



Spanish Boot Camp: A Language Immersion Course on the Camino de Santiago June 17 - July 8, 2018



FAQ

General Information

Who is offering the Spanish Boot Camp Program?

The Department of World Languages and Cultures at Central Washington University offers this program. The program director is Dr. Eric Mayer, Associate Professor of Spanish. He will be accompanied by Dr. Stefanie Wickstrom, Senior Lecturer in political science.

What is the Spanish Boot Camp Program?

Spanish Boot Camp is a three-week study abroad Spanish language immersion program that takes place on the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

The Camino de Santiago is a Catholic pilgrimage. So, is this a religiously oriented program?

Spanish Boot Camp is not a religiously oriented program. Students of all backgrounds and faiths are encouraged to apply.

Do I need to be in good physical shape for this program?

Yes. Students who currently lead active lifestyles are good candidates for this trip. Students who currently do not lead active lifestyles are encouraged to devote one year to train for the Camino prior to applying for this program. For advice on pre-Camino physical training, please contact Dr. Mayer (eric.mayer@cwu.edu).

What type of training will I receive prior to doing the Camino?

All participants will receive thorough preparation prior to departure. Participants have the option of taking SPAN 351 – *The Camino de Santiago*, a 5-credit online orientation and culture course taught in Spanish and offered by CWU in spring 2018. For students opting not to take this course, Dr. Mayer will provide extensive training and preparation in the form of instructional weekly videos, emails, conference calls, and web-based research activities. Dr. Mayer also provides a recommended physical training regimen.

How do I know if this program is really the one for me?

Students can email Dr. Mayer (eric.mayer@cwu.edu) to request a questionnaire that will help to determine whether this program is a good fit for them.

Academic Information

(All credits associated with this program are quarter credits.)

What academic courses are included in this program?

Participants Have the option to enroll in Span 351- *The Camino de Santiago*, a online 5-credit pre-departure culture and orientation course taught in Spanish and offered during spring quarter at CWU. Participants in the summer *Spanish Boot Camp* program (SPAN 352) will earn 6 credits applicable to the CWU Spanish minor or major.

What are the program prerequisites?

At the time of application participants must have successfully completed first-year Spanish (at CWU = SPAN 151, 152, 153; or equivalent, such as AP exam). Prior to departure, by the end of spring quarter 2018, students must have completed intermediate

Spanish (at CWU = SPAN 253; sixth quarter / fourth semester; or equivalent, such as AP exam).

To which minors and majors can the 11 program credits be applied?

The 11 credits will be counted as upper division elective credits in the CWU Spanish minor or major. Students in other academic programs will need to contact their advisors to determine if these credits can be applied to their majors and minors.

Travel and Study in Spain

What are the qualifications of the program director?

Dr. Mayer has been teaching university-level Spanish for seventeen years. He has traveled widely in Spain, including five trips on the Camino de Santiago.

What part of the Camino de Santiago will students walk?

Students will walk the final 100 miles of the *Camino francés* route of the Camino de Santiago, beginning in La Laguna de Castilla and ending in Santiago de Compostela. This makes an average of 8.4 miles of walking per day over 12 consecutive days.

How challenging is it to walk 100 miles of the Camino?

This is a physically challenging program requiring students to carry a 15- to 20-pound backpack while hiking an average of 8.4 miles for twelve consecutive days. Students who are unable to carry their backpacks can contract with one of various luggage services on the Camino to transport backpacks for them, at an additional cost.

What is the terrain like on the Camino?

The Camino terrain is varied, mostly flat with some slightly challenging climbs and descents. For stage-by-stage distances and elevation maps, please go to <http://www.caminoadventures.com/camino-maps/> (Our hike begins on “Day 27”; scroll to the bottom of “Day 27” to see an elevation map).

In addition to walking the Camino, what cities will we visit?

Students will visit Astorga, Ponferrada, Santiago de Compostela, Madrid, and numerous small towns along the Camino.

What culturally significant sites will we visit?

Among the numerous sites of cultural importance that will be visited during this program are the Cathedrals of Astorga, Santiago de Compostela, and Madrid, Gaudí’s Episcopal

Palace in Astorga, the Templar Castle in Ponferrada, and the Royal Palace of Madrid. Students will also have the option of visiting some world-renowned museums, such as the Museo del Prado in Madrid.

Where will we be lodging?

Participants will be staying in a variety of accommodations, including hotels and *albergues*, which are special hostels for Camino pilgrims. Some of our *albergues* are centuries-old historical buildings, such as monasteries. Accommodations are often dormitory-style, with several pilgrims sharing a large dorm room.

What can one expect from the Spanish immersion program?

The Spanish immersion program has a strict Spanish-only policy to which students must adhere while in Spain. Spanish language activities are varied and include conversation exercises (in pairs, groups, and one-on-one with the instructor), written and oral grammar and vocabulary exercises, and task based group activities. Additionally, students will maintain a journal in Spanish, as well as create a photo chronicle of their experiences in Spain.

Each day will be highly structured, with students completing Spanish assignments at designated times. Students will have some free time once their daily coursework is completed.

Financial Information

How much does this program cost?

The base price is \$3,175, which includes round-trip airfare (SeaTac-Madrid), lodging, ground transportation, museum and tour tickets, insurance, as well as three group dinners. *(Note: The \$3,175 price is calculated based on an enrollment of 7 students; lower enrollment could cause the price to rise slightly.)*

Beyond this, students can expect to pay:

- \$75 for the application fee
- \$500-\$550 for meals
- \$1,830 for summer tuition (estimated)
- \$110 for passport

Who can I contact regarding study abroad financial aid opportunities?

Students from universities other than CWU should contact their financial aid office.

CWU students should contact Inti Valverde, CWU Financial Aid Counselor

- Inti.valverde@cwu.edu
- also, see the [CWU study abroad financial resource page](#)

Application Information

How do I apply?

Contact Matthew Zielsdorf, Senior Study Abroad Advisor, CWU Office of International Studies and Programs

- (509) 963-3615
- matthew.zielsdorf@cwu.edu
- Fill out the application [here](#)

Will students be interviewed as part of the application process?

Yes. Dr. Mayer will conduct interviews with all applicants. Off-campus students will be interviewed via Skype.

What are the application and payment deadlines?

- Jan. 12th, 2018 – Application Deadline (pay \$75 application fee and \$500 deposit)
- Feb. 9th, 2018– Payment #1 (50% of balance; estimated \$1,337.50)
- Feb. 23rd, 2018 – Payment #2 (50% of balance; estimated \$1,337.50)
- All questions regarding payment should be directed to Matthew Zielsdorf, Senior Study Abroad Advisor, CWU Office of International Studies and Programs at matthew.zielsdorf@cwu.edu / (509) 963-3615

For an inside look at the daily reality of this program, please see the [2017 CWU Camino de Santiago Program Facebook group](#).

