

**Indigenous Latin American Languages Programs  
Summer 2023**

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**Mayan Language Institute (Kaqchikel and K'iche' Mayan) – FLAS Eligible**

Center for Latin American Studies – Tulane University

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies – Vanderbilt University

**Location:** Guatemala

**Dates:** June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Program Summary:** The Mayan Language Institute is a 6-week program to train students in either Kaqchikel or K'iche' Maya, two of the most widely-spoken Mayan languages in Guatemala today. Thanks to the collaboration between U.S. American faculty and Maya teachers, participants can study at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels of either language. The program's highly individualized classes combine language immersion activities, lectures, one-on-one conversations, guest speakers and cultural excursions. The intensive nature of these classes, combined with students' daily immersion in Maya communities, enables them to enhance their language skills rapidly while experiencing Indigenous cultures firsthand.

**Program Cost:** \$7,000 USD (\$5,000 tuition; \$2,000 Housing and Logistics Fee)

[Program Website](#)

[Program Application](#)

**Application Deadline:** Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

**Contact:** [sclassum@tulane.edu](mailto:sclassum@tulane.edu) | +1 (504) 862–8629

**Summer Intensive Mixtec Language School – FLAS Eligible**

Center for Latin American Studies, San Diego State University

**Location:** Oaxaca, Mexico

**Dates:** June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Program Summary:** Mixtec is an indigenous language of Mexico spoken by people living in the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Puebla, many of whom have migrated and established communities throughout northern Mexico and the United States. The Mixtec Summer Language Programs are focused on acquiring sufficient linguistic skills to communicate within the variant taught in the classroom as well as establishing a foundation for understanding dialectic differences that one will encounter as they move among Mixtec speakers. The program is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the interface between Mixtec culture and the broader mestizo culture of Oaxaca, grassroots movements to preserve Mixtec culture both within Oaxaca and among Mixtec communities in the US, and other such topics that will provide a foundation for understanding Mixtec language and culture. Intermediate Spanish proficiency is required to participate.

**Tuition & Fees:**

\$5,000 includes SDSU tuition and program activities.

**Application & Deadline:**

Website/ Application: [sdsu.edu/AztecsAbroad](https://sdsu.edu/AztecsAbroad)

Deadline: February 15, 2023 (tentative)

**Contact:**

Cristina Rios,  
Study Abroad Coordinator  
[classty@sdsu.edu](mailto:classty@sdsu.edu)

## **Summer Intensive Zapotec Language School – FLAS Eligible**

Center for Latin American Studies, San Diego State University

**Location:** Juchitán, Oaxaca, Mexico

**Dates:** June 18, 2023 – July 29, 2023

**Program Summary:** Zapotec is one of the most widely spoken indigenous languages of Oaxaca, Mexico with some speakers of Isthmus Zapotec in Chiapas and Veracruz. This intensive program is taught by native Isthmus Zapotec speaker and linguist Tomas Villalobos Aquino through the Casa de la Cultura in Juchitán. The course offers 140 hours of class instruction over a six-week period with workshops and field trips to market centers, elementary and secondary schools, hospitals, and other community-based centers of social interaction. Participants will be fully immersed in the culture and language through homestays with Zapotec speaking families, this may be subject to change. Intermediate Spanish proficiency is required to participate.

### **Tuition & Fees:**

\$5,000 includes SDSU tuition and program activities (tentative)

### **Application & Deadline:**

Website/ Application: [sdsu.edu/AztecsAbroad](https://sdsu.edu/AztecsAbroad)

Deadline: February 15, 2023 (tentative)

### **Contact:**

Cristina Rios,  
Study Abroad Coordinator  
[classtdy@sdsu.edu](mailto:classtdy@sdsu.edu)

## **Intensive Quechua – FLAS Eligible**

Centro Tinku and University of Michigan

**Program Location:** Cusco (Peru)

**Dates:** June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **Program Summary:**

Directed to students of Anthropology, History, Linguistics, Archaeology, Public Health, Environmental Studies, and other relevant disciplines, the program consists of seven weeks of intensive, highly individualized classroom work and workshops at elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Our experienced instructors are native Quechua speakers trained in education and language instruction.

This course will center on the modern Quechua of the Southern Peruvian Andes, as it is spoken today in Cusco, the heartland of the Incas. During the summer program, students will be involved in cultural activities related to language and cultural acquisition, including interaction with Quechua speakers, learning of traditional songs, and participation in rituals corresponding to the Andean calendar of fiestas.

This cultural immersion, over a total of 140 in-class contact hours, effectively guarantees a path to linguistic fluency through the various levels offered.

It is expected that upon completion of the program, students can continue studying Quechua in the academic year through our in-house Quechua online program and/or enroll in our presential Intensive Quechua program in the following years

**Program schedule and application material** soon available through University of Michigan LACS webpage or directly by writing to [jeanjacquesdecoaster@gmail.com](mailto:jeanjacquesdecoaster@gmail.com) or [decoaster@centrotinku.com](mailto:decoaster@centrotinku.com)

**Tuition and Academic costs:** \$4100.00 US for the totality of the program

***Centro Tinku also offers 50% scholarships on tuition costs to Latin American students not eligible for other funding.***

## **Ecuadorian Kichwa– FLAS Eligible**

Andes and Amazon Field School, Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Florida International University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Florida

**Location:** Napo Province Ecuador.

**Dates:** June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 -July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Program Summary:** Amazonian Kichwa is taught in English by Professors Tod D. Swanson, (Arizona State University), Armando Muyulema, (University of Wisconsin at Madison), Nely Shiguango and Bélgica Dahua. The program offers 140 hours of intensive classroom instruction to meet the requirements of the US Department of Education. Students are evaluated upon entry and again upon completion of the course using the IRIS testing instruments provided by the USDE. All students receive grades for courses. In addition to teaching grammar, vocabulary, the Kichwa language is used as an anthropological linguistic window into Amazonian culture and worldview. The class frequently goes into the forest with traditional elders to learn about plants and animals in Kichwa. Origin stories and songs to species are recorded in Kichwa and translated in class. As ability in Kichwa improves students formulate their own research questions in Kichwa. While studying Kichwa students also receive a grounding in Amazonian cultural thinking about the environment from top experts in the field. The program includes a 4 day canoe trip into the Waorani territory with Kichwa native speakers. Students make lasting contacts with native communities for future dissertation work. Life changing for many. 219 FLAS Fellows from 40 Universities have attended since 2000.

**Applications:** Please email or call Tod D. Swanson, [tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com](mailto:tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com) 480 276-5913 (just call, no appointment needed). We accept all FLAS Fellows. Students from FLAS granting institutions should apply for FLAS through their home institutions. Students from other universities may apply for FLAS through Florida International University (deadline January 1, 2021) the University of Wisconsin at Madison (deadline February) or the University of Pittsburgh

**Cost:** \$7500 (broken down as academic program fee: \$5000 + room & board: \$2500.

**Website:** <https://www.andes-fieldschool.org/>

**Contact:**

Tod Swanson, PhD

Director, Andes and Amazon Field School

[tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com](mailto:tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com)

Cell: 480-276-5913

## **OSEA Intensive Maya Language Program – FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** On-Site Immersion (Pisté, Yucatán) with homestays

**Dates:** June 11<sup>th</sup> — July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 OR **Hybrid Course & Remote Programs:** Can be Accommodated by Arrangement with Program Director; flexible dates TBA, possible start dates as early as mid-May. *\*Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced offered for all Program Dates*

**Program Summary:** Maya is an Indigenous language spoken in the Yucatán peninsula in México and one of the approximately thirty-two Mayan languages comprising the Mayan language family. It is the only Mayan language whose proper name is Maya. The common Anglophone term, “Yucatec Maya,” is a scientific jargon term invented by linguists to differentiate the language properly named Maya with other Mayan languages, each of which have their own proper name, and from Proto-Mayan. Learn more about the correct and incorrect uses of the words Maya and Mayan: [OSEA. CORRECT USE of word Maya and Mayan.](#)

OSEA offers on-site immersion with homestays in Maya speaking families. Students learn to read, write, speak, listen, and converse in Maya. OSEA Maya program highlights individualized instruction with Maya tutors in small enrollment courses that prioritizes effective learning. Language competencies and proficiencies build on learning cultural knowledge about Maya peoples, histories, and society provided by the course. The OSEA teaching staff is able to offer graduate students specialized assistance in their research areas and projects in all disciplinary areas (e.g., linguistics, anthropology, history, folklore, theatre, comparative literature). Language learning is tailored to fit students’ specific areas of Maya culture that students prioritize.

**Coursework consists of 5 hours a day of classroom contact hours with the instructors; 5 days a week (25 hours a week, six weeks of continuous instruction)**

**Requirements:** Spanish is not required. There are no course prerequisites for Beginning Maya. Intermediate Maya requires a minimum of one year of beginning Maya or two six-week FLAS eligible intensive summer courses (280 contact hours of instruction). Advanced Maya requires a minimum of two years of Maya or equivalent.

**Course Materials Included:** Spoken Maya Lessons by Blair and Vermont (textbook and audio); Ko'ox Kanik Màaya T'aan (course textbook & audio) by Quetzil Castañeda & E. Dzizdz

**Program Costs:** Tuition \$5,000. Homestays & Fees \$1200.

OSEA Tuition Reduction Scholarships available for Non-FLAS funded students

**Contact:** Quetzil E. Castañeda, Director OSEA, 812-327-5845. [quetzil@osea-cite.org](mailto:quetzil@osea-cite.org)

## **Yucatec Maya Institute – FLAS Eligible**

Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University

### **Location:**

Level 1: 3 weeks virtual; 4 weeks in-person Valladolid, Mexico (contingent on travel restrictions)

Level 2: 3 weeks virtual; 4 weeks in-person Valladolid, Mexico (contingent on travel restrictions).

Level 3: Not offered Summer 2023

### **Dates:**

Level 1, 7 weeks, June 12-July 6, 2023 virtual; July 10-August 4, 2023 in-person

Level 2, 6 weeks, June 19-July 6, 2023 virtual; July 10-August 4, 2023 in-person

**Program Summary:** The Yucatec Maya Summer Institute offers three courses (Levels 1-3) in modern Yucatec Maya, a living language spoken by one million people living in the Yucatán Peninsula and northern Belize. Only Levels 1 and 2 will be offered in Summer 2023.

Students in the Intensive Yucatec Maya Courses will have the unique opportunity to take a comprehensive look at the Yucatán through a combination of classroom and field activities. Students visit a range of important historic and cultural locations. Trips to archeological and colonial sites as well as other Mayan villages are led by Mayan scholars, who will introduce students to the cultural importance of each site. Valladolid is home to an innovative Maya culture and language program that promotes intercultural learning and trains a new generation of Maya-speaking students. Xocen, situated 12 kilometers southeast of Valladolid, is located in the milpa area of the Mexican state of Yucatán. Xocen is an ancient town that played a key role in the Caste War and was the original home of the Talking Cross.

Basic knowledge of Spanish is required.

The program is eligible for FLAS funding. Students who are not eligible for FLAS are considered for alternative funding opportunities.

**Tuition and Fees:** \$7500 includes tuition, fees, most living expenses in Mexico.

### **Contact:**

Beatriz Riefkohl Muñoz, [riefkohl@email.unc.edu](mailto:riefkohl@email.unc.edu)



## ITESO - Introduction to Náhuatl Language and Culture – FLAS Eligible

**Location:** Guadalajara, Mexico (plus round-trip travel to Nahua community in Hidalgo, Mexico)

**Dates:** June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Program Summary:** The program takes place at ITESO, the Jesuit University of Guadalajara and in Los Puentes, Hidalgo. ITESO has offered a Náhuatl language program taught by native Nahua speakers during the academic semester for several years. During our summer program, students will be able to travel with the professor to his home community and experience a practical application of the language and culture skills they have acquired during the first weeks of this intensive program. Students should be able to demonstrate a B2 CEFR level of Spanish before the program begins.

Participants will:

- Be Introduced to the historical, social, and cultural aspects of the Nahua culture as well as to basic vocabulary, frequently used everyday expressions and simple phrases to be able to participate in basic interactions with Nahua speakers.
- Analyze general aspects of the structure of the Náhuatl language (morphology and syntax) as a means to facilitate comprehension of how the language works.
- Know the writing conventions of contemporary Náhuatl language, especially the conventions adopted by the Mexican Ministry of Education, besides the writing conventions of Colonial Náhuatl.
- Participants spend two days in Mexico City visiting cultural sites. They will then visit the Nahua community of Los Puentes, in the state of Hidalgo, in order to practice what was learned in the course through participation in community activities and ceremonies.

**Cost:** Course tuition and fees (including tutoring in Nahua Community): approx. \$3745 USD; Housing and meals in Guadalajara: approx. \$525 USD

**FLAS & Other Financial Assistance:** Yes, the program is FLAS eligible. The course will include 140 contact hours / 6 US credits – including lecture, tutoring and practical language application. 110 hours of instruction plus 30 hours of tutoring in the Nahua community of Los Puentes, Hidalgo in the Huasteca region. ***Scholarships are available for Non-FLAS eligible students.***

**Contact:**

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/nahuatl-summer-2023/inicio>

For questions about the program, application process, or other related details please contact Della Burke: [deburke@iteso.mx](mailto:deburke@iteso.mx)

## **University of Utah Intensive Nahuatl Language and Culture Program – FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** We are planning to hold the program in-person at the University of Utah.

**Program Dates:** June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Program Summary:** The Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Utah, in partnership with IDIEZ (the Instituto de Docencia e Investigación Etnológica de Zacatecas, Mexico) is offering the opportunity to study Classical and Modern forms of Nahuatl at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Students will have class for at least five hours per day, Monday through Friday which will include a combination of class and small group instruction, cultural activities and presentations, and tutoring with native Nahuatl speakers. Instruction is offered by highly trained native-language speakers and provides students with a solid foundation in Nahuatl, a Uto-Aztecan language spoken in Mexico, along with meaningful cultural activities.

The University of Utah has a rich history of Nahuatl studies that includes the English translation and publication of the *Florentine Codex* by Charles Dibble and Arthur Anderson. The UU Marriott Library's collection of facsimiles of Meso-American Codices is among the most important in the United States.

The course seeks to: 1) develop students' oral comprehension, speaking, reading, writing as well as their cultural wisdom and sensibility, in order to communicate effectively, correctly and creatively in everyday situations; 2) provide students with instruments and experiences that demonstrate the continuity between past and present Nahua culture, through the study of colonial and modern texts and conversation with native speakers; and 3) penetrate into the historical, economic, political, social and cultural aspects of Nahua civilization.

**Credit:** Students who complete this intensive language course will be awarded 6-8 credits (8 credits for beginner and intermediate and 6 credit for advanced), equivalent to two semesters of intensive coursework.

**For more information & to apply, please visit our [website](#) or contact [summernahuatl@utah.edu](mailto:summernahuatl@utah.edu) with additional questions.**

**Program Cost:** \$5,000. Some [partial tuition assistance](#) is available (see below). The program is also FLAS eligible.

**FLAS & Other Financial Assistance:** We make every effort to ensure that financial constraints are not an obstacle for participating in the Summer Nahuatl Language program by providing FLAS fellowships and other partial tuition scholarships. University of Utah undergraduate students may apply for Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for study at the intermediate or advanced level; and UU graduate students may apply for a Summer FLAS fellowship for all levels. (<https://latin-american-studies.utah.edu/flas/>). **The UU will offer a very limited number of FLAS Fellowships to students from other U.S. universities, but if possible non-UU Students should also apply for a FLAS fellowship at their home institution.** (For FLAS specific questions please contact [Patrick Cheney](#).)

**Website:** <https://latin-american-studies.utah.edu/nahuatlprogram/index.php>

**Application:** <https://latin-american-studies.utah.edu/nahuatlprogram/apply.php>

**Contact:** If you have questions about applications, the curriculum, or on-campus housing and meals, please contact Kari Moore and Brisa Zavala at [summernahuatl@utah.edu](mailto:summernahuatl@utah.edu). For FLAS specific questions please contact [Patrick Cheney](#). ([patrick.cheney@utah.edu](mailto:patrick.cheney@utah.edu))