissible. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 semester hours per language as topic changes. <b>Prerequisite:</b> Consent of department	

**GRADUATE CREDIT**

<b>FLSP 561: Special Topics in Spanish Civilization</b> <b>Instructor: Professor Vilaseca</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Development of the Spanish pattern of civilization from pre-Roman times to the present.	
<b>FLST 581 Special Topics in Literature I</b> <b>Instructor: Professor Vilaseca</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Study of a major author, genre, theme, period, or literary movement. Topics announced. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 semester hours as topic changes. <b>Prerequisite:</b> Consent of department.	

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** Students must have completed all prerequisites for each course.

**HONORS CREDIT:** Qualified students may also elect to receive Honors credit for any study abroad course(s) with the approval of the NIU faculty or instructor responsible for the course. For more information please contact the University Honors Office.

**PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Three years college level Spanish.** Undergraduates must have satisfactorily completed a minimum of **6** semesters of college level courses in Spanish prior to application to the program.
- Spanish majors/minors must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and 3.00 in Spanish courses.
- A brief essay written in Spanish outlining your background in Spanish language and culture, your interest in this program, as well as how the program will assist you academically and in the future.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old.
- Approval from the NIU Director of Undergraduate Advising and the Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

**NIU STUDENT ADVISEMENT:** Undergraduate students currently enrolled at NIU must consult with Professor John Bentley, Director of Undergraduate Advising in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (FL&L) prior to selecting courses in order to ensure fulfillment of graduation requirements.

Graduate level students currently enrolled at NIU must consult with Professor Chris Nissen, Director of Graduate Advising in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures prior to selecting courses in order to ensure fulfillment of graduation requirements.

When a student applies for this program, the Study Abroad Office will contact Professor Bentley or Professor Nissen to verify course pre-requisites and approval for participation in the program.

**NON-NIU STUDENT ADVISEMENT:** Students who are not currently enrolled at Northern Illinois University must submit an official transcript from their home institution when submitting their program application. The Study Abroad Office will share these materials with the NIU Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to verify course pre-requisites and approval for participation in the program.

**APPLICATION:** Click [Spanish Language and Culture in Toledo, Spain](https://niu.studioabroad.com) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for the *Spanish Language and Culture in Toledo, Spain* program) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the website.

**\$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT:** A \$200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$200 is broken down into \$100 for the non-refundable application fee and \$100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$200. More detailed instructions regarding the application fee/deposit can be found on the seminar application website.

**IMPORTANT** – All applications will be categorized as “Pending – No Deposit” until the \$200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the \$200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the \$200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE:</b> April 1, 2015.
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**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES:** Currently enrolled students must meet NIU Office of Admission or Graduate School, as well as Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course and GPA requirements. Students must be in good academic standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic probation are not eligible to participate. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate admission and course requirements.**

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the registrar at their home institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued and photocopied transcripts are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the NIU Study Abroad Office.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL) within NIU's Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled nor previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the program.

NIU students cannot have any encumbrances against their records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's



Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

**TRANSATLANTIC TRANSPORTATION:** Individuals will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements between the U.S. and Toledo, and for purchasing their own tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is recommended.) Participants should keep in mind that they need to arrive in Toledo on Sunday, June 14. Students should depart the U.S. no later than Saturday, June 13 in order to take advantage of the coach pick-up at the Barajas Airport in Madrid on June 14 (see “Arrival in Spain” section).

**Important** - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program should not be booked until:

- a. After the April 1, 2015 application deadline
- AND**
- b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled,

**CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM**)

**ARRIVAL IN SPAIN:** If the size of the NIU group is sufficient then there will be a coach at the Barajas International Airport in Madrid on Sunday, June 14 at a time to be specified at a later date. The coach will depart from the Barajas Airport at a time based on the arrival of the greatest number of students. The coach is optional; students may choose to find their own transportation to Toledo. From Barajas airport the Metro (subway) runs regularly to Atocha train station, from which trains run regularly to Toledo.

**LAND TRANSPORTATION:** Travel on program-related field trips will be by chartered coaches. Travel during free time is the responsibility of the student.

**HOUSING AND MEALS:** Students are housed in double rooms in the Universidad de Castilla - La Mancha student residences, which are located within walking distance (approximately 10 minutes) from the Palacio de Lorenzana where classes are held. Three meals per day are provided **Monday through Friday** with the residence hall option. Students who opt to live in the student residence may request to live with a student from the NIU program, or with a student from one of the other programs from around the world being hosted by ESTO.

Students also have the option of staying with a host family in Toledo. The additional cost for this option is **\$225**. Students normally become a part of the family. Meals are taken with the family, therefore making practice of one's Spanish a necessity.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:** Various cultural activities and trips will be arranged by ESTO. Examples of past activities and trips: Guided tours of Don Quijote sites, the Prado Museum in

Madrid, Segovia. The number and types of cultural activities and trips may vary will be confirmed upon arrival in Toledo.

**PASSPORT:** All participants are expected to possess a passport in order to participate in this program. *Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.* Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately. Information on acquiring a passport is available at the U.S. State Department's Website: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html>. U.S. passport holders do not need special visas for this program. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel in Europe **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD:** The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

**VISA:** A visa is not required for US citizens staying in Spain less than three months.

**PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS:** You may have your passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$3.00 for the first photo and \$2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.



**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS:** Travelers entering Spain are not required to have any particular vaccinations. However, if you have questions on this matter you can contact the NIU University Health Service Travel Clinic for information on what immunizations are required. The Travel Clinic can administer most immunizations to currently enrolled NIU students. Most immunizations require a fee. Consult the Travel Clinic several months before you travel.

**NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE:** NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU insurance plan will be enrolled in the NIU major medical Insurance Plan (comprehensive) that has a \$250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.



<p><b>PROGRAM COST:</b> The cost of the program covers the following items and services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing (arrive June 14 – depart no later than July 19) and three meals daily (double occupancy dorm or host family options).</li> <li>• Admission fees and land transportation for all program-related field trips.</li> <li>• If arriving in a group, transportation to and from Barajas International Airport (Madrid) to Toledo on Sunday, June 14.</li> <li>• International Student Identification Card (ISIC)</li> <li>• 3 or 6 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit.</li> <li>• NIU major medical insurance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PROGRAM COST WITH DORM OPTION:   \$5,230</b></p>
<p><b>PROGRAM COST WITH HOST FAMILY OPTION:   \$5,455</b></p>

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

**ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:** Other expenses that will be incurred by the participants include:

- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$135)
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- \$40 Undergraduate application fee (Applies to **non-NIU** undergraduate students only)
- Round trip airfare between the U.S. and Spain
- Transportation from Barajas Airport if not arriving in a group
- Transportation to the Barajas Airport at the end of the program
- Transportation and expenses for free-time pursuits
- Purchases of a personal nature
- Gift for host family (recommended, but not required)

**NIU UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE:** (Applies to Non-NIU students only): There is a \$40 non-refundable Undergraduate Application fee for students applying to NIU for the first time. If you are currently enrolled at NIU as a degree-seeking undergraduate student, you are not required to submit this payment.

If you are applying to NIU for the first time you will be provided with a link in your acceptance packet that will guide you to the online NIU Undergraduate Application. In the online application you will be asked to pay the \$40 application fee by credit card or check.

**FINANCIAL AID:** As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply.



Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, the International Programs business manager, in Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, or [prosenberg@niu.edu](mailto:prosenberg@niu.edu) for more information.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after April 1, 2015 will not be refunded the \$100 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$100 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after April 1, 2015 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

**CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM:** The Study Abroad Office and ESTO reserve the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Spain, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Spain, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY,  
THE UNIVERSIDAD DE CASTILLA - LA MANCHA AND ESTO  
RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM  
AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!**