

Spanish Language/Medical Spanish Courses

Compiled by Mary Foote, University of Arizona College of Medicine medical student (Class of 2005)
Updated 2024. *This is a partial listing of Spanish Language/Medical Spanish courses.*

Courses listed by Country

BOLIVIA:

- [NRCSA Center: Spanish School Sucre](#), Sucre, Bolivia (National Registration Center for Study Abroad)
 - Foreign language classes are taught entirely in the foreign language (immersion method).
 - All levels are welcome (beginner to advanced) unless otherwise specified above.
 - Levels: placement tests are used. If there is no full group at your level, smaller group or tutor may be given with fewer hours per week.
 - Tutor means one-on-one class (private teacher). Shared tutor means two-on-one.
 - Students/class is maximum people per class ... which may be exceeded by 1-2 persons due to level placement.
 - Texts and materials are over \$15 per level.
 - Class-hour is 45 to 60 minutes (Most universities use a 50 minute hour).

COSTA RICA:

- [Adventure Education Center](#)
The medical Spanish program in Costa Rica has 3 locations: Arenal, Turrialba, and Tamarindo. Flagship location is in Arenal.
 - **Contact:** Jeff Garrison, registration coordinator, jeff@adventurespanishschool.com for more information and assistance with booking your course sessions.
 - Designed to accommodate all levels of language ability.
 - With an intensive curriculum that includes four-hour Spanish classes in the morning and five-hour immersive sessions tailored to your specialty in the afternoon, participants will be well-equipped to communicate effectively with Spanish-speaking patients.
 - Can tailor program to specific needs.
- [International Health Central American Institute Foundation \(IHCAI\)](#)
 - Medical Spanish designed for students and professionals from various health areas.
 - Options:
 - Intensive Medical Spanish and Introduction to Tropical Medicine in Costa Rica
 - Give Me Five: Online Medical Spanish Course
 - Intensive Medical Spanish Course on Special Request
 - Taking Advantage of International Health to Acquire New Professional Skills for Overseas Junior Medical Students in Costa Rica

ECUADOR:

- [NRCSA Center: Academia de Espanol Quito](#)
 - Specializes in teaching Spanish as a second language to foreign students.
- [NRCSA Center: Estudio Internacional Sampere](#) (EIS)

- Courses are taught with the same quality and individualized attention which distinguish EIS in Spain. Individual attention in small group and one-on-one settings.
- [Interhealth South America Summer Program](#)
 - The program encompasses direct patient care as well as an onsite introduction to Ecuadorian and South American primary, community, and public health services. In addition, emphasis is placed on medical Spanish language acquisition, with practical skills development in patient interviewing and examination. The format provides guided group and individual clinic experiences and service in global health, coordinated with immersion language learning.
- [Cacha Medical Spanish Institute](#) (Cachamsi)
 - Offers medical Spanish lessons, international clinical rotations, and volunteer opportunities among a unique indigenous population.
 - For all levels of Spanish speakers from beginner to native speakers.

GUATEMALA:

- [Asociacion Pop Wuj](#)
 - Programs offered:
 - Spanish Tutoring. 1-on-1 Spanish lessons from experienced instructors. Includes patient simulations.
 - Medical Spanish Internship. Focuses on improving vocabulary, conversational Spanish, and understanding of healthcare disparities facing the community by giving you an opportunity to work in the free clinic.
 - Spanish Immersion. Focuses on improving vocabulary, conversational Spanish, and understanding the culture of Guatemala.

HONDURAS:

- [NRCSA Center: Central American Spanish \(CAS\) Language School](#), La Ceiba, Honduras:
 - Offered in a group setting or on a one-on-one basis.

MEXICO:

- [Escuela Falcon](#)
 - Classes at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels
 - Offers vocabulary course with medical focus
 - Small group or private classes
- [ASLI Spanish Language Institute](#)
 - [Spanish for Medical Professionals](#). This program is designed for doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals who want to improve their Spanish skills and develop their medical Spanish vocabulary in order to effectively interact with their Spanish-speaking patients.
- [NRCSA Center](#)
 - Several sites:
 - [International Studies Center, Cuernavaca, Mexico](#):
 - Intensive Spanish language program designed to enable students to develop conversational fluency in the shortest time possible.
 - Strong cultural component

- Classrooms are maintained with no more than five students
- The program is dedicated to meet the individual's needs, profession and Spanish proficiency level.

- [Spanish Language School, Guadalajara, Mexico](#)
 - Goal is to help students make rapid progress in reading, speaking and comprehending Spanish by providing each student with personal attention and full immersion into the language.

- [University of Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico](#)
 - Helps non-Spanish speaking students learn enough linguistic skills to communicate in Spanish in real-life settings.
 - Offers cultural courses in social and humanities areas to students interested in learning more about the Latin American reality.

- [Centro Internacional, Merida, Mexico](#)
 - Total immersion
 - Beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of study are available
 - Small groups allowing for maximum individual attention

- [Spanish Institute, Oaxaca, Mexico](#)
 - The language immersion program offers the opportunity to experience Mexican culture and understand it through the acquisition of Spanish.
 - The combination of the intensive Spanish language program and daily afternoon cultural activities enables students to immerse themselves in the language as well as in the rich Mexican culture.

- [Mayan Riviera Spanish School, Playa del Carmen, Mexico](#)
 - Programs designed to accentuate its unique Caribbean location
 - High quality instruction and memorable cultural experience

- [Escuela de Espanol UG, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico](#)
 - Study Spanish and Mexican culture while enjoying the shores of Mexico's largest bay, the Bahia de Banderas.
 - Highly participatory teaching method is utilized so that all students are encouraged to be involved in supportive group interaction.
 - Instruction emphasizes oral expression, vocabulary development and listening comprehension, complemented by reading, writing and grammar exercises.

- [Spanish Language Center, Queretaro, Mexico](#)
 - Specializes in teaching Spanish to foreign students.
 - Many practical and dynamic programs to learn Spanish which are open to students of all levels, ages and professional experience.
 - All activities are in Spanish so that the student can improve speaking, writing, listening and reading skills.

- [Instituto de Lenguas, San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico](#)
 - High quality language classes
 - Accommodations with Mexican host families
- [Cemanahuac Spanish School](#)
 - Beginners to advanced speakers
 - Classes begin every Monday of the year for as many weeks as desired
 - Small classes, no more than 5 students per class
 - Teachers are native speakers
 - Meet Monday through Friday, 4 hours per day
 - Stress speaking and listening, grammar
- [Dunham Institute, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas](#)
 - 2, 4, and 8-week Spanish courses
- [Pace MD's MED Spanish](#)
 - Located in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
 - 2 options: online or on-site immersion program
 - Focuses on the needs of healthcare professionals
 - See expected outcomes: <https://medspanish.com/outcomes>

PERU:

- **NRCSA: Cuzco, Peru:**
 - 2 sites:
 - [N. City Center, Cuzco](#)
 - Study Spanish while immersed in Peruvian culture
 - Customized programs at the level and pace especially suited to each individual's personal goals.
 - [S. City Center, Cuzco](#)
 - Teachers are known for their ability to listen, their enthusiasm and patience, but most of all for their love of teaching Spanish to foreign students

SPAIN:

- [NRCSA Center](#)
 - Several sites:
 - [Centro de Lengua Intercambio Cultural \(CLIC\), Sevilla, Spain:](#)
 - Utilizes the direct communication method
 - Offers courses in small groups
 - Interesting cultural program
 - [Estudio Internacional Sempere \(EIS\), Madrid, Spain:](#)
 - Individualized attention in small groups
 - Quality teaching in a friendly environment
 - Qualified teachers and up-to-date materials
 - Special courses designed to fit each individual's needs

- [Malaca Instituto, Malaga, Spain](#)
 - Uses an integrated, communicative teaching system using its own books, resulting in rapid progress.
- [Barcelona, Spain](#)
 - Has grown into a major center for language teaching, teacher training and related activities.

OTHER WEBSITES AND RESOURCES WITH SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSE LISTINGS

- [AmeriSpan: SALUD Medical Spanish Course \(Mexico, Peru & Spain\)](#)
 - Offers participants the opportunity to learn Spanish while learning about another country's medical system. The program combines language learning, medical terminology in a foreign language, cultural excursions and activities and hands on service learning in most locations.
 - High beginner to mid-intermediate or higher
- [American Medical Student Association \(AMSA\)](#)
 - Global health resources – web resources, global health organizations, and educational materials curated by the AMSA Global Health Action Committee.
- [Language Link, Inc](#)
 - 3 options
 1. Language Link Online. Individual online Spanish classes through Skype and Zoom.
 2. Spanish On the Road Trips.
 - Offered 3-4 times per year
 - Touring trips from 8-12 days
 - Small group, limited to 14
 - Daily optional all level Spanish classes and ongoing conversation practice with Language Link tour directors
 3. Total Immersion Programs in Latin America and Spain
 - Study in a language school dedicated to the teaching of Spanish 4-6 hours daily
 - All levels of Spanish accommodated
 - Group classes, usually 5-6 students
 - Private classes offered
- [Spanish Schools](#)
 - Recognized market leader in in-country Spanish language immersion courses, with over ten years of experience dedicated solely to Spanish language instruction.
 - Operates its own schools in Spain and Guanajuato, Mexico and operates with partner schools in Cuba, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Ecuador, The Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

APPS

Canopy Medical Spanish

- Canopy offers several options for anyone looking to use or learn medical Spanish, but primarily targets doctors and nurses.

- **Canopy Speak** is a language proficiency practice app developed for providers and frontline clinicians who need to communicate with patients with limited English proficiency and improve overall quality of care when calling an interpreter may be impractical. Users will learn and practice routine medical phrases in foreign languages and apply them confidently in patient-clinician scenarios.
- **Canopy Learn:** Bite-size modules crafted specifically for clinicians and staff to learn Medical Spanish.
 - Includes 40 hours of instructional content broken down into simple 15-minute modules.
 - 36 lessons spread over three target proficiency levels that employ a proven learning-by-speaking methodology.
- **Canopy Quest** is also designed to help you learn medical Spanish, but it is designed as a game. It is helpful to pair it with one of Canopy's other offerings for a more well-rounded education.
- You can try Canopy for free, but continued use requires a subscription.

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

[Practicing Spanish](#)

- This free website offers a wide variety of useful resources for anyone in a medical profession.
- Offers lessons on basic Spanish in addition to more specialized topics like anatomy.
- Has [lessons organized by profession](#) so that anyone working in any medical field can learn words and phrases that will be immediately useful for them.
- Each lesson comes with both audio and text.
- Also offers a featured medical dialogue each month to help you practice key words and phrases in context.

["Spanish in the Medical Field" by Smithville Public Library](#)

- Helpful YouTube video provided by a library in Texas offers lessons on basic Spanish, body parts, patient complaints and scenarios.
- Information appears both in print and in audio, so it is great for anyone looking to learn basic medical Spanish or reinforce information from other resources.

[Language Tailor Medical Spanish](#)

- Offers over 50 free YouTube videos on medical Spanish. The wide array of resources is great for anyone from a novice Spanish speaker to more advanced speakers who need customized vocabulary.
- Lessons include basic greetings, grammar, anatomy, location directions, presenting treatment options and much more. With both audio and text, these video lessons will provide you with a well-rounded medical Spanish education.