



## Spanish language and Culture

### Introduction:

The Spanish language and culture programs at Viator Foundation can be described as distinctively different from others because they *have been planned and are carried out by people who have gone through rich and significant life experiences in foreign countries*. The outline of the programs does not only take into account the academic aspects of any program but it also, and above all, considers the wide spectrum of situations and feelings that the students will have to experience while living abroad, trying to communicate in a language which is entirely foreign to their feelings, to their forms of expression, even to their own rationality.

The primary objective of the programs is to promote the *profound encounter* that takes place among people and cultures if and when things are done with the desire to understand and accept others and what is foreign to us. This *encounter* promotes the student's growth not only from a linguistic point of view but also in his or her personal history and it becomes the most viable and reliable way to achieve total immersion in the new culture.

The participants in the program become the centre and reason of our professional actions and their needs, motivations, characteristics and personal gifts are at the bases of our task as "mediators".

### Academics :

The methodological and pedagogical foundations of our classes are in agreement with state of the art research advancements in the language teaching area. They are also the result of the work experience that the teachers at Viator have accumulated for long in the USA and Spain where the teaching of Spanish as a second language has already come a long way.

The regular courses are designed specifically for foreign students of university level. They have two 90-minute long classes per week, complemented with extra activities such as watching films, field and cultural activities and excursions. Students are expected to participate in a creative and active way. All courses are taught entirely in Spanish.

#### 1. SEMESTER PROGRAM DIAGRAM

Classes corresponding to a **program semester** are as follows:

Regular classes	Language area	64 hs - 4 credits
	Culture area	64 hs - 4 credits
Optional classes	Optional 1	64 hs - 4 credits
	Optional 2	64 hs - 4 credits
Extra activities	Tango	32 hs – 2 credits
	Horseback riding	4 weeks – Non credits

Foreign students must take two regular classes and can choose to have a maximum of four classes per semester. The language class will be assigned to the student according to his or her

level of Spanish, to the marks obtained in a placement exam taken as soon as they arrive and according to the specific offer of courses during that particular semester.

The optional classes can be chosen from the list available for a particular semester and only those students who have the language level (intermediate / advanced) necessary to complete them successfully will be allowed to participate.

## 2. INTENSIVE PROGRAM DIAGRAM

Classes corresponding to the **intensive program** are as follows :

Classes	Spanish language (according to level)	48 hs – 4 credits
	Argentinian and Latinamerican culture	50 hs – 4 credits
Extra activities	Tango Horseback riding	Non credits

## 3. NAMES AND DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES

Elementary Spanish  
 Intermediate Spanish  
 Advanced Spanish  
 Conversation and composition  
 Argentinian contemporary literature  
 Spanish American literature  
 Argentinian and latinamerican culture  
 Social and economic history of argentina,  
 Argentinian guitar music  
 Tango  
 Horseback riding

### ***Please note:***

Under-enrolled sections (fewer than six students) of any class may be cancelled during the first two weeks of the semester.

### **FACULTY**

Courses in language and culture are taught by a core of dedicated teachers. They are native speakers of Spanish and they have been teaching foreigners for quite some time. Optional courses are taught by highly qualified professionals committed to teaching and whose objective is to promote the advancement of their own particular field of knowledge. They are specially hired by Viator according to the specific demand of each semester.

### **CREDITS / GRADING SYSTEM**

The number of credits is granted according to the number of hours of studies and to the contents and demands of the chosen programs.

The language and culture programs are certified by Fasta University, the institution that guarantees the level, the quality and the credits offered by Viator Foundation. The students will receive their transcripts three or four weeks after courses have been completed and for no extra cost.

It is advisable for students to make sure that their home universities will accept the transfer of credits.

10	Excellent	Superior work
8-9	Very Good	Meritorious work
6-7	Good	Work without merit
4-5	Satisfactory	Acceptable work

0-3	Unsatisfactory	Failure
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## REQUIREMENTS

In order to take the optional courses of each semester, it is necessary to have an intermediate or advanced level of Spanish. The participants must have done at least four semesters of Spanish in their home countries. Those ones with a lower level can only take the regular courses.

Anyone older than fifteen years of age can do the Intensive Programs. She or he only has to be interested in learning the language and Latinamerican culture.

## Student´s life :

### A NEW LIFESTYLE

Total immersion of the students in the Hispanic culture brings for them a profound change in their lifestyles. They will establish new relationships, will take new classes, will try new meals, will live with strangers, will use new forms of transport and will experience different social situations.

It is of paramount importance for us to create the best possible conditions so that students may enjoy of the immersion process. This is why, besides the classes and apart from them, we have created the figure of the Argentinian "friend" who will accompany and help the foreign student. This is also why we advise students to live with a local family, we organise activities where foreigners can interact with locals and we encourage students to participate in the excursions. All of this guarantees the acquisition of the level of knowledge of the culture and the confidence with the language that students expect.

### ORIENTATION

In order to help the students feel at ease with their new surroundings and with the academic system, an orientation period is scheduled for the beginning of each program: two days for the intensive programs and one week for the semester programs. During this period, students do a placement exam to determine their language level.

### ROOM AND BOARD

Accommodation and food arrangements can be done with a local family or with other local students in an apartment. We believe that these are the best options if students want to acquire a good command of the language. Thus, the exposition to the second language and its continuous practise becomes an obligation and a daily routine. Interaction with people of various ages will expose them to different ways of using the language and help them consolidate what has been learnt in the classroom. The students become one more member of the "host family" and join in their customs and traditions. Hence, they learn to observe from within the society they have chosen to share temporarily with.

### MEDIATORS

One valuable aspect of this program is the presence of the "friend- guide" or intermediary, a student from the host country who will make the linking between the foreign student and the social and cultural environment he or she chooses to relate to. This scheme allows the foreign student to learn quickly easily and without any fear, to insert himself or herself in the daily life of the city with all what that means: use means of transport, find the right shops, visit tourist sites, establish new social and cultural relationships etc.

## EXCURSIONS/TOURS

Each program includes two one-day-long outings to places near Córdoba of historical or cultural interest such as: Alta Gracia, Carlos Paz, Santa Catalina, Jesús María, Mina Clavero, Nono, Dique La Viña, La Candelaria, Candonga, etc.

## Administrative details :

### COSTS

Intensive program 2,300 U\$\$

Extraordinary program 3,300 U\$\$

Semester program 6,500 U\$\$

The programs fee includes tuition, room and board, organized group excursions, reception at the airport and a number of cultural activities.

Additional funds should be budgeted for books, supplies, local transport, and personal expenses.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Fees should be paid to Viator Foundation in accordance with the following schedule:

Confirmation fee. Upon acceptance, a partial payment of:

Intensive Program	300 U\$\$
Extraordinary Program	300 U\$\$
Semester Program	500 U\$\$

The balance will be due 45 days before arrival date for each program:

Intensive Program	2000 U\$\$
Extraordinary Program	3000 U\$\$
Semester Program	6000 U\$\$

### PAYMENT METHODS

Payments must be in US dollars.

All fees must be paid using any of the following methods:

1. Check to: Viator Foundation / 513 South Post Oak Lane, Apt 4 / Houston, TX 77056
2. Bank wires / Online Banking
3. E-check
4. Western Union
5. PayPal



With your *Acceptance letter* you will receive the required information according to your suitable method of payment. Please, be aware that you are responsible for any fees associated with the payment method you choose.

### REFUND POLICY

Application and confirmation fees are non refundable.

If the applicant withdraws from the program forty days or more prior to the date it begins, he/she is entitled to a full refund corresponding to the fees paid for tuition room and board. If the applicant withdraws from the program thirty-nine days or less prior to the date it begins,

he/she is NOT entitled to any refund corresponding to tuition fees, but will receive a refund of the money not committed paid for room and board.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Viator Foundation works for social and cultural development; therefore, we devote part of our funds to help students who are interested in taking our courses but cannot afford them. Any student who cannot pay the total amount corresponding to any program may apply for financial assistance and/or a scholarship, filling up the *Application and Financial Aid* form. Viator Foundation will grant such assistance after carefully considering each application according to funds availability. Scholarships and financial assistance are mainly devoted to students coming from developing countries. In no case, full scholarships will be granted and under no circumstances can we provide funds for traveling. We encourage students to find outside funding and we can provide a letter of support for you. Please consult your home university for funding opportunities. A large percentage of participants receive funding from their home universities to attend our program.

### **OTHER FINANCIAL AID**

Some students have arranged financing from private sponsors, such as organizations with interests in the international arena. Students may choose to consult Peterson's Financial Resources for International Study or similar guides to organizations that offer economic help. Students may also independently investigate potential sources of financial assistance. You may be able to find additional information at the following website: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

### **HEALTH CARE**

The health care system in Argentina provides basic universal health care for all. However, it is mandatory obtaining travel health insurance and it is highly recommended that students bring a copy of their own medical records.

## **Enrollment:**

In order to enrol in any of the chosen programs please do as follows:

1. Select the corresponding form and follow the instructions.
2. Scan a 5x5 cm photograph of yourself to include with the form.
3. Pay an application fee of 50U\$S using the means you prefer. ( see payments)

Once you have completed these three steps we will inform you by mail.

» [Registration form](#)

» [Registration and financial assistance form](#)

Forms are quickly processed. You will get an answer as soon as all documents have been evaluated, at the latest, in the dates fixed in the "process of admission and registration" step. (see....)

*Thank you for your interest in our programs. We look forward to sharing with you the academic experience you have just selected.*

## **Location: Advantages of our geographical location**

### **VILLA ALLENDE**

Villa Allende is a small town closely linked to Córdoba, the capital city of our province which lies only 16 km away. The centre of Córdoba can be quickly reached thanks to an efficient and

agile transport system. Villa Allende is situated in a mountain range called Sierras Chicas and the Pan de Azúcar Mount (1260 mts.) is its main geographical reference.

It offers the visitors a picturesque landscape and the relatively small community transmits hospitality although the shops, the elegant houses, and the recreation areas prove that Villa Allende is a vigorous and willing to advance small town.

[www.cordobaturismo.gov.ar/Localidades.aspx?IdLocalidad=20214](http://www.cordobaturismo.gov.ar/Localidades.aspx?IdLocalidad=20214)

<http://www.cordoba-laweb.com.ar/MAPA/vallende.html>

## CORDOBA

Córdoba was founded in 1573 and it is well known for being a place where progress, culture and education have always been protagonists. One of the first American universities was created here in 1613 and this is one of the reasons why Córdoba has always been proud of its history and of its academic tradition which, in time, made her deserve the name of *la Docta*.

The city is a cultural and architectural icon even since colonial times and it is one of the most important cities from inland Argentina. Because it is situated in the centre of the country it is midway to many other regions of tourist attraction such as Cuyo, the northern provinces and the Iguazú Falls.

<http://www.welcomeargentina.com/cordoba/fotografias.html>

<http://www.argentinaturistica.com/informa/corimapaciudad.htm>

### Dates:

Remember that the cycle of the seasons in the southern hemisphere is different from that in the north.

2007	Semester I March - June	Intensive Programs			Semester II August -November
Application deadline	November 30, 2006	November 23, 2007	April 11	May 2	May 30
Arrival date	Sunday March 4	Sunday February 4	Sunday June 24	Sunday July 22	Sunday August 12
Orientation period	March 5-9	February 5 -7	June 25-27	July 23-25	August 13-17
Classes begin	March 12	February 8	June 28	July 26	August 20
Break Vacation	May 21-25	—	—	—	September 24-28
Classes end	June 22	March 9	July 27	August 24	November 30

2008	Semester I March-June	Intensive Programs			Semester II August - December
Application deadline	November 30, 2007	November 23, 2007	April 11	May 2	April 30
Arrival date	Sunday March 2	Sunday February 3	Sunday June 22	Sunday July 20	Sunday August 10
Orientation period	March	February	June	July	August

	3-7	4 -6	23-25	21-23	11-15
Classes begin	March 10	February 7	June 26	July 24	August 18
Break Vacation	May 19-23	—	—	—	September 22-26
Classes end	June 20	March 7	July 25	August 22	November 28

2009	Semester I	Intensive Program			Semester II
Application deadline	November 28, 2008	November 21, 2008	April 10	May 1	April 30
Arrival date	Sunday March 1	Sunday February 1	Sunday June 21	Sunday July 19	Sunday August 9
Orientation period	March 2-6	February 2-4	June 22-24	July 20-22	August 10-14
Classes begin	March 9	February 5	June 25	July 23	August 17
Break Vacation	May 18-22	—	—	—	September 21-25
Classes end	June 19	March 6	July 24	August 21	November 27

### Extraordinary programs:

VF offers two extraordinary programs for students of Spanish who would like to combine their learning of a second language with a superlative life experience: one, the crossing of the Andes just as General San Martín did it with his army in the XIXth century in order to bring independence to Chile and two, if you choose to take the course in Spain you can follow “El Camino de Santiago de Compostela” as pilgrims have been doing ever since the XIth century.

#### **SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CROSSING OF THE ANDES (ARGENTINA/CHILE)**

The Intensive course in Spanish and Crossing of the Andes program has the same general features as the standard Intensive program but it also includes one week of lessons travelling across the Andes.

Indeed, the stunning aspect of this program is that one week will be devoted to crossing on muleback the Andes range starting from Mendoza in Argentina with final destination in Chile.

The Andes adventure is done together with students who have taken the leadership course and it repeats General San Martín's experience from 1816 when he was in charge of the military actions that led all the Río de la Plata Viceroyalty to gain independence from Spain. During this week, you will be riding your mules for 5 or 6 hours per day, you will visit places not normally reached by regular tourists and will have the chance to spend seven days in close contact with nature.

Spanish and Culture lessons are not interrupted during this week. The number of expected teaching hours are completed anyway.

**Dates: 01/18/08 - 02/21/08**

**SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CAMINO DE SANTIAGO (SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN)**

The Intensive course in Spanish and Camino de Santiago program has the same general features as the standard Intensive program but it also includes one week of lessons walking along the Compostela Road in Spain.

Indeed, the stunning aspect of this program is that one week will be devoted to walking along the road that so many pilgrims, tourists, adventurers and sportspeople have followed over the years since the XIth century.

The trekking is done together with those students who have taken the leadership program.

During the week we will be walking between 5 and 6 hours per day and going through small traditional Spanish villages. The Compostela road is 700 km long and it starts in France but the VF experience starts from..... in Spain. Despite the change, when we get to Compostela we will receive our pilgrims' certificate as well.

Spanish and Culture lessons are not interrupted during this week. The number of expected teaching hours are completed anyway.