

*Live the Language
Learn the Culture*

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



Costa Rica 2008-2009

For more information please visit: www.nrca.com

NRCSA is a proud member of:



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

INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE IDIOMAS, S.A. – ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA

ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY

Instituto Interamericano de Idiomas, S.A., internationally known as Intensa reflecting its "intensive" language programs, was founded in 1980. Currently, Instituto Interamericano de Idiomas, S.A. offers second language programs in Spanish and relies on a highly qualified teaching staff. The length of the Spanish study program can be as short as two weeks or as long as six months.

The northwest central valley town of Alajuela is Costa Rica's second city. Alajuela has a busy downtown area and a slightly warmer climate than nearby San Jose. The International Airport is just one kilometer from the town. A provincial capital, Alajuela's red domed cathedral completes its central square and park which, during the heat of the afternoon, is the perfect place to hang out and people watch.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

We specialize in offering immersion Spanish programs for people who desire to speak and read Spanish in a reasonably short period of time. With this objective in mind, our programs emphasize intensive conversation practice. We have found this to be one of the most effective and rapid ways of learning to converse and read in Spanish.

Students arrive in Alajuela with different language backgrounds. Consequently placement tests are given on the first day of classes to place students into small groups which match their conversational level. The groups range from complete beginner to advanced. Students will be moved to different groups as their Spanish improves to ensure they are always receiving the best instruction for their current language level. Under certain circumstances there may not be a group which matches the students current level. When this occurs the student will be given 3 hours of individual (one-on-one) lessons instead of 4 lessons in a group. This ensures that students should never feel like they are being over/underwhelmed by the course content. Small groups classes (and individual lessons) ensure you will receive the attention and extensive oral practice so essential to developing your language ability.

Custom text materials have been developed and are given to each student attending classes. The customized material uses a well-established language acquisition program, providing live, meaningful situations in which students can acquire communicative competence in speaking and reading Spanish. Performance objectives for language structures, culture, and pronunciation are clearly delineated as well as functional conversational goals.

Students who start later than Monday will not be able to make up missed hours. Lessons are not held on national holidays.

Basic Spanish Programs

Tutor 15, 20 & 25 hours per week. These programs include 2, 3, 4 or more weeks of study consisting of 3 to 5 lessons per day, Monday through Friday. Each lesson averages 53 minutes in length in a group setting or a tutorial. All programs stress maximum practice in conversation, under the direct guidance of a staff teacher.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Homestays The host families are from the Costa Rican middle class; most have had foreign students as guests before. Instituto Interamericano de Idiomas, S.A. will make every reasonable effort to match you and your interests with an appropriate family. The homestay includes a private room, and laundry service plus a good breakfast and a main meal. Homes are within easy commuting distance from the school. Students will be placed one student per family.

Hotel or aparthotel available on request and at additional cost.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The school has supplemented the instruction program with a cultural program which includes field trips, Latin American dance lessons, and tours through the lush, green, picturesque countryside and to breathtaking tropical beaches.

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.nrca.com> or
e-mail us at study@nrca.com**

Program & Admission Information - Alajuela, Costa Rica

Programs Basic Spanish

Programs

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Activities Cultural & Social Activities

Comments

"I liked the school, the people and the homestay. I may even be able to teach in a Spanish-speaking country now."

Teacher from Oak Park, IL

"I enjoyed so many things. My most enjoyable experiences were: the beautiful school, excellent teachers, excellent staff, good teaching methods, small class sizes, field trips, and a wonderful homestay arrangement."

University Student, Goleta, CA

"Each time I attend the school there seems to be more improvement over the previous time!! I got some good ideas that I can use in my advanced Spanish Classes!"

Teacher from Danville, IL

"I also would tell other students that going to another country and living the way others do is a wonderful experience. NRCSA was a great foreign study program and I would recommend it to anyone who is thinking of studying abroad."

University Student, Webster, TX

"This trip was an excellent experience. Costa Rica is a beautiful country that is full of good people. As a result of the trip, I am more open minded and independent"

High School Student, Marshfield, WI

Admissions & Academic Credit

Students age 17 years and older are welcomed regardless of educational background, occupation or nationality. Students under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult. No previous knowledge of Spanish is required except where otherwise indicated.

Students desiring credit for their study programs 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 more information about academic credit in Spanish speaking countries, [please click here](#).
For general information on academic credit, [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
National Registration Center for Study Abroad * Box 1393, Milwaukee WI 53201 USA
Tel 414-278-0631 * Fax 414-271-8884* www.nrcca.com * info@nrcca.com
Since 1968 * Language-Culture Immersion Worldwide * Start Weekly * All Ages * Credit, CEU or Enrichment

PREREGISTRATION FORM – NRCSA PROGRAMS

1. Complete & send to NRCSA, P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA • Tel. (414) 278-0631 • Fax (414) 271-8884 • Web: www.nrcca.com
2. Enclose a non-refundable deposit/registration fee of \$140 per person, per program, payable to NRCSA (\$40 registration fee & \$100 program deposit applied towards the program costs).
3. Register early. Add \$40 per person late enrollment fee if paying in full within 40 days of departure. Within 20 days, payments by certified check.
4. Credit Cards may be used for deposits (see "H" below). NRCSA street address for overnight deliveries is 207 East Buffalo Street, Suite 610, Milwaukee, WI 53202 USA. You are welcome to photocopy this form. Please send separate form for each school if taking multiple programs.

A. Name(s) _____ Sex _____ Birthdate _____ Citizenship _____
Please print
 _____ Employer _____ Occupation _____
If student, school attending and year

Street: _____ Tel. Home: _____
Street address (not P.O. Box) where someone can sign for documents sent to you.

City/State/Zip: _____ Tel. Work: _____
 Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____

In Emergency, notify: _____
(Name, Address, Phone)

B. BACKGROUND: _____
Describe your background in the course you're taking abroad. Check your ability level: Beginner Post Beginner
 Intermediate Advanced

C. LODGING: _____
Schools will try (cannot guarantee) to meet them. Special Diet (may be available) at additional cost.

D. GOALS: _____

E. INSURANCE: Includes prepaid study dates. To extend coverage up to 30 days before/after study dates, add \$5/day or \$19/week and advise dates.

- Check Preferences.**
 Single Share Twin Other: _____
 Yes Smoking No Smoking Either
 Yes Pets No Pets Either
 Yes Children No Children Either
- PREFER:** Homestay Involvement Freedom to Come/Go
ARE YOU? Quiet Outgoing Frequent Traveler
OBJECTIVES: Enrichment Academic Credit Job Related
HOBBIES: Reading Music Cooking Jogging Sports

F. PROGRAM INFORMATION	School/Center
Program Name (use title from Dates & Fees)	City/Country
Date: Start Program	Date: Start Lodging (most start day before)
No. of hours day/week	No. of weeks attending
Disabilities/Allergies/Health Problems	2nd Choice Program
How did you learn about NRCSA?	Social Security Number
Options (see program for choices)	
Your Signature (if you are under age 18, both parents must also sign)	

INSURANCE INCLUDED for PRE-PAID STUDY DATES

ACCIDENT / MEDICAL 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

24 HOUR EMERGENCY WORLDWIDE-MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

For More Info: <http://www.nrcca.com/INS24hrHotline.html>

H. CREDIT CARDS:

For program deposit only (**not final payment**) check:
 VISA Mastercard American Express Amount Charged \$ _____

_____ / _____
Card Number (13 or more numbers) Exp Date

SIGNATURE (as on card) PRINT name (as on card)

CHANGE FEES of at least \$35 apply for each change you make. Some "changes" may result in cancellation fees.

CANCELLATIONS are effective the day received in writing by NRCSA in Milwaukee. All payments less \$140 per program fully refundable up to 60 days prior to departure. For cancellations within 60 days of departure, \$250 per person is not refundable; within 40 days of departure, less 50% of program cost or \$300 per person (whichever is greater); within 14 days of departure, 100% of program cost is non refundable. Airline cancellation penalties, if any, are in addition to those outlined above. Cancellation penalties are per person, per program. Medical, baggage (above that included) and cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Attach a note if you have a medical condition or Rx which the school/center should know about.

CONDITIONS: Each institution listed herein is independent of the National Registration Center for Study Abroad (hereinafter referred to as NRCSA, controls, and will periodically make changes in the program. Classes may fill, be changed, or dropped by the sponsoring academic institutions. NRCSA is a division of Mibar Ltd. and is not responsible for these changes or other actions beyond its control such as strikes, postal delays or loss, mechanical breakdowns, weather, government actions, delay or acts/omissions of suppliers. NRCSA may make changes or substitutions or cancel any program. In the event of entire program cancellation by NRCSA, liability is limited to refunding all monies paid to NRCSA for said program. Passengers electing not to use portions of a program shall not be entitled to a refund. No agent or representative of NRCSA shall have the right to alter the provisions listed herein. Costs based on tariffs and exchange rates effective the date of printing of this material, and are subject to change. Additional costs resulting from such change will be paid by the participant. Registrations are valid when accepted by NRCSA in Milwaukee. The passage contract used by the airline, when issued, is the sole agreement between it and you. Photographs of or statements by participants may be used by NRCSA. NRCSA, group leaders or foreign coordinators, at their discretion, may get medical assistance for participants, or place them in a hospital, or fly them back to the U.S. for medical treatment. All costs related to medical treatment or evacuation will be paid by the participant. As visitors you are expected to adhere to foreign rules and customs. If the foreign staff feels you are not adhering to these rules and customs, your participation in the program shall terminate immediately without refund whatsoever. A "homestay" is defined as living with a local person(s) in the foreign country and may not be multi generational, multinational, etc. It is the responsibility of the participant to have required proof of citizenship and visa(s) if applicable - check with the consulate of the country(s) you will be visiting.

INFORMATION USE: Information provided to NRCSA will be shared with participating organizations to facilitate your registration.

NOTE: Classes canceled in honor of local holidays are not made up. Foreign Language schools use placement tests. If there is no group at your level, smaller group or tutor classes may be substituted with fewer hours per week. Classes are conducted entirely in the target language. See **Fast Facts Guide** for more information.