

Spanish Immersion Trip

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EDU 483

What is Spanish immersion?

Spanish immersion is when someone is completely surrounded by Spanish.

- not only learning it in class but hearing it at home, speaking it at home
- In Spanish 'mode' the entire time
- Authentic learning

Why should we do this?

- Fits requirements of the ACTFL 5 C's standards
- Heavy student interest
- Enhanced learning for Spanish teachers and students

One of the biggest challenges with learning a new language is that students don't use it ALL THE TIME

Foreign Language Standards: ACTFL 5 C's

- Communication
 - Comparisons
 - Connections
 - Communities
 - Cultures
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- “Standards Summary.” *ACTFL*, ACTFL,
www.actfl.org/publications/all/world-readiness-standards-learning-languages/standards-summary.

So who is this for?

Both upper level spanish students and teachers or anyone who wants to learn Spanish!

Communication

Students communicate in all authentic Spanish as much as they can

- Homestay with authentic Spanish speakers
- Classmates from home to help learn and communicate with
- Bargaining in Spanish
- Real world use of the language!

Culture

Opportunities to immerse in a different country's culture.

- Latin dance lessons
- Native cooking classes
- Living in a different culture, experiencing it first hand!

Connection

- Able to connect their regular day life to that of a Spanish speaking culture
- Meet new people
- Connections between their native language and the target language of Spanish

Comparison

- Compare cultures:
 - Dress, how they eat, respect among the families
- Differences in their expectation of the country vs. reality
- Classroom learning abilities in immersion vs. at home in US

Community

Students are able to stay in homes with Spanish speaking families

There are volunteer activities to take part in community service acts as well as bring supplies from home for students in need.

Classroom impact

- 3-6 hour classes a day
- 4-6 students per teacher
- FULL language immersion

Immersion students on average earn a higher proficiency level than students who do not experience immersion. They are also more socio-economically aware.

Fortune, Tara Williams. "What the Research Says About Immersion." *What the Research Says About Immersion - Tara Williams Fortune*, Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, 2019,
www.carla.umn.edu/immersion/documents/ImmersionResearch_TaraFortune.html.

Homestays

- Students stay with a pre-approved safe families
- Provided with laundry, breakfast and dinner
- Interaction at home with an authentic Spanish cultured family
- Learning the way of life in the respective culture!

Teacher Benefits

- Cultural Experience
 - Practice with our language
 - Homestay
 - Teacher courses
 - Culture, oral communication, and grammatical precision
 - Authentic Learning to be a better teacher of the 5 C's
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- “The Best Spanish Immersion Programs: Costa Rican Language Academy.” *Spanish and More*, Costa Rican Language Academy, 18 July 2018, www.spanishandmore.com/spanish-language-immersion-programs/.

Bibliography

- “The Best Spanish Immersion Programs: Costa Rican Language Academy.” *Spanish and More*, Costa Rican Language Academy, 18 July 2018, www.spanishandmore.com/spanish-language-immersion-programs/.
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