

**Indigenous Latin American Languages Programs and Courses
Summer 2026**

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Ecuadorian Kichwa- FLAS Eligible

Language: Ecuadorian Kichwa

Levels: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: Napo Province Ecuador.

Dates: June 13th - July 23, 2026

Sponsors: University of Pittsburgh, University of Wisconsin, Madison, University of Florida and the University of Georgia

Description: FLAS Eligible Amazonian Kichwa is taught in English by Professor Tod D. Swanson, (Arizona State University) with Native speaker course assistants Nely Shiguango and Bélgica Dagua. 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. 254 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.

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 - FLAS Eligible

Language: Yucatec Maya

Levels: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced

FLAS eligibility: Yes

Location: Pisté, Yucatán

Dates: June 7 to July 18 (6 weeks). Contact Director for possible alternative dates

Credits/Contact Hours: 150 Contact Hours based on 5 hours daily, 5 days a week for six weeks.

Sponsors: University of New México and Indiana University

Course Description: 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 Mexico) 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.

Requirements/Prerequisites

- 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 and Contact Hours:
- Included in program cost: Ko'ox Kanik Màaya T'àan (course textbook) by Castañeda & Dzidz Yam; digital dictionaries; Spoken Maya Lessons (textbook and audio); Maya language publications; access to OSEA Digital Library.

Cost:

- 6 Week Program: Tuition & Fees \$6500. Homestays \$1100
- 4 Week Program: Tuition & Fees \$5000. Homestays \$900
- Out of Pocket: Maya-English and Maya-Spanish dictionaries.

OSEA Tuition Reduction Scholarships for Non-FLAS funded students

Website: www.osea-cite.org

Contacts: OSEA Partners for FLAS Fellowships to Participate in OSEA Maya Program

- Lenny Ureña Valerio, Latin American & Iberian Institute (UNM) lurena@unm.edu
- Sonia Manríquez, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (IU) soimanri@iu.edu
- Quetzil E. Castañeda, Director OSEA, 812.327.5845 quetzil@osea-cite.org

Mayan Language Institute: Kaqchikel – 4-Week FLAS Ineligible/ 6-Week FLAS Eligible

Language: Kaqchikel Maya

Levels: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced

FLAS Eligibility: 6-week FLAS-Eligible Option

Location: Ciudad Vieja, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala

Dates:

- Four-week program: June 20 – July 18, 2026
- Six-week program: June 20 – August 1, 2026 (FLAS eligible)

Credits and/or Contact Hours:

Total Credit Hours: 6

Total Contact Hours: 90 (Four-week), 140 (six-week)

Sponsor: Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University

Description: The Mayan Language Institute: Kaqchikel, also known as Oxlajuj Aj, has been training Kaqchikel language students in Guatemala since 1987. Co-taught by Tulane professor Dr. Judith Maxwell, and expert local instructors, it exposes students to a variety of language dialects while teaching them standardized Kaqchikel grammar and orthography. Language classes combine grammatical lectures with practice activities to teach through immersion: instructors model new vocabulary and grammar for students and then invite them to participate in a series of highly structured steps. This methodology enables students to build a linguistic schema without relying upon translations from Spanish or English. (It is also great fun!) Classes also introduce students to important voices and topics in Kaqchikel Maya culture through excursions to nearby sites of interest and presentations by local leaders and scholars.

Requirements/Pre-Requisites: See Program Website

Cost: Final cost will depend upon enrollment; the total cost for 4-week program will not exceed \$6,000 (including Tuition AND Housing/Logistics Fee) *Six-Week FLAS Program will incur an additional cost.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2026

Website: <https://stonecenter.tulane.edu/mli-kaqchikel-maya>

Contact:

Phone: (504) 862 – 8629

Email: sclassum@tulane.edu

100 Jones Hall, Tulane Uptown Campus

Mayan Language Institute: K'iche' – 4-Week FLAS Ineligible/ 6-Week FLAS Eligible

Languages: K'iche

Levels: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

FLAS Eligibility: 6-week FLAS-Eligible Option

Location: El Novillero, Santa Lucía Utatlán, Sololá, Guatemala

Dates:

- Four-week program: June 20 – July 18, 2026
- Six-week program: June 20 – August 1, 2026 (FLAS eligible)

Credits and/or Contact Hours:

Total Credit Hours: 6

Total Contact Hours: 90 (Four-week), 140 (six-week)

Sponsor: Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University; Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies, Vanderbilt University

Description: Students in the Mayan Language Institute: K'iche' program learn the Nahualeño dialect of K'iche' alongside faculty linguists and native-speaking experts. Small group lectures coupled with nearly one-on-one practice offer students an individualized learning experience, one which leads to rapid increase in linguistic proficiency. Classes introduce students to important voices and topics in K'iche' Maya culture through excursions to nearby sites of interest and presentations by local leaders and scholars. Originally held in the small Sololá community of Nawaljá (Nahualá), the program begins holding sessions in the nearby community of El Novillero in 2026. El Novillero is a small community in the municipality of Santa Lucía Utatlán, Sololá. It is located approximately 8 miles from Nawaljá. It is home to many K'iche' speaking families, though the variation they speak is different from that spoken by our Nahualeño instructors. In Novillero, students benefit from intensive language and cultural immersion and experience the linguistic variation of K'iche' firsthand.

Requirements/Pre-Requisites: See Program Website

Cost: Final cost will depend upon enrollment; the total cost for 4-week program will not exceed \$6,000 (including Tuition AND Housing/Logistics Fee) *Six-Week FLAS Program will incur an additional cost.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2026

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

Contact:

Phone: (504) 862 – 8629

Email: sclassum@tulane.edu

100 Jones Hall, Tulane Uptown Campus

Quechua Summer Institute- FLAS Eligible

Languages: Quechua

Levels: Elementary I & II, Intermediate I & II, & Advanced I & II

Location: online

Dates: June 1 to July 24, 2026

Credits and/or Contact Hours: 6 credits. Classes are held 2 hours per day, 5 days/week

Sponsor: University of Kansas

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 Peruvian 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. The course will use a Native Language Assistant from Peru, Bolivia, or Ecuador.

Requirements/Pre-Requisites: none

Cost: free with fees <\$100 in fees

Application Deadline: For tuition-free status, students should contact Mary Raple (mrapple@ku.edu) by May 15, 2026

Website: <https://clacs.ku.edu/quechua-courses>

Contacts: Heaven Snyder (heavensnyder@ku.edu) & Mary Raple (mrapple@ku.edu)

LATAM 110 – Beginning Mixtec Language in Oaxaca, Mexico

Language: Mixtec

Level: Beginner

Location: Oaxaca, Mexico

Dates: June 22 to July 17, 2026

Credits and/or Contact Hours: 4 units, 140 hours

Sponsor: San Diego State University, Center for Latin American Studies

Description: 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 Center for Latin American Studies offers two Mixtec summer language courses.

One of the critical issues of Mixtec is the extreme variation that occurs within the language family. 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. Both programs are 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.

Open to undergraduates, graduates, professors and independent scholars, as well as professionals working with Mixtec and Zapotec communities.

Credits earned in the Mixtec summer program can be used towards satisfying SDSU foreign language requirements.

Requirements/Pre-Requisites: All applicants must first complete the advising steps and meet with a LATAM Study Abroad advisor before you can be accepted to the program. *Spanish proficiency is required

Cost: \$5,000 (tentative)

Application Deadline: March 16, 2026

Website: <https://latam.sdsu.edu/study-abroad/mixtec-summer-program>

Contact: Study Abroad Coordinator classtdy@sdsu.edu 619-594-1103

LATAM 120 – Zapotec Language and Culture Immersion in Oaxaca, Mexico

Language: Zapotec

Level: Beginner

Location: Oaxaca, Mexico

Dates: June 22 to July 17, 2026

Credits and/or Contact Hours: 4 units, 140 hours

Sponsor: San Diego State University, Center for Latin American Studies

Description: Zapotec is one of the most widely spoken indigenous languages in Mexico, and is spoken in Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Veracruz. This intensive program is taught by native Isthmus Zapotec speakers and linguists through the Casa de La Cultura in Juchitán. The course, taught in Spanish, includes five hours of classroom instruction, four to five days per week, over a six week period. Professor Thomas Villalobos Aguino of Universidad Pedagógica Nacional (UPN) and the administrators of Casa de la Cultura de Juchitán coordinate the program in Oaxaca along with Dr. Ramona Pérez, a Oaxacan scholar from the Department of Anthropology at SDSU.

Requirements/Pre-Requisites: All applicants must first complete the advising steps and meet with a LATAM Study Abroad advisor before you can be accepted to the program. *Spanish proficiency is required

Cost: \$5,000 (tentative)

Application Deadline: March 16, 2026

Website: <https://latam.sdsu.edu/study-abroad/zapotec-summer-program>

Contact: Study Abroad Coordinator classtdy@sdsu.edu 619-594-1103