

*Live the Language
Learn the Culture*

Foreign Language and Cultural Immersion Since 1968
**NATIONAL REGISTRATION CENTER
FOR STUDY ABROAD**



Puerto Rico 2008-2009

For more information please visit: www.nrca.com

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National Registration Center for Study Abroad
PO Box 1393 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201 USA
Tel: (414) 278-0631 Email: study@nrca.com

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

ESKALDUNA LANGUAGE SCHOOL - SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY

The local Spanish study center is dedicated to providing opportunities for English speakers and speakers of other languages to immerse themselves in the Spanish speaking culture of Puerto Rico. Eskalduna provides language instruction to help students identify and achieve their personal and professional goals. With a solid, functional, student-centered curriculum, innovative techniques, and a variety of other resources, Eskalduna guarantees measurable achievements with immediate practical application toward the student's goals. Eskalduna Language School is the first private language school licensed by the Consejo General de Educación de Puerto Rico.

All teaching Instructors are college graduates with second-language teaching experience and regularly participate in professional development training and workshops. Using a variety of creative teaching techniques, they will adapt classroom activities to cater to all learning styles and motivate students.

Most students at the school are Puerto Ricans studying English at night or on Saturdays. Study Abroad students are mainly from the USA and Europe. Eskalduna Language School receives both professionals and university students from many different career backgrounds. The high season for the program is May through August, so if you come during other times of the year, there may only be a few, if any, students here studying Spanish.

Eskalduna is located in San Juan, in one of the city's oldest historic buildings, Edificio Euskalduna. The school is on the first floor for convenient access, offering a spacious reception area and 13 air-conditioned classrooms. Eskalduna Language School also offers free indoor parking with 24-hour security.

San Juan, the island's capital founded in 1521, is the oldest capital city under the United States' flag. It has three major fortresses, scores of museums, monuments and shops, as well as a modern business center. The Columbus Quincentennial of 1992 sparked a major refurbishing in the Old City, where one will find some of the finest examples of Spanish Colonial architecture.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Eskalduna uses the Communicative Approach to language learning. The focus of this approach is to learn to communicate in meaningful contexts that one may encounter in real-life situations. Instructors establish situations that promote communication and practice in all four language learning skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In every class, students move from what they already know in structured practices, to less-structured and finally open activities.

Curricular activities are part of the regular learning program that give students the opportunity to use the target language in "real-life" situations. These activities are conducted in units such as In

the Restaurant, Going Shopping, Work & Education, etc. On the first day of class, students will complete the registration process, be orally evaluated for program placement, and have the opportunity to go over any questions that he/she may have.

Eskalduna Language School has 6 languages levels: introductory 1, introductory 2, basic 1, basic 2, intermediate, advanced. Each curriculum level is organized around central themes that touch upon real-life situations such as: At the Workplace, Leisure Activities, In the Restaurant, Travel & Vacations, etc. Each theme is broken down into functions, grammar and vocabulary.

Standard Course Group 20 hours per week. The course consist of 4 lessons per day within a small group setting, no more than 6 students per class. Course instruction is conducted 5 days per week, Monday - Friday, with the exception of national and local holidays. Class schedules will be either the morning or the afternoon session. Students will receive their schedule during the first day. Evaluations will be conducted at the end of each week.

Tutor Course 15 hours per week. The school also offers a one-on-one Tutor course for those students who want a more intensive program and/or wish to concentrate on a specific area of language or Puerto Rican culture.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Homestays Students may choose to stay in a local home for a complete "immersion" experience. Puerto Ricans are very warm people who will consider you as "one of the family". Students should plan to arrive to their homestay on the Sunday prior to the program commencement. Homestays are usually a 20 to 45 minute bus ride to the school.

Guesthouse information is available.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

At all levels, students have the opportunity to take part in curricular excursions Eskalduna Language School provides. Cultural activities are also arranged by the school to encourage students to experience the history, culture and people of the island firsthand. During the low season (September - March) activities will be limited, but the school will make tour arrangements according to student interest.


TO REGISTER:

Complete the NRCSA Preregistration Form or contact the National Registration Center for Study Abroad at 207 E Buffalo Street #610 - 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.nrcea.com> or
e-mail us at study@nrcea.com**

Programs & Activities - San Juan, Puerto Rico

The Programs

A Communicative Approach is used for teaching Spanish. The focus of your studies is on learning to communicate in meaningful contexts (real-life situations). To accomplish this instructors setup role-playing exercises which focus on promoting communication and practicing all four language learning skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. 

In every class, students move from what they already know in structured practices, to less-structured and finally open activities. This process ensures that students have both knowledge of the grammatical structures and they can master the language in communicative situations. The program also incorporates a multicultural understanding of Latin America, using authentic materials such as books, videos, and music.

Curricular activities are part of the regular learning program that give students the opportunity to use the target language in "real-life" situations. These activities support the language skills learned in the classroom, and allow students to show that they have mastered the material. These activities are conducted in units such as 'In the Restaurant, Going Shopping, Work & Education,' etc.

On the first day of class, students will complete the registration process, be orally evaluated for program placement, and have the opportunity to go over any questions that he/she may have. An Information Packet will be distributed and reviewed during orientation.

Language levels are broken down into 6 units: introductory 1, introductory 2, basic 1, basic 2, intermediate, advanced. Each curriculum level is organized around central themes that touch upon real-life situations such as: At the Workplace, Leisure Activities, In the Restaurant, Travel & Vacations, etc. Each theme is broken down into functions, grammar and vocabulary.

Beginner: This curriculum has been designed for individuals with no functional ability in the target language. This course covers a two week period, and then students will move into our regular Introductory curriculum. Students will cover 4-5 functions from a different theme each day. The purpose of this course is to give students a foundation upon which they can begin to communicate at an introductory level.

Introductory: This curriculum has been designed for individuals who have a very limited knowledge of the target language and can express only some memorized words and phrases, using limited grammatical structures. Students generally cover one theme per week. The Introductory curriculum is organized into 8 themes: Introductions; In the Restaurant; The Family & Friends; Daily Activities; Around Town; Going on Vacation; Going Shopping; and Health & Fitness. Within each theme, students will practice all 4 language skills, in order to reinforce the functions at this level. Grammar, vocabulary, key phrases and pronunciation will be incorporated into each unit.

Basic: This curriculum has been designed for those individuals who are capable of using simple structures and have a general, limited vocabulary. The Basic curriculum is written with higher level functions than the Introductory level, which utilizes slightly more complex grammatical structures. Students generally cover 1-2 themes each week, depending upon the ability of the students. The 8 themes are: Meeting & Greeting People; The Family; The Workplace & Leisure Activities; Going on Vacation; Food & Clothing; Entertainment; Health & Fitness; and Today's Society. The focus is on building fluency, starting with what the students already know, and building upon this knowledge to develop full confidence in performing the functions. Grammar, vocabulary, key phrases, pronunciation and culture are incorporated into each unit. Students at the high Basic level may be recommended to cover the Intermediate curriculum based upon ability and need.

Intermediate: This curriculum has been designed for individuals who can already communicate in a variety of contexts and situations, but who need to speak with greater grammatical accuracy, use more difficult vocabulary and phrases, and improve their pronunciation and general fluency to feel confident in their communication skills. Students will be given a theme per week, from the following list, based upon their interests and needs: Education, Work & Leisure Activities; Travel & Vacations; Around Town & Going Shopping; Art, Music & Literature; Daily Activities & Food; Health & Ecology; Customs & Traditions; Problems in Society; Much more culture is incorporated into this program, and comparisons are made between Puerto Rico and the United States, as well as with other Latin countries.

Advanced: This curriculum has been designed for individuals with an almost native-like mastery of the language. Students will have different topics to choose from such as: Origins of the Hispanic Culture; Religion in the Hispanic World; Aspects of the Family in the Hispanic Society; Men and Women in the Hispanic Society; Customs and Beliefs; The Economy of the Hispanic Society; Education in the Hispanic World; and Hispanic Presence in the United States.

Programs
Standard Course
Tutor Course

Admissions &
Academic Credit

Activities
Cultural & Social
Activities

Comments

"I most enjoyed the fact that I was on my own, travelling around in the San Juan area using public transportation. Before the trip, I was nervous about being able to get around by myself, but it turned out to be a great liberating experience."

Student, New York, NY

Standard Course Group 20 hours per week. The course consist of 4 lessons per day within a small group setting, no more than 6 students per class. Course instruction is conducted 5 days per week, From 10:00 to 2:00 There will be a 15 minute break after two hours. If a student ends up to be the only one at their language level, then the class time will be 3 hours instead of 4 hours (M-F 10:00-1:00), with the exception of national and local holidays.

Students will receive their schedule at orientation during the first day. Evaluations will be conducted at the end of each week to track student performance. Textbooks are not included in the cost of the program, but may be purchased or leased for the duration of your program.

Combination programs of group and private lessons are also available. Please contact NRCSA for more information.

Tutor Course 15 hours per week. The school also offers a one-on-one Tutor course for those students who want a more intensive program and/or wish to concentrate on a specific area of language or Puerto Rican culture.

Admissions & Academic Credit

Students age 18 years and older are welcomed regardless of educational background, occupation or nationality. Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No previous knowledge of Spanish is required except where otherwise indicated.

Students desiring credit for their study 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 those students who have arranged with their home college or university to receive credits for Spanish study abroad, a letter will be issued stating dates of study, hours completed, progress and level of achievement. Get a letter of instructions from your home school and advise the foreign school administrators upon arrival of your credit transfer needs.

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

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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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