

# Latin American Indigenous Language Programs

Summer 2016

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**Intensive Summer Language & Culture Program in K'iche' and Kaqchikel  
Mayan Language Institute 2016  
FLAS Eligible**

**Tulane University, Stone Center for Latin American Studies  
Vanderbilt University, Center for Latin American Studies  
University of Texas, Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies  
University of New Mexico, Latin American and Iberian Institute**

**Location:** Antigua and Nahualá, Guatemala

**Dates:** June 19 – July 29, 2016

**Program Summary:**

The Mayan Language Institute is an intensive six-week language immersion program in K'iche' Maya and Kaqchikel Maya. Students study with both U.S. faculty and native speakers. In addition to language study, students participate in cultural activities, lectures, discussions, and excursions. With more than 1.5 million K'iche' and Kaqchikel speakers in Guatemala, the goal of the institute is to help students develop and advance proficiency in their chosen language and to gain a better understanding of the cultural and political contexts that have affected the historical development and preservation of the language.

Students pursuing Kaqchikel Maya will spend six weeks in Antigua. Students pursuing K'iche' Maya will spend one week in Antigua and five weeks in Nahualá. All students are placed with local families for home-stays. Classes in Antigua will take place at UT Austin's Casa Herrera—a great colonial mansion turned beautifully restored academic facility—which is centrally located one block north of Antigua's Central Park.

Please visit the program's webpage at: <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/page/MLI>.

**Application and Deadline:**

The application deadline for this program is March 18, 2016. Student applicants must be in good academic standing and have at least a current cumulative grade point average of 2.5. Non-Tulane students are welcome to apply, but should confirm with their home university that their credits will transfer. Students should have some level of Spanish proficiency; previous study in either Kaqchikel or K'iche' is required for intermediate or advanced coursework. Students should be flexible and prepared for living conditions in Guatemala.

Complete applications will include:

- Online application
- Letter of intent
- Official copy of transcript
- Copy of front page of passport
- One recommendation
- \$50 application deposit

**Tuition and Fees:**

TBD

**Contact Information:**

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Stone Center of Latin American Studies  
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Tulane University  
(P) 504.862.8629 (F) 504.865.6719  
sclassum@tulane.edu

**The Andes and Amazon Field Station: Ecuadorian Quichua**  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
**FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** Amazonian region of Ecuador at Iyarina on the Napo River near Tena

**Dates:** June 6-29 and July 5-29

**Program Summary:**

This program is taught in English by Professor Tod D. Swanson, a specialist in Quichua Anthropological Linguistics, with the assistance of Michael Severino and native speaker course assistants. Adding to the high academic quality of the program will be guest teaching by internationally recognized Quichua specialists Dr. Pieter Muysken, Academy Professor of Linguistics at Radboud University Nijmegen (Netherlands) working with the group June 18-25, and Dr. Janis Nuckolls, Professor of Linguistics at Brigham Young University, June 18-29.

The program offers 140 hours of intensive Quichua classroom instruction to meet the requirements for FLAS Fellowships established by the U.S. Department of Education. All students receive grades for Quichua courses. Students are evaluated upon entry and again upon completion of the course using the testing instruments provided by the USDE. Classes are taught in English. During the second half of the afternoon students break into smaller groups for organized Quichua language practice with native speakers. The program is located in a community where Quichua is the dominant language. 136 FLAS Fellows have attended since 2000.

In addition FLAS students may participate in an Ethnobotany course in which Quichua is used as a window into Amazonian philosophy of nature. Each morning (weather permitting) the class goes out into the forest to learn about plants and animals from traditional elders or shamans. Origin stories and songs to species are recorded in Quichua. Professor Swanson translates the interviews into English for the class while analyzing Quichua terms and linguistic forms. As ability in Quichua improves students increasingly begin to formulate their own questions in Quichua. Alternatively graduate students may choose to work on their own research.

**Application and Deadline:**

Apply online at <http://www.abroad.pitt.edu/ecuadorflas>. For more information, please visit: <http://www.andes-fieldschool.org>.

Applications accepted through February 27, 2015. To apply, email Tod Swanson at [tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com](mailto:tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com) and Timothy Crawford at [MRH66@pitt.edu](mailto:MRH66@pitt.edu).

**Tuition and Fees:**

Cost: \$6950 (\$5000 academic + \$1950 board and room).

**Contact Information:**

Tod Swanson, Program Director

T: (480) 361-9289

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

**Summer Quechua Language Study in Cusco**  
**University of Michigan**  
**FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** Cusco, Peru

**Dates:** June 20 – August 5, 2016

**Program Summary:**

For more than a decade, the University of Michigan Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies has cosponsored the Summer Quechua Study program in Cusco, Peru, and this is our eighth year collaborating with Centro Tinku, directed by Dr. Jean-Jacques Decoster. The program is open to all college and university undergraduate and graduate students who wish to learn Southern Quechua. This unique program offers high-quality intensive language instruction through the experienced faculty at Centro Tinku along with the extraordinary experience of living and learning in the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco.

Three levels of intensive Southern Quechua are taught at Centro Tinku: Intensive Beginning Quechua, Intensive Intermediate Quechua, and Intensive Advanced Quechua. Classes meet for seven weeks. The courses meet daily for four hours per day, a total of 104 language instruction contact hours per course. Each class is the equivalent of a full academic year course.

Enrollment will be limited to ten for each of the five levels. The program is open to all graduate and professional school students. An extensive program of excursions and cultural events supplement the courses. The Quechua courses are taught using the immersion method. However, a working knowledge of Spanish is strongly recommended, as Spanish is the “bridge language” in the classroom. For an additional tuition fee, students may opt to take the course for University of Michigan credit by enrolling in the corresponding courses (LACS 471/472 and 473/474).

**Application and Deadline:**

See <http://i.umich.edu/lacs/academics/quechualanguageprogram>.

**Tuition and Fees:**

Academic tuition: \$2,680.00

Optional Room & Board in Homestay: \$1,560.00

**Contact Information:**

Howard Tsai, [hitsai@umich.edu](mailto:hitsai@umich.edu)

Viviana Pujada Bermúdez, [viviana@centrotinku.com](mailto:viviana@centrotinku.com)

Jean-Jacques Decoster, [decoster@centrotinku.com](mailto:decoster@centrotinku.com)

**Miskitu: Language and Culture in Nicaragua**  
**University of Kansas**  
**FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** Granada and Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua

**Dates:** July 3 – August 15, 2016

**Program Summary:**

This FLAS-eligible, University of Kansas summer study abroad program on Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to learn Miskitu, an indigenous language, obtain credit in Latin American Studies or Linguistics, and learn about the indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures of the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. Miskitu is spoken by nearly 200,000 indigenous Miskitu people on the Honduran and Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast. Nicaragua has a lot to offer, but because it is a developing country, students should be prepared to face unexpected challenges that come with developing countries, such as periodic lack of hot water or electricity.

Students will begin the program by living in Granada, an architecturally stunning colonial city, located on the central Pacific side of Nicaragua. The group will then live for one month in Puerto Cabezas, which has a unique blend of mestizos, indigenous, and Afro-Caribbean culture. Students will also take excursions to other sites and spend a few days in Corn Island and in the capital city of Managua. All travel and excursions are included.

In Granada, students will be affiliated with Casa Xalteva Education and Cultural Center. In Puerto Cabezas, students will have affiliations with the inter-cultural university, URACCAN (The Nicaraguan University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast); Casa Museo, a museum and culture house; and CIDCA, the Center of Investigations on the Atlantic Coast.

**Application and Deadline:**

Applications are accepted through March 1st, 2016.

This program is open to students from accredited U.S. colleges or universities. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required. A Spanish background is encouraged, as students will live with a host family in Granada. All applicants will be required to complete several documents to complete an application. Below is a list of documents that applicants will need:

- a. Statement of Purpose
- b. Verification of Minimum GPA Requirement
- c. Unofficial Transcript or Advising Report
- d. 2 Recommendations
- e. Authorization to Release Student Information
- f. Student Conduct Verification
- g. Financial Aid Questionnaire

For more detailed information about the application process, please visit <https://studyabroad.ku.edu/language-and-culture-nicaragua>

**Tuition and Fees:**

For estimated program costs, see:

[https://ku.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.BudgetSheet&Term=Summer&Program\\_ID=10117](https://ku.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.BudgetSheet&Term=Summer&Program_ID=10117).

The Office of Study Abroad offers personalized financial aid and scholarship advising for students. Please visit 108 Lippincott Hall or call 785-864-3742 to set up an appointment. KU students who qualify for financial aid in the form of Stafford and/or other loans, Federal Grants, and KU or outside scholarships may apply the aid to the cost of a Study Abroad Program. Non-KU students should check into the financial resources available to them at their home institutions.

**Contact Information:**

Laura Herlihy, Lecturer

[Center of Latin American Studies](#)

320 Bailey Hall

785-864-4213

[laly@ku.edu](mailto:laly@ku.edu)

**Yucatec Maya Institute**  
**Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the**  
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University**  
**FLAS Eligible**

**Location:**

Level 1: Chapel Hill, NC and Valladolid, Mexico

Level 2 and 3: Merida and Valladolid, Mexico

**Dates:** June 13-July 22, 2016

**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.

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 them to the cultural importance of each site. Mérida, the beautiful capital of the Mexican state of Yucatán, offers its visitors both modern and historic aspects of city life. 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:** approximately \$5000; living expenses approximately \$1500

**Contact:** Beatriz Riefkohl Muñoz, riefkohl@email.unc.edu



**Language, Diversity, and Education at Casa Herrera**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**  
**Not FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** Antigua, Guatemala

**Dates:** May 22 – July 2, 2016, and July 7 – August 14, 2016

**Program Summary:**

This twelve- or six-week program provides students with a comprehensive set of experiences to support their future work with linguistically and culturally diverse children or families in any context, with particular emphasis on education and teaching. Students participate in Summer Session Whole (12 weeks – combination of Summer Session I and Summer Session II), Summer Session I (6 weeks) or Summer Session II (6 weeks).

The Summer Session I program, Culture, Diversity and Education, introduces students to the complexities involved in studying the cultural, social, economic and linguistic factors that influence how people of diverse backgrounds learn. This program primarily explores the relationship between schools and the larger society as related to diversity.

The Summer Session II program, Acquisition of Languages and Literacies, provides an opportunity for students to learn about the acquisition of language via content-based instruction. This program allows students to develop skills for teaching English and supporting students who are learners of English. The course discusses the implications of the increasing use and teaching of English internationally and explores bilingual education.

Both programs devote substantial attention to issues in education throughout Latin America and Guatemala, as well as issues affecting immigrants from Latin America to the U.S. Outside of the classroom, students visit schools, work in teams to develop and deliver ESL lessons to Maya children, explore Maya villages and stay with a host family in Central Antigua. Students take a course in either Spanish or a Mayan language taught by local faculty. The program includes excursions to nearby Maya villages such as Panajachel and Chichicastenango.

**Application and Deadline:**

See <http://world.utexas.edu/abroad/programs/summer/guatemala-education>

**Tuition and Fees:**

\$3350 for one session, \$6700 for both

**Contact Information:**

Dan Siefken: [dsiefken@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:dsiefken@austin.utexas.edu)

**Learn Mixtec in Oaxaca City, Mexico!**  
**Center for Latin American Studies, San Diego State University**  
**FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** Oaxaca, Mexico

**Dates:** June 20 - July 28, 2016

**Program Summary:**

Language instruction is provided by native Mixtec speakers and scholars Juan Julian Caballero and Marcos Cruz Bautista through the Welte Institute in Oaxaca. The course offers 140 hours of instruction plus local weekend field trips over a six-week-period. Intermediate Spanish proficiency is required to participate.

**Application and Deadline:**

See [http://latinamericanstudies.sdsu.edu/study\\_abroad/mixtec.html](http://latinamericanstudies.sdsu.edu/study_abroad/mixtec.html) for instructions. Application deadline is March 15, 2016.

**Tuition and Fees:**

\$4,500 includes SDSU tuition, some course materials, and program ground transportation. Airfare, food, health insurance, and lodging are not included.

**Contact Information:**

Casey Mellnik, Study Abroad Coordinator: [classtdy@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:classtdy@mail.sdsu.edu)

**Learn Zapotec in Juchitan, Mexico!**  
**Center for Latin American Studies, San Diego State University**  
**FLAS Eligible**

**Location:** Oaxaca, Mexico

**Dates:** June 20 - July 28, 2016

**Program Summary:**

This intensive program is taught by native Isthmus Zapotec speaker and linguist Tomás Villalobos Aquino through the Casa de la Cultura in Juchitán. The course offers 140 hours of class instruction plus local weekend fieldtrips over a six-week period. Participants will be fully immersed in the culture and language through homestays with Zapotec speaking families. Intermediate Spanish proficiency is required to participate.

**Application and Deadline:**

See [http://latinamericanstudies.sdsu.edu/study\\_abroad/zapotec.html](http://latinamericanstudies.sdsu.edu/study_abroad/zapotec.html) for instructions. Application deadline is March 15, 2016.

**Tuition and Fees:**

\$4,500 includes SDSU tuition, some course materials, and program ground transportation. Airfare, food, health insurance, and lodging are not included.

**Contact Information:**

Casey Mellnik, Study Abroad Coordinator: [classtdy@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:classtdy@mail.sdsu.edu)