

**Indigenous Latin American Languages Programs and Courses
Summer 2025**

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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: Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala (Kaqchikel); Quetzaltenango and Santa Lucía Utatlán, Guatemala (K'iche')

Dates: June 21 – August 2, 2025

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, along with students' daily immersion in Maya communities, enables them to enhance their language skills rapidly while experiencing Indigenous cultures firsthand.

Program Cost: \$7,250 USD (\$5,000 Tuition; \$2,250 Housing and Logistics Fee)

Program Website: <https://stonecenter.tulane.edu/mayan-language-institute>

Application: https://studyabroadprograms.tulane.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10237

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

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

Ecuadorian Kichwa– FLAS Eligible

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

Location: Napo Province Ecuador.

Dates: June 9 - July 18, 2025

Program Summary: FLAS Eligible Amazonian Kichwa is taught in English by Professor Tod D. Swanson, (Arizona State University), Nely Shiguango, Maria Yamberla, and Bélgica Dagua with credit through the University of Pittsburgh. The program offers 140 contact hours of intensive instruction. 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. 246 FLAS Fellows from 40 Universities have attended since 2000.

Applications: Please email or call Tod D. Swanson, tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com 480 276-5913 (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 our sponsoring institutions University of Wisconsin at Madison (deadline February 14, 2025) the University of Pittsburgh (deadline February 17), and the University of Florida at Gainesville (deadline February 2, 2025).

Cost: Program Cost \$5,000, Room & Board \$2,800

Website: <https://www.iyarina.org/flas-kichwa-language>

Contact: Tod Swanson, PhD tod.dillon.swanson@gmail.com Director, Andes and Amazon Field School

OSEA-UNM Intensive Maya Language Program 2025 – FLAS Eligible

The Open School of Ethnography and Anthropology (OSEA) in partnership with the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico (UNM)

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

Dates: June 8 – July 19, 2025

Program Summary: Maya is an Indigenous language spoken in the Yucatán Peninsula in México and one of thirty-two Mayan languages comprising the Mayan language family. It is the only Mayan language whose proper name is Maya. Learn more at: http://www.osea-cite.org/program/maya_or_mayans.php

OSEA partners with the Latin American and Iberian Institute (University of New México) and Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (Indiana University) where eligible students can apply for FLAS Summer Awards for participation in OSEA Intensive 6-Week Maya Immersion.

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. The OSEA teaching staff is able to offer graduate students specialized assistance in their research areas and projects in fields of linguistics, anthropology, history, folklore, theatre, comparative literature. Language learning is tailored to fit students' specific areas of Maya culture that students prioritize.

Credits are based on 5 hours daily 5 days a week, total of 150 contact hours

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 one 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: Course textbooks, select dictionaries, and related publications are provided with program fees (*Spoken Maya Lessons* by Blair and Vermont and *Ko'ox Kanik Màaya T'àan* (course textbook) by Q. Castañeda & E. Dzidz. Participants are encouraged to purchase specific Maya-English and Maya-Spanish dictionaries in print book format

Program Costs: Tuition \$5,000. Homestays & Fees \$1800.

Contact: Quetzil E. Castañeda, Director OSEA, 812-327-5845. quetzil@osea-cite.org

For questions regarding FLAS funding:

Lenny Ureña Valerio, Latin American & Iberian Institute (UNM) lurena@unm.edu

Sonia Manríquez, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (IU) soimanri@iu.edu

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

Application Deadline: Applications received by March 31st deadline will be given preferential enrollment. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis after the March 31st deadline until all spots are filled. Students are encouraged to apply before March 31st as space may be limited after this date. Students applying for FLAS fellowships should also complete the [Summer Nahuatl Program Application](#) as soon as possible to secure preferential enrollment. **Please complete the application regardless of whether you have received notice of FLAS or other scholarship funding. Completing the online summer Nahuatl application does not commit the student to attend the program but is crucial in securing a spot. Students can withdraw should their circumstances change or if FLAS/other funding isn't awarded.**

Program Dates: June 23 – August 1, 2025

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.

Location:

The program will be held in-Person at University of Utah campus.

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. **For more information & to apply, please visit our [website](#) or contact 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. FLAS applications are due January 26th.** (For FLAS specific questions please contact scholarship coordinator at flas@utah.edu)

Website: <https://latin-american-studies.utah.edu/language/summer-nahuatl-program/index.php>

Application: <https://latin-american-studies.utah.edu/language/summer-nahuatl-program/application.php>

Contact: If you have questions about applications, the curriculum, or on-campus housing, please contact Kari Moore at summernahuatl@utah.edu. For FLAS specific questions please contact our scholarship coordinator, Roxanna Lee at (flas@utah.edu).

Mexico: Entre dos Mundos/Between Two Worlds | Nahuatl and Spanish Languages, Cultures, and Histories

University of California, Berkeley

Location: Puebla and Mexico City

Dates: June 20 – July 28, 2025

Program Summary: In this immersive program, students will explore Mexican history, culture, and language (Nahuatl and Spanish) while taking a core major course in the Berkeley Spanish Language Department. Students will live and study in the beautiful, historic and vibrant city of Puebla, with extended excursions to nearby towns and cultural sites including Cholula, the Teotihuacan Pyramids, and Mexico City. Students will increase their Spanish language proficiency while engaging with key texts from Mexican history that deal with Spanish invasion and colonization, and understand how contemporary Mexican and Chicano writers identify (with) their country/ies. In addition, students will study Nahuatl language and culture (the official language of the ancient Mexican-Aztec empire) which is still spoken by 1.5 million people today. This language study will allow students to comprehend cultural, historic, and linguistic intersections between both civilizations. The program will also include an exploration of social practices of present day communities in Mexico and interactions with Nahuatl language, Nahuatl speakers, and culture.

Highlights include:

- Progress through the Spanish Major and Minor through the coursework offered and increasing your Spanish language speaking and writing proficiency
- Visit important and historical sites in the cities of Cholula, Puebla and Mexico City
- Field trips and excursions to places like the Teotihuacan pyramids and more to better analyze and judge syncretism in architecture, religion, language, and cuisine

Cost: UC Student- \$2514 Tuition + \$4551 Program Fee + Approximately \$3,715 for out of pocket expenses. [See chart](#) on cost tab for more detail

Contact: Alex B Tan, alextan@berkeley.edu, Arturo Davila-Sanchez, orutra@berkeley.edu, and Maxwell Moloney, spanua@berkeley.edu

<https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/program/puebla-mexico-entre-dos-mundosbetween-two-worlds-nahuatl-and-spanish-languages-cultures-and>

Elementary Quechua I (June) & Elementary Quechua II (July)– FLAS Eligible

The University of Kansas

Program Location: Virtual

Dates: June 2 – July 25, 2025

Program Description: Learn the most widely spoken indigenous language of the Americas, the official language of the Inca empire, which is spoken in much of the Andes. Variants of Quechua together are spoken by as many as 20 million people in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina. You will learn the Bolivian variant which is comprehensible in the other surrounding countries. Learning Quechua not only enables students to communicate with Andean and western Amazonian indigenous people, but also to show support for the international indigenous movement in its effort to revitalize and strengthen persecuted indigenous languages. This experience will open a path of opportunities for you to study and work in international relations, health, sustainability, science, businesses, education, arts, and other global professions. By studying these Quechua elementary levels I and II you will become eligible to apply for a FLAS scholarship to fund your undergraduate studies. The course will use a Native Language Assistant from Peru, Bolivia, or Ecuador.

Program Cost: FREE (with fees <\$100)

Contact: Heaven Snyder, heavensnyder@ku.edu

Intermediate & Advanced Quechua I & II– FLAS Eligible

The University of Kansas

Program Location: Virtual

Dates: June 2 – July 25, 2025

Program Description: Learn the most widely spoken indigenous language of the Americas, the official language of the Inca empire, which is spoken in much of the Andes. Variants of Quechua together are spoken by as many as 20 million people in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina. You will learn the Bolivian variant which is comprehensible in the other surrounding countries. Learning Quechua not only enables students to communicate with Andean and western Amazonian indigenous people, but also to show support for the international indigenous movement in its effort to revitalize and strengthen persecuted indigenous languages. This experience will open a path of opportunities for you to study and work in international relations, health, sustainability, science, businesses, education, arts, and other global professions. By studying these Quechua elementary levels I and II you will become eligible to apply for a FLAS scholarship to fund your undergraduate studies. The course will use a Native Language Assistant from Peru, Bolivia, or Ecuador.

Program Cost: FREE (with fees <\$100)

Contact: Heaven Snyder, heavensnyder@ku.edu

Guaraní I

The University of Kansas

Program Location: Virtual

Dates: July 1-25, 2025

Program Description: Learning Guarani is a wonderful opportunity to not only develop language skills but also to gain an understanding and appreciation of the rich culture and history of the Guarani people. Guarani is an indigenous language spoken by millions of people in South America, particularly in Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. Guarani is an official language in Paraguay, alongside Spanish. By learning Guarani, people can communicate with native speakers, deepen the understanding of the culture and traditions of the Guarani people, and expand the global perspective. The instructor is a native speaker of Guarani, and the course will also use a Native Language Assistant from Paraguay.

Program Cost: FREE (with fees <\$100)

Contact: David Martinez, jdelfos16@ku.edu

Elementary Me'phaa (Tlapanec) I or II

The University of Kansas

Program Location: Virtual

Dates: July 1-25, 2025

Program Description: Me'phaa is an indigenous Otomanguan language spoken in Guerrero, Mexico, as well as by several thousands of migrants in the U.S., including Lawrence, Kansas. The course will use a Native Language Assistant from Lawrence.

Program Cost: FREE (with fees <\$100)

Contact: Dr. Philip Duncan, philiptduncan@ku.edu

Elementary, Intermediate, & Advanced Miskitu I & II – FLAS Eligible

The University of Kansas

Program Location: Roatán, Honduras

Dates: 6 weeks in July and August, 2025

Program Description: This FLAS-eligible, University of Kansas summer study abroad program offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to learn Miskitu, an indigenous language, spoken by nearly 200,000 indigenous Miskitu people on the Honduran and Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast, and learn about the indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures. Students will further learn about the language and culture by participating in cultural activities and excursions to other cities. Honduras 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. Given the touristy nature of Roatan, this may not be as prevalent. The course will use a Native Language Assistant.

Program Cost: FREE (with program fees)

Contact: Dr. Laura Herlihy, laly@ku.edu