

MEDICAL SPANISH TRAINING

Students and clinicians can study Medical Spanish within the United States or abroad in other countries. Training programs, language courses, and workshops provide several ways to gain practical skills and master vocabulary for serving Spanish-speaking communities. Some courses are CME accredited.

[The NHSC does not endorse these programs. This list is a resource of available opportunities outside the NHSC.]

MEDICAL TRAINING INSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Online Opportunities

http://multilingualcenter.com/Sp_Medical_Prof_01.htm

Live online classes use audio and the Internet in Spanish for health care professionals. The courses include interactive dialogues, specific vocabulary, drills and exercises, animated explanations, Internet collaboration tools, and more.

www.nursingpower.net/spanish/

Three levels of online Spanish courses for nurses and medical personnel cover areas from the alphabet to nursing assessments.

www.InterLangua.com

See, Hear and Speak over the internet one-to-one with your Medical Spanish language tutor from Central America. Turn your internet browser into a private classroom with full-motion video and audio. Your tutor appears on your computer screen in your home or office. You see, hear and speak with each other in real-time. The highlight of our program is that we focus on conversation and culture. All lessons are one on one, private conferences. No groups. Major Universities, including Duke University Medical School and Saint Mary's at Notre Dame use InterLangua tutors for Medical Spanish.

Training Programs

Alaska

<http://www.crossculturalencounters.com/>

Anchorage, AK—Cross-Cultural Encounters offers experience in perinatal and women's health care. Options at these sites include professional conferences, presentations and workshops, onsite training at your workplace, correspondence courses, travel study courses in Puerto Rico, and winter workshops in Anchorage, Alaska.

Language Courses

Florida

<http://ipee.com/medical.html>

Brandon—IPEE Spanish Language School offers Spanish medical terminology courses. Students participate in six 50—minute classes of standard Spanish instruction each day for 2 to 4 weeks. The medical part of the course lasts for 2 hours each afternoon for 2 to 4 weeks.

Georgia

<http://www.angelfire.com/sk/spanishforprofession/medicalcourseschedule.html>

Atlanta—Conversational Medical Spanish classes allow health professionals to earn CEUs and improve their communication skills simultaneously. Level I classes are held in sessions from June to July and August to September. Level II classes go from late July to September and September to October.

North Carolina

<http://www.healthcarespanish.com/>

Raleigh—These courses teach students to communicate with Spanish—speaking clients during intake and case management processes. Students will learn greetings, introductions, medical terminology, and basic vocabulary for intake; case management; getting patient medical history; and providing the most common medical instructions for treatment, medication, and referrals.

<http://www.hhcc.arealahec.dst.nc.us/trngcals.html>

This site has a calendar of Spanish language and cultural issues training opportunities for practitioners.

Workshops

Arizona

<http://www.proespanol.com/>

Phoenix and Tucson—Rios Associates developed an intensive Medical Language and Cultural Workshop, sponsored by the University of Arizona Rural Health Office, Public Health Service and the National Health Service Corps. The program provides 40 hours of total immersion.

<http://www.partnersintraining.com/>

Tucson—Emergency Medical Spanish—this 20-hour block of instruction is designed for the doctor, nurse, EMT, or paramedic who may be involved with emergency medical encounters with individuals who do not speak English. The course will focus on gathering information to assess the needs of the patient using "answer in the question" techniques and questions requiring yes or no answers. The course also includes basic vocabulary to obtain patient information.

California

<http://www.epicmedics.org/new2817.html>

San Diego—EPIC and the San Diego Paramedic Association developed a medical Spanish workshop and pocketbook called Rescue Spanish, targeting EMS and hospital personnel.

<http://www.proespanol.com/>

Los Angeles and San Francisco—Rios Associates developed an intensive Medical Language and Cultural Workshop, sponsored by the University of Arizona Rural Health Office, Public Health Service, and the National Health Service Corps. The program provides 40 hours of total immersion.

<http://www.weekendenespanol.com/medical.htm>

San Francisco—This is a 1—day medical workshop. The workshop covers greetings, body parts and organs, symptoms and conditions, patient interviewing, doing a physical exam, using medical instruments, giving instructions, and some cultural sensitivity.

MEDICAL TRAINING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Studying Medical Spanish in international training programs provides intensive instruction in the language. Some programs also include clinical rotations and hands—on experience. Most courses provide one—on—on instruction in the language and creative introductions to the culture.

Clinical Opportunities**Argentina**

<http://www.amerispan.com/salud/>

SALUD—This language—learning program is run by AmeriSpan Unlimited and endorsed by AMSA. Students in SALUD learn cultural medical differences studying in any of several Spanish—speaking countries. Opportunities are available for pre—med, med students, physician assistants, EMTs, and those involved in public health. Participants will observe, shadow, and occasionally get some hands—on experience.

Ecuador

http://www.cfhi.org/prog_desc.php4?pcode=17#PROGRAM%20DATES

Child Family Health International—Rotations are available in Oaxaca, Mexico; Quito, Ecuador; and Cuenca, Ecuador. Additionally, Tropical medical rotations are available on the coast of Mexico in Puerto Escondido and in Ecuador. This program is open to all levels of medical students and residents, as well as to pre—meds who are at least 21 years of age. Programs require some Spanish knowledge in addition to knowledge of medicine in the participant's native language.

http://www.nrcsa.com/whats_new/articles/1001217.html

Quito—Academia Latinoamericana offers a Medical Spanish and Volunteer Program in the summer of 2003. The course may become an annual offering. From June 29 to July 25 medical professionals will study medical Spanish, take weekend excursions, and spend time volunteering in a hospital in Quito.

Guatemala

<http://www.spanishschool.com/medical.htm>

Quetzaltenango—A Medical Spanish program at Miguel Angel Asturias Spanish School provides intensive one—on—one classes, specialized conversation practice, and clinical experience. Students may stay as little as 1 week or as long as 3 months.

<http://www.unmc.edu/isp/studyabroad/medicallspanish/medicallspanishcourse.htm>

Antigua, San Lucas Toliman—The University of Nebraska Medical Center offers a 2-phase program. Phase 1 involves seminars on health care in Guatemala, observation of health care programs, visits with health care practitioners, and cultural activities. Phase 2 includes private instruction in Spanish followed by three weeks of clinical experience.

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<http://www.mundo—guatemala.com/volunteer.htm#Social%20Work>

Mundo Guatemala—This program offers volunteer opportunities and welcomes those in health care fields. Skills and talents will determine placement according to the current needs of local clinics and hospitals.

<http://www.pop—wuj.org/medical.htm>

Pop Wuj—A special program for medical students and providers is offered in March, April, September, and October for a maximum of 15 students. June, July, and August have a modified program geared toward public health, nursing, and medical students still completing their studies. Practitioners are also accepted. One-on-one classroom settings provide students with tools to take a history, perform a physical exam, and address physical health care needs. Outside the classroom, students have access to medical conferences and hands-on clinical volunteer positions.

Mexico

<http://www.donquijote.org/english/la/courses.medical.asp>

Guanajuato—This is a 2-week Spanish medical vocabulary course for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals. The first week is focused on generally improving knowledge of Spanish. The second week is devoted to the specialization, including a visit to a hospital. (Also see <http://www.abanico—espanol.com/abanico/courses.medical.asp> and <http://www.spanishinmexico.org/>)

<http://www.medspanish.com/>

San Miguel de Allende—This program could count as a med school residency elective or CME (continuing medical education) experience. Every day, participants receive 2 hours of small group instruction and 6 hours of total immersion clinical time.

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<http://www.mardejade.com/medvol.htm>

Mar de Jade—This Medical Volunteer Program provides opportunities for working with local dispensaries in Chacala, clinics in Las Varas, and more. This opportunity is available to clinicians, medical students, and those focused on counseling and psychology. There is also a birthing center in the clinic.

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<http://intlhealth.med.utoronto.ca/spanish.pdf>

Guadalajara—The Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara offers Medical Spanish courses. These courses can last from 2 to 8 weeks and provide basic language, seminar instruction in Mexican health care systems, use of medical terminology and colloquial idioms, contact with patients in medically supervised clinics, opportunities to study public health aspects of the community, and epidemiological investigation.

<http://www.pacemd.org/id30.html>

San Miguel—PACEMD, the Pan American Collaborative Emergency Medicine Development Program, has externships for medical personnel. Held over a 2- to 4-week period, the course includes 2 to 4 hours daily of intensive general and Medical Spanish, opportunities to use communication skills in the local county hospital, exposure to the Mexican health care system, cultural components, and places to explore.

<http://www.instculturaloax.com.mx/courses.html>

Oaxaca—Instituto Cultural Oaxaca offers 3 to 4 hours of intensive one—on—one daily instruction, allowing students to focus on medical terminology and language skills necessary for interacting with patients.

<http://www.medicalspanish.homestead.com/>

Oaxaca—Medical Spanish Immersion (MSI) provides opportunities to learn Medical Spanish while working in hospitals and health clinics. Guided clinical rotations let students implement what they learn in contextualized language instruction sessions. A minimum stay of 10 days is recommended, and longer stays are encouraged.

Venezuela

<http://cela—ve.com/html/health.html>

Margarita Island — The program at CELA Spanish School is designed for physicians, nurses, and other health care providers, as well as students in health—related professions. This course gives participants a chance to use Spanish in a hospital situation while also receiving classroom instruction. The program lasts from 1 to 4 weeks.

Language Opportunities

<http://www.amsa.org/global/ih/intlintro.cfm>

This site lists countries hosting International Health Electives for Medical Students.

http://www.amwa—doc.org/Education/RHI/International/rhi_international.htm

The American Medical Women's Association offers international opportunities relating to reproductive health.

http://www.fcm.arizona.edu/predoc/internationalhealth/Medical_Spanish.html

South America—The Interhealth South America Summer Program is a study tour introduction to South American primary and community health care accompanied by Medical Spanish language for first and second year medical students. The session for beginners is mid—June to mid—July, and the advanced beginner/intermediate session is mid—June to early July. Courses are listed by country.

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Costa Rica

<http://www.adventurespanishschool.com/>

AEC—This program combines intensive, small group Spanish instruction with afternoon and weekend activities, such as Latin dance & cooking classes, as well as kayaking, river rafting, mountain biking, and nights in the jungle. There are numerous volunteer programs, and the Medical Spanish program combines in-class language lessons with weekly visits to local clinics and hospitals.

<http://www.cpi—edu.com/seminars/medicalmontflam.htm>

Monteverde—Medical Spanish classes accommodate students according to placement level. Cultural activities and excursions round out the learning experience and expose students to cultural dimensions.

<http://www.mvinstitute.org/pages/education-courses-spanish.html>

Monteverde—This 6-week course, Field Methods for Community Health, uses in-depth field practice to teach qualitative and quantitative methods for applied anthropology and health disciplines, and explores changes in health and health care communities.

Dominican Republic

<http://www.hispaniola.org/home.htm#MEDICAL%20LANGUAGE>

Santo Domingo—This medical language program is centered on the individual. Course duration centers on the level of Spanish competency and fluency the student wants to achieve with the option of five progressive levels. The one-to-one student/teacher ratio and personal schedule make this a unique learning experience.

<http://www.hispaniola.org/home.htm#MEDICAL%20LANGUAGE>

Committee on Institutional Cooperation—This program offers the Latin American Health, Nutrition, and Environmental Issues Program in the Dominican Republic. One component focuses on cultural orientation, language training, and a seminar on Latin American/Caribbean Health, Nutrition, and Environmental Issues. A second component includes advanced language training, regular university courses in health and special area studies courses for foreigners, and a field-based independent study project.

Guatemala

<http://www.unmc.edu/isp/studyabroad/medicalspanish/medicalspanishcourse.htm>
Antigua and San Lucas Toliman—University of Nebraska Medical Center offers a two—phase program. Phase 1 involves seminars on health care in Guatemala, observation of health care programs, visits with health care practitioners, and cultural activities. Phase 2 includes private instruction in Spanish followed by three weeks of clinical experience.

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Mexico

<http://www.studyspanish—mexico.com/medical.htm>

Cancun—Medical Spanish courses are designed to accompany general Spanish courses to teach general terms for basic communication with Spanish-speaking patients. Classes start every Monday, year-round, and participants may study for as many weeks as they choose. The minimum study length is 1 week.

<http://www.chac—mool.com/medical.html>

Cuernavaca—Classes run from 1-4 weeks, or 5 or more weeks, with tuition broken down accordingly. Programs are tailored to students' needs with one-on-one supplemental instruction included.

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Guadalajara—The Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara offers Medical Spanish courses. The courses offered here can last from 2 to 8 weeks and provide basic language, seminar instruction in health care systems in Mexico, use of medical terminology and colloquial idioms, contact with patients in medically supervised clinics, opportunities to study public health aspects of the community, and epidemiological investigation.

<http://abbc3.hsc.usc.edu/familymed/medspan/medspan4.htm>

Ensenada and Baja California—The 3-week course provides training in Medical Spanish. Students experience family life and learn about the human body in small group sessions.

<http://abbc3.hsc.usc.edu/familymed/medspan/index.htm>

Ensenada—This intensive 3-week program focuses on Medical Spanish and international health. The courses are designed for all levels of proficiency.

<http://www.crossculturalencounters.com/>

Puerto Rico; Monterrey, Mexico—Cross-Cultural Encounters offers experience in perinatal and women's health care. Options at these sites include professional conferences, presentations and workshops, onsite training at your workplace, correspondence courses, travel study courses in Puerto Rico, and winter workshops in Anchorage, Alaska.

<http://www.bajacal.com/medical.html>

Baja California Language School—This program offers a weeklong Medical Spanish immersion program.

<http://www.instculturaloax.com.mx/courses.html>

Instituto Cultural Oaxaca—This program offers 3 to 4 hours of intensive one-on-one daily instruction, allowing students to focus on medical terminology and language skills necessary for interacting with patients.

<http://www.aventurased.com/>

Cuernavaca and Tepoztlan—Educational Travel Adventures offers special study programs for professionals (health, medical, education, social work, psychotherapy, business, legal, etc.). Students will learn Spanish in the context of understanding the Mexican culture through classes and learning integration activities such as cooking and dancing.