

*Live the Language  
Learn the Culture*

Foreign Language and Cultural Immersion Since 1968

# **NATIONAL REGISTRATION CENTER FOR STUDY ABROAD**



## **Mexico 2008-2009**

For more information please visit: [www.nrca.com](http://www.nrca.com)

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# National Registration Center for Study Abroad (NRCSA)

P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA. Tel. 414 278 0631 Fax. 414 271 8884



Learn the Culture  Live the Language  Since 1968

## ESCUELA DE ESPAÑOL UG – PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

### ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY

**Escuela de Español UG** was founded in 1994 and is a branch of the University of Guadalajara, the second largest institution of higher learning in Mexico. Centrally located in the heart of downtown Puerto Vallarta between the rugged Sierra Madre mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Escuela de Español lends an opportunity to study Spanish and Mexican culture while enjoying the shores of Mexico's largest bay, the Bahía de Banderas.

**Puerto Vallarta**, Jalisco, is a veritable paradise on the Pacific coast. Tucked into a niche in the West Sierra Madre mountain range, it can be reached in 30 minutes from Guadalajara by air or in four hours by road. It is a city of contrasts, where natural beauty blends with modern tourist development. Although it has luxury hotels and innumerable services for tourists, it is still pleasant to stroll down its cobbled streets and enjoy the charm of an old-style country town.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Learning is based on the Communicative Approach, without losing sight of the need for grammatical accuracy. Spanish language courses are taught in Spanish and are designed to help students acquire fluency and sufficient communicative skills to cope with any situation that they are likely to encounter.

On arrival, students are tested for both written and spoken competence. On the basis of this placement test, they are assigned to the most appropriate level for their own benefit. Groups can be opened with a minimum of three students.

### The school has divided their Group program into four levels:

**Level I Beginning.** This level is for those students who have had no previous experience with Spanish. During this course the student will learn simple forms of communication and the three forms of conjugation in the present tense. In addition, uses of SER, ESTAR, TENER and HABER will be learned. Beginners can also enroll in Content Courses taught in English.

**Level II Intermediate.** The student will learn how to carry on a cordial and informative conversation with others. Upon finishing the course the student will be able to better express him/herself using present tense construction, wordy explanations in the future, past and imperfect tenses. Intermediate students may enroll in Supplementary Conversation I and Content Courses.

**Level III High Intermediate.** The student will be capable of expressing ideas in the formal future tense, as well as use these forms to express probability in the present and past tenses. He/she will express emotions and opinions and use phrases of courtesy. He/she will also improve their use of reciprocal and reflexive verbs. High Intermediate students may enroll in the Supplementary Conversation II course and Content Courses.

**Level IV Advanced.** Advanced classes concentrate on total mastery of the language, including reading excerpts from literature, the writing of essays and enhancement of oral expression. Advanced students can enroll in any Supplementary or Content Courses.

### Supplementary Spanish Language Courses at additional cost.

\* **Conversation I** (For those students who have tested into Level II). In this course the student will practice basic sentences and phrases in communication. There will be preparation and presentation of themes relating to the family, the city, leisure activities, as well as others related to daily life.

\* **Conversation II** (For those students who have tested into Level III). The student will develop the ability to communicate in order to participate in the daily life in Mexico and to relate to specific social situations. Furthermore, he/she will participate in activities that promote ideas, expression of opinion, discussions, expression of agreements and disagreements, and questioning or answering, with respect to themes of interest.

### Content Courses-Summer Only

Courses in English or Spanish, according to group needs. Sessions last two hours per day for two weeks. At additional cost.

\* **The History of Modern Mexico.** Students will attend lectures on the history of Mexico from the War of Independence, through the Revolution and on to the industrialization of the 40's and its effects on public, private and agrarian sectors.

\* **Mexican Culture.** This course will afford the student an overall view of Mexican culture from an anthropological standpoint. Religion and national values will be considered.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

#### Homestay

The school has several family homes available that offer accommodation to students for total immersion. These offer single or shared rooms and three meals a day.

### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

#### Friendship program

This program can enable foreign students to get to know Mexican students so as to practice Spanish and participate in cultural exchange.

### TO REGISTER:

Complete the NRCSA Preregistration Form or contact the National Registration Center for Study Abroad at 823 North 2nd Street, P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA, or by calling (414) 278-0631; by Fax (414) 271-8884.

Check out our website at <http://www.nrcsa.com>  
or e-mail us at [study@nrcsa.com](mailto:study@nrcsa.com)

# Program & Admission Information - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

## Programs

### Group Program

Learning is based on the Communicative Approach, without losing sight of the need for grammatical accuracy. Spanish language courses are taught in Spanish and are designed to help students acquire fluency and sufficient communicative skills to cope with any situation that they are likely to encounter.

On arrival, students are tested for both written and spoken competence. On the basis of this placement test, they are assigned to the most appropriate level for their own benefit. Groups can be opened with a minimum of three students.



The school has divided their Group program into four levels:

#### \* Level I. Beginning

This level is for those students who have had no previous experience with Spanish. During this course the student will learn simple forms of communication: greeting people, introducing oneself, replying to a greeting, asking for and telling time, identifying objects and places, asking for and giving information about the family, home, food, etc., expressing feelings, talking on the phone, physically describing people and state of health, asking for and giving prices, colors, and materials. Also, the student will learn the three forms of conjugation in the present tense, with regular verbs as well as the most commonly used irregular verbs. In addition, uses of SER, ESTAR, TENER and HABER will be learned. Beginners can also enroll in Content Courses taught in English (see below).

#### \* Level II. Intermediate

The student will learn how to carry on a cordial and informative conversation with others. He/she will be able to describe people, things, and places as well as express opinions, make suggestions and denials in different situations. Upon finishing the course the student will be able to better express him/herself using present tense construction, wordy explanations in the future, past and imperfect tenses, and therefore be able to talk about past events. Intermediate students may enroll in the Supplementary Conversation I course and Content Courses (see below).

#### \* Level III. High Intermediate

The student will be capable of expressing ideas in the formal future tense, as well as use these forms to express probability in the present and past tenses. He/she will express emotions and opinions and use phrases of courtesy in order to ask for items, give apologies, and turn down offers, suggestions, etc. The student will be able to express moral obligation, give advice and suggestions and will learn the most common ways of giving orders. He/she will also improve their use of reciprocal and reflexive verbs. High Intermediate students may enroll in the Supplementary Conversation II course and Content Courses (see below).

#### \* Level IV. Advanced

Advanced classes concentrate on total mastery of the language, including reading excerpts from literature, the writing of essays and enhancement of oral expression. Advanced students can enroll in any Supplementary or Content Courses, according to their needs.

### Private classes

If you wish to take a course that follows a different pace from the standard courses available, you make take advantage of these individually tailored courses. Students may take private classes only, or as a supplement to regular courses, depending on their needs. Private classes may be programmed at any time and last as long as required. Each tutor will design an individual program that most fits the needs of the individual so as to help her or him acquire mastery of Spanish.

### Basic Spanish for tourists:

This program is designed to give basic survival skills to those who are staying in Mexico for short periods of time. Students will learn a series of useful phrases and common vocabulary for communication both inside and outside the classroom.

## Programs

Group Programs  
Supplementary  
Spanish  
Content Courses

Admissions &  
Academic Credit

## Activities

Special Activities

## Comments

*"My teachers were very talented and caring.... At my home there was great food and at times, good conversation. They were extremely nice when we were together,"*

Teacher, Vallejo, CA

*"The family I stayed with was excellent and the food above average."*

Teacher, Mira Loua, CA

*"Fascinating Mexican culture and friendly Mexican people. There's a very relaxed attitude here and that's how I like it."*

University Student, Durango, CO

*"I can't say enough good things about my experience in Guadalajara! The school was excellent; the people everywhere were wonderful! I have no complaints!"*

Counselor, Denver, CO

## Supplementary Spanish Language Courses

These courses are at additional cost.

### \* Conversation I

(For those students who have tested into Level II)

In this course the student will practice basic sentences and phrases in communication: introducing oneself and others, asking for help, asking for or giving information regarding the location of places, expressing desire and illness, and learning expressions that can be used in restaurants, banks, supermarkets, etc. There will be preparation and presentation of themes relating to the family, the city, leisure activities, as well as others related to daily life.



### \* Conversation II

(For those students who have tested into Level III)

The student will develop the ability to communicate in order to participate in the daily life in Mexico and to relate to specific social situations. Furthermore, he/she will participate in activities that promote ideas, expression of opinion, discussions, expression of agreements and disagreements, and questioning or answering, with respect to themes of interest. The dynamics of the class will include different techniques, such as debates, brainstorming, group problem-solving, panels, interviews, oral reports, etc.

## Content Courses

The school gives content courses in English or Spanish, according to group needs. The sessions last two hours per day for two weeks. These courses are at additional cost and are held only in the summer.

### \* The History of Modern Mexico

Students will attend lectures on the history of Mexico from the War of Independence, through the Revolution and on to the industrialization of the 40's and its effects on public, private and agrarian sectors. In addition, the course will focus on popular movements, political parties, and the unions in the past two decades. Finally, there will be an overview of the political scene in Mexico.

### \* Mexican Culture

This course will afford the student an overall view of Mexican culture from an anthropological standpoint. Religion and national values will be considered within the Mexican context.

## Special Activities

### Friendship Program:

This program enables foreign students to get to know Mexican students so as to practice Spanish and participate in cultural exchange.

## Admissions & Academic Credit

Students age 18 years and older are welcomed regardless of educational background, occupation or nationality. No previous knowledge of Spanish is required except where otherwise indicated.

Students desiring credit for their study at Escuela de Espanol UG should contact their home school or request the NRCSA Credit Fact Sheet. Generally, U.S. universities consider 15 hours of study to be equal to 1 semester credit.

[For general information on academic credit, please click here.](#)

[For information about academic credit in Spanish speaking countries please click here.](#)

# ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Foreign language immersion classes
- ✓ Small interactive group and/or one-on-one instruction
- ✓ Culture program integrated into conversation classes, activities
- ✓ Meet-the-People interaction at school, homestays, & community events
- ✓ Orientation covering attractions, how to, health, safety, entertainment
- ✓ Academic assessments, placement-exit tests, Achievement Certificate
- ✓ Lodging (reduced fee if no lodging needed)
- ✓ Meals and/or cooking facilities at most centres
- ✓ Insurance: medical and accident - see below
- ✓ Emergency Hotline staffed 24 hours/day - see below
- ✓ Housing Coordinator familiar with area homestays, apartments, hotels
- ✓ Activity Coordinator facilitates transfers, cultural/social activities, tours
- ✓ Program Director experienced working with foreign participants
- ✓ Qualified, experienced, and certified educators
- ✓ Weekly proficiency goals and progress assessments
- ✓ Planning and Orientation materials
- ✓ International Ambiance, participants from around-the-world welcome
- ✓ Telecom assistance, web/e-mail access, usually on-site
- ✓ Local taxes for included services
- ✓ 24:7 Culture Immersion w/ native speakers: class, homestay, community
- ✓ **ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE the following INSURANCE\***

ACCIDENT INSURANCE up to \$10,000    SICKNESS INSURANCE up to \$10,000

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION up to \$25,000

EMERGENCY REUNION up to \$5,000

REPATRIATION up to \$7,500

LIFE INSURANCE \$5,000

plus

24 HOUR EMERGENCY WORLDWIDE MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

## MANY ALSO OFFER

- ✓ **Tours:** cultural visits, day and weekend fieldtrips
- ✓ **Art:** classes/workshops, craft, dance, theater, fashion, music, photo
- ✓ **Humanities:** culture, area studies, hist, lit, gov't, educ, comm, plus...
- ✓ **Health:** golf, swimming, tennis, diving, skiing, riding, plus...
- ✓ **Special:** vocabulary classes tailored to your professional needs
- ✓ **Lodging:** homestay, apartment, dorm, hotel, special diet
- ✓ **Food:** home cooking, cooking classes, dine-around, wine tasting
- ✓ **Family:** services, daycare, child classes, community services
- ✓ **Teacher:** training, workshops, practicums, practice teaching, ECH
- ✓ **Teen:** camps and youth programs (including experiential)
- ✓ **University:** credit, undergraduate and graduate
- ✓ **Professional:** development credit in many fields, licensure, CEU
- ✓ **Volunteer:** medical, social service, ecology, teach plus...
- ✓ **Internships:** business, media, arts, eco, tourism, computer, plus...
- ✓ **Business:** classes, visits, networking, executive support services
- ✓ **Peer-to-Peer:** share interests, network by profession or hobby
- ✓ **Current Events & Professional Workshops, Holiday Courses**
- ✓ **Distance** educ liaison service, independent studies, research assist
- ✓ **Free** books and course materials. Return at end of studies
- ✓ **Free** airport transfers and internet access
- ✓ **Assessment** reports for attendance, progress, acculturation if needed
- ✓ **Medical:** professional training, law, social work, sciences etc.

*\* If you have a problem while studying abroad, call the 24 hour hotline! Call Any Time from Anywhere! Medical or travel emergencies, legal or medical or embassy referrals, lost passport or luggage, emergency message relay, coordinating emergency prescription replacement or cash transfer, emergency translations, 24-hour medical monitoring. Problems seldom occur, but when they do, it is nice to know insurance and worldwide assistance are included in your cost for study dates prepaid through NRCSA as reflected on your NRCSA confirmation. Additional optional insurance available upon request. Refer to the certificate for specific terms, conditions and other details regarding benefits, limitations, eligibility and exclusions of this plan. Questions? Contact NRCSA: Tel: 414-278-0631 ... E-Mail: info@nrcca.com ... Web: <http://www.nrcca.com>*

For Questions, Concerns, or Registration, Contact NRCSA  
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Tel 414-278-0631 \* Fax 414-271-8884\* [www.nrcca.com](http://www.nrcca.com) \* [info@nrcca.com](mailto:info@nrcca.com)  
Since 1968 \* Language-Culture Immersion Worldwide \* Start Weekly \* All Ages \* Credit, CEU or Enrichment

