International experience will provide Spanish majors and minors with an immersion experience that they would not be able to get here at the University of Virginia. While there are many on-Grounds opportunities for practicing your Spanish with classes, Casa Bolívar, and multicultural events and programs, immersion in a Spanish-speaking country is the best option to greatly improve your ability to speak, write, read and think in Spanish.

The Spanish Department at the University of Virginia highly encourages their students to go abroad for at least a semester, but preferably for a full year, so that you can work toward language fluency.

In addition to advancing your language abilities, international experience gives students further insight and experience with traditional Spanish and Latin American cultures, allowing you to develop your cultural competence and be better prepared to work in a global workplace.

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Student Testimonial

“I studied abroad my entire 3rd year at UVA, my fall semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina and my spring semester in Valencia, Spain. Beyond the obvious opportunities afforded me by my study abroad experience—like achieving fluency in a foreign language, completing my Spanish major, and playing tourist in uncharted territories—study abroad was perhaps most instrumental in forcing me out of my comfort zone to confront new experiences, persons, and ways of thinking. It was good, bad, awkward, weird, amazing, instructive, frustrating, happy, unsettling, and fulfilling all wrapped up into one. It was a kaleidoscope of experiences; I highly recommend studying abroad to all.”

-Ilona De Zamarozcy, Spanish Major, NYU in Argentina and UVA in Valencia

Academic and Timing Considerations

All students seeking Spanish Major, Minor or Foreign Language Requirement credit from abroad need to speak with the Director of Undergraduate Programs. Keep in mind the following policies about using study abroad credit:

All three tracks (General, Literature & Culture, and Linguistics & Philology) of the Spanish major include three core courses, a grammar course (3010 or 4010), Text & Interpretation, and at least one literature survey course. In order to count for the major or minor, these courses must be taken at UVA or on a program recommended, not merely approved, by the Spanish Department.

Students who study on a direct-credit program (UVA in Valencia) may count up to 15 credits per semester of study abroad or 24 credits per year of study abroad toward their Spanish major. If you study on a transfer-credit program in Spain or Latin America, you are able to count up to 9 credits for a semester of study abroad or 15 credits for a year of study abroad toward their Spanish major. Up to 9 credits from study abroad on any type of program can count toward your Spanish minor. This restriction to nine hours for the minor does not apply to UVA in Valencia.
International Opportunities in Spanish

This list is a starting point; you are not limited to these options.

Central America

- **Costa Rica**, UVA in Costa Rica
- **Costa Rica**, IFSA-Butler in Heredia: Universidad Nacional
- **Cuba**, Arcadia: University of Havana
- **Cuba**, Spanish Studies Abroad in Cuba: Integrated Studies Program

Spain

- **Spain**, UVA in Valencia*
- **Spain**, CIEE in Seville: International Business and Culture
- **Spain**, CIEE in Seville: Language and Society
- **Spain**, IES in Granada*
- **Spain**, IES in Madrid: Language and Area Studies*
- **Spain**, IES in Salamanca*
- **Spain**, Spanish Studies Abroad in Seville

South America

- **Argentina**, IES Abroad in Buenos Aires: Advanced Spanish Immersion*
- **Argentina**, IFSA-Butler in Buenos Aires: Argentine Universities
- **Argentina**, IFSA-Butler in Mendoza: Universidad Nacional de Cuyo
- **Argentina**, Spanish Studies Abroad in Córdoba: Integrated Spanish Studies*
- **Argentina**, SIT: Social Movements and Human Rights§
- **Argentina**, SIT: Transnationalism and Comparative Development in South America*§
- **Chile**, Arcadia: Valparaiso
- **Chile**, IES Abroad in Santiago*
- **Chile**, IFSA-Butler in Santiago: Chilean Universities Program
- **Chile**, Washington University in St Louis in Santiago
- **Ecuador**, IES in Quito: Area Studies and Language*
- **Ecuador**, SIT: Development, Politics, and Languages§
- **Peru**, IFSA-Butler: Pontificia Catholic University

*Internship available
§Fieldwork/field study available