



Instituto de Español Moderno
Institute of Modern Spanish
Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico
2011-2012 Program Information

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Our Facebook page is: Instituto de Español Moderno
Many Student comments are available online at: www.123teachme.com

“My experience at the Institute of Modern Spanish surpassed my expectations in every way. Professional and friendly with the highest level of hospitality.”
--Claudia, Switerland

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Introduction

Founded in 1995, the Institute of Modern Spanish (Instituto de Español Moderno) was the **first private language** institute in the city of **Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico**, to develop “full language immersion” programs specifically devoted to instruction in the Spanish language and study of Mexican & Latin American culture.

Located in the State of Yucatán, the Institute of Modern Spanish is a Spanish language and Mexican culture school. THE INSTITUTE provides its students with a pleasurable opportunity to **REALLY learn Spanish** while living in Mérida, a city considered **one of the most beautiful and culturally enriched cities** in all of Mexico and Latin America.

Instruction at the Institute of Modern Spanish employs **a new concept** of language learning called “Integrated Spanish Language Learning.” Our **programs integrate Spanish language classes with unique Mexico cultural experiences**, including a **homestay** with a local family. We replace memorization of Spanish language grammar rules as the sole technique with a **total cultural experience**.

This enables our students to leave our programs with a **thorough knowledge** of Spanish. Students report that this is practical, culturally appropriate, and long lasting. Our programs explore the **language as it is ACTUALLY used** in today's Spanish-speaking communities around Latin America and throughout the world.

Our **faculty is experienced** in teaching all levels of students--from beginners to the most advanced. Our language immersion courses integrate all aspects of Spanish language learning--**speaking, listening, reading, and writing**. We feel that this is the best method of teaching modern usage of the Spanish language. Furthermore, we use a **variety of language teaching methods** to ensure that all learning styles enrolled in our Spanish language school are met.



“My teachers were very well prepared. Their teaching materials met students’ needs excellently! The integration of culture with grammar was very impressive!”

--Michelle, England

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Study Program Highlights

- Study for 4, 5, 6 or 8 hours per day for 1 to 14 or more weeks.
- Classes average 3 students per level. Maximum of 5 students per Spanish class.
- Certificate/transcripts available upon successful completion of program.
- Individual placement tests taken in advance of arrival either online or via mail/fax.
- Students with previous language experience are placed in same-skill study groups.
- Classes include 2 to 3 hours daily in beginning, elementary, intermediate, or advanced Spanish language and 2 to 3 hours daily of Spanish Conversation, Spanish for Teachers, Spanish for Business, Local Political/Socioeconomic Development, Mayan Culture I & II, Yucatán History, or Spanish-American Literature.
- Relaxed atmosphere with air-conditioned, pool-side classrooms and wireless internet.
- Discounts for Spanish teachers, small groups, and retired persons are available.
- All 2-week or more packages (classes with homestay) include a Panoramic City Tour.
- Excursions available to the famous Mayan ruins of Chichén Itzá, Uxmal & Dzibilchaltun.
- Beach and downtown is a convenient & short (15-20minutes) bus ride away.
- We accept all major credit cards and personal checks from U.S. banks.
- Daily schedule of classes 9:00 AM to 1:00PM for 4 hours/day option, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM for 5 hours/day option, 8:00AM to 2:00PM for 6 hours/day option, and 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM for 8 hours/day option. In special circumstances the 4, 5, and 6 hours/day options may alternatively be held in the evenings.
- Only Spanish language school in Mérida to own its own van for student transportation.



“It was wonderful studying in such an intimate setting. I met all students, teachers, and staff at the Institute of Modern Spanish and felt comfortable speaking Spanish with everyone. I especially enjoyed the *after-class activities!*”
--Laura, Australia



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Language Learning Philosophy at the Institute of Modern Spanish

...a new concept of learning...

The Institute of Modern Spanish is based on a new concept of learning called Integrated Language Learning. Our programs integrate Spanish language education with a unique cultural experience and a family homestay. By replacing memorization of grammar rules with a **total cultural experience**, we enable our students to leave with knowledge of Spanish that is practical, culturally appropriate, and long lasting. Our programs explore the language as it is used in all of today's Spanish speaking communities worldwide.

...the best method of teaching the Spanish...

Our **faculty is experienced** in teaching all levels of students--from beginners to the most advanced. Our courses integrate all aspects of language learning--speaking, listening, reading, and writing. We feel that this is the best method of teaching the Spanish language as it is used in today's modern world. Our faculty members use a variety of language teaching methods to ensure that all learning styles are met.

...we are devoted to Mexican culture and history...

At our Institute students will learn the Spanish language by communicating with native speakers. We want to give our students a deeper understanding of the Spanish-speaking civilizations. While native culture is emphasized at the elementary and intermediate levels, at the upper-intermediate and advanced levels we offer such courses as Spanish-American Literature and Spanish for Business, which incorporate aspects of the entire Latin American world. Also, we are devoted to teaching the history and culture of Mexico.

...small group learning with real communication...

For Spanish language instruction, we place students of similar **language ability levels in groups of no more than five**. Often times there are as few as one or two students to a teacher. Our goal is to give you tools that enable you will to **REALLY TALK** Spanish, not just answer grammar questions about the language.

Therefore, small group learning in which **real communication takes place** is essential. Individual placement tests are given the first day of classes to ensure all students are placed an appropriate level. Furthermore, **STUDENTS** are not obligated to stay at the same level for the entirety of your program.

...language and culture are inseparable...

We believe language and culture are inseparable. Since cultural classes are designed for intermediate and advanced students, instruction is normally in Spanish. If students require a language assist, cultural classes may be presented in English. This ensures all students have the opportunity to learn more about the local and Mexican national culture. As these classes are opened to all interested students, they may have more than five students per class. Availability of cultural classes depends on enrollment. Normally, two different cultural classes will be available to choose from.

...Spanish is the method for all communication...

We discourage use of students' native languages. Spanish is the method for all communication. Although our faculty and staff are bilingual, unless there is an emergency, they will speak Spanish with you and you will do the same with us.

"Mérida was my choice for travel because it is the only city in Mexico that is easily reached from anywhere in the world and the only city in Mexico that actually allows you to reach the level of 'full immersion' I was looking for. I arrived after only one plane change in Houston, Texas, and spoke Spanish exclusively for three weeks! Even in the more touristy areas of Mérida, people were friendly enough to help me along with my Spanish. I was extremely happy with my immersion choice!"
--Samantha, California, U.S.A

Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico

The Institute of Modern Spanish opened in the city of Mérida, the most important city in the Yucatán Peninsula, in 1995. Mérida is considered one of the most beautiful and culturally enriched cities in all of Mexico, and it enjoys the famous Yucatán climate of year-round sunshine. Our balmy weather is perfect for enjoying the 231-mile stretch of beaches only a 20-minute car or bus ride from the city. Many inhabitants of Mérida enjoy visiting these beaches -- and the quaint port city of Progreso -- throughout the year.



Since Mérida has remarkable infrastructure, a well-established business community, and easy access to the Gulf of Mexico port of Progreso, the city has been able to remain separate from the economic difficulties felt in other parts of Mexico. In recent years there has been a growth in 'maquiladora' industries in the Yucatán. The Yucatán is one of few Mexican states with a State Secretary of Ecology whose responsibilities include ensuring that industrial growth does not disrupt the natural beauty of the state.

In addition to attractive closeness to the beach of the Gulf Shore, many students find time to spend a weekend in the resort city of Cancun and the more 'rustic' towns of Playa del Carmen or Tulum (also Mayan ruins). All three locations are about 3 to 4 hours away by modern, air-conditioned bus, and tickets cost around US\$35.00 one-way. Also within hours of Mérida are the most famous Mayan ruin sites of Chichen Itza and Uxmal.

Mérida has one of the lowest crime rates in all of Mexico. The Institute of Modern Spanish and its host families are located in the Northern residential area of Mérida. This area--and Paseo/Prolongacion Montejo--are considered the safest areas in Mérida. Within blocks of our host families is one of the best parks for both adult exercise and children's playground. Many visitors comment on how safe they feel in Mérida -- many say they feel safer in Mérida than in many bigger cities in the United States.

Also within blocks of the Institute of Modern Spanish and its host families' homes are several "Internet Cafes" where students work on the Internet for around US\$1.50/hour. The Institute also has wireless Internet service throughout its facility.

Mérida is known as is the “White City”--a name many believe was given to Mérida because of its cleanliness. It is famous for its mixture of 450-year-old architecture from the Spaniards and the Mestizo influence of the Mayan people, which can be seen throughout the city. The temperatures in the Yucatán region in the summer will be around in the 80s and 90s with cooler temperatures in the late evenings and at night. As a larger city, Mérida has all the amenities of a big city—including major hospitals, shopping malls, and parks; however it still maintains an ambiance of a smaller town with a low crime rate, friendly street vendors, and a strong dedication to the church.

Family Homestay Housing

In order to obtain the most benefits from our Integrated Language Learning Programs, we urge you to stay with local families selected by our Institute for their willingness to welcome students into their homes. With such families, you will be provided with a clean, private or shared room and three delightful home-cooked meals daily. Safe water for drinking, warm water for bathing, clean sheets and bath towels will also be provided. Any special dietary needs will be met.

A homestay is also an excellent opportunity to practice Spanish and experience the local culture firsthand. Information about your family including name, address, and telephone number will be available prior to your departure. For your host family to enjoy, we recommend you bring a small gift, which is representative of your country or home state.

Details

- Housing is in the home of a local host family and includes three meals a day.
- Approximate meal schedule (varies): Breakfast 8:00 AM, Lunch 2:00 PM, and Dinner 8:00 PM.
- Shared housing includes a bedroom shared with another student or family member.
- Students traveling together can select to be assigned to the same shared housing arrangement. Private housing includes a private bedroom in a family's home.
- Private housing Plus includes a private bedroom & bathroom in a family's home (limited availability).
- The weekends before and after study at the Institute of Modern Spanish are included.
- Each additional day of Shared Accommodations is US\$25.00; each additional day of Private Accommodations costs US\$30.00; each additional day of Private Plus Accommodations is US\$40.00 (limited availability).

What Students Have Said About Homestays

"My host family was excellent. They made me feel 'en mi casa' from the very first day."

"I give my host family a 10+++!"

"I was a bit hesitant about staying with a family at my age; but, it turned out to be the right choice! We became really close friends!"

"I felt my diet was a bit difficult to accommodate. My family went out of their way to get it right for me."

"They were helpful with explaining aspects of Mérida."

Please contact Miguel or Janese Cerón should you have questions regarding study at the Institute of Modern Spanish in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico.

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