



STUDY ABROAD

The wisest choice!

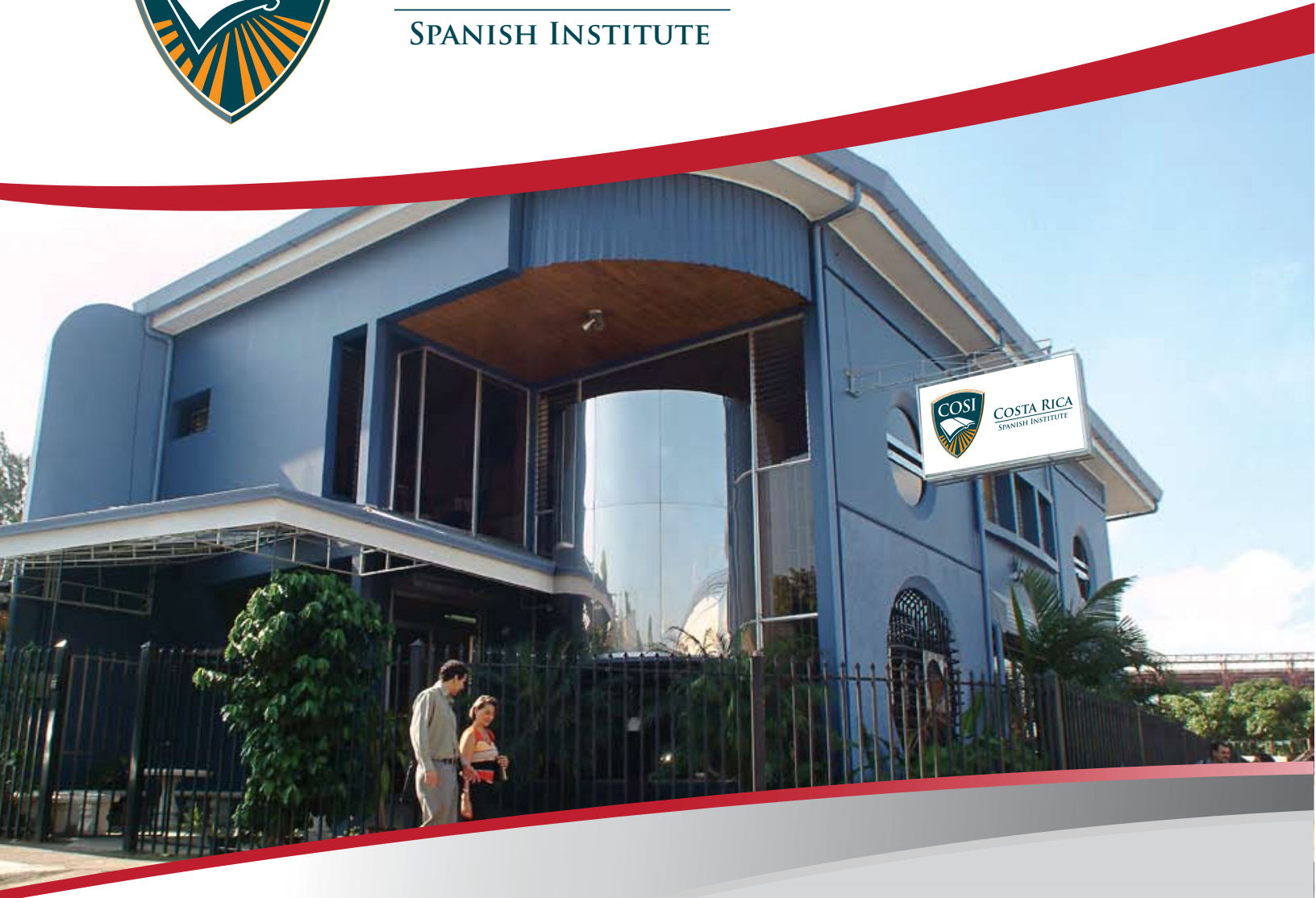


COSTA RICA
SPANISH INSTITUTE



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COSI is a Spanish language Institute in Costa Rica that offers Spanish language education at all levels, Internships and Service learning.

Other services we provide are: airport pick up, home stay, cultural activities, field trips, tours, and internet access.

Two locations: San José and Manuel Antonio beach and rain forest. We also offer a Summer Camp for high school students in a separate location in Heredia.

TEACHING SPANISH SINCE 1994

COSI IN SUMMARY:

1. We offer the unique possibility of taking classes in San José (the capital city) and at Manuel Antonio National Park (beach and rain forest).
2. Mini groups to a maximum of eight students.
3. Our teachers are experts at teaching Spanish to students of all levels and they are trained in OPI – ACTFL.
4. We offer cultural activities and tours at reasonable prices.
5. Our modern facilities house cozy and clean classrooms.
6. We offer volunteer work and internship programs.

STANDARDS OF GOOD PRACTICE

We follow the Standards of Good Practice from the Forum on Education Abroad and the Forum's Code of Ethics for Educations Abroad.

The program is organized in accordance with ethical principles and welcomes and respects students and staff regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, or national and ethnic origin.

WHY COSTA RICA?



Costa Rica is a peaceful country in Central America. It has no army. 33% of the land is devoted to national parks or reserves. In a country with a population of four million people, Costa Rica's literacy rate is 97 percent. This is among the highest in the developing world. The country has an incredible variety of climates, vegetation, wildlife and topography. The climate of San José is pleasing to most people, ranging from 22° - 32° C (72° - 90°F). Visitors can enjoy many activities such as hiking in rainforests and mountains, going to the Caribbean or the Pacific beaches, visiting active volcanoes, bathing in hot springs, white water rafting, cruising to islands, canyoning, diving and much more.



WHY COSI?

COSI, Costa Rica Spanish Institute, has been teaching Spanish to students from all over the world since 1994. This program offers the unique possibility of studying in San José (the capital city) or on the Pacific Coast at Manuel Antonio Beach (near Manuel Antonio National Park). These convenient locations offer access to a wide range of public services and places of interest.

Classes are kept small (maximum of 8 students) to provide personal attention and a cozy atmosphere. The teachers at COSI are experts at teaching Spanish to

students of all levels. The staff is trained in OPI-ACTFL and some are certified testers.

The program offers cultural activities and many tour options as well as volunteer and internship placement. COSI offers flexible start dates with classes beginning every Monday year-round.

Since its establishment, COSI has developed professional relationships with many different universities that continue to send students to study abroad.

LOCATION:



SAN JOSÉ

San José is the capital city of Costa Rica with a population of 370,000 people. COSI is located in Zapote, a neighborhood on the outskirts of San José. It is a short 10 minute bus ride to downtown San José. COSI participants can enjoy mingling with local college students at the nearby University of Costa Rica; the largest institution in the country, hosting 30,000 students.

MANUEL ANTONIO BEACH

The COSI location at Manuel Antonio Beach is a short 2 mile bus ride from the student's home stay in Quepos. Quepos is a small town with a population of 20,000 and there are a few shops, bars, restaurants, and grocery stores. From this COSI location, Manuel Antonio National Park is only a 2 mile-bus ride away. This national park boasts some of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the country, along with forest, mangrove swamps, lagoons and beach vegetation. Sloths, iguanas, and the rare and adorable squirrel monkeys are just some of the 109 species of mammals and 184 of birds that Manuel Antonio is home to. Scuba diving, snorkeling, sea kayaking, mountain biking, and hiking provide opportunities to experience the tropical wildlife that enriches Manuel Antonio.

COSI students travel to Manuel Antonio by public bus. Buses leave San José every day at 6:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 2:30 PM and 6:00 PM. There are also tourist buses with A/C. It is a 3.5 hour bus ride. It is recommended that participants arrive in San José on, or before, the Saturday prior to the start of classes, stay the first night in San José and travel the following day to Manuel Antonio.



COURSES

COSI offers courses ranging from beginner to a near-native competence.

The 100 and 200 level programs are offered either in San José or at Manuel Antonio beach in groups.

The 300 level courses are primarily offered in San José, and also in groups. Personalized alternatives can be arranged for those students wanting to enroll individually.

The following are some of the academic courses COSI offers:

SPAN 101 Elementary Spanish I.

This is a basic Spanish course which includes cultural information about the Spanish-speaking world. This course includes developing reading, writing and conversational skills for communicating effectively in the Spanish language.

SPAN 102 Elementary Spanish II.

This course is a continuation of the SPAN 101 course.

SPAN 201 Intermediate Spanish I.

This course works on building Spanish proficiency and learning cultural information about the Spanish-speaking world.

SPAN 202 Intermediate Spanish II.

This course is a continuation of SPAN 201, emphasizing communication and culture in the Spanish-speaking world.

SPAN 301 Composition and Conversation I.

Development of speaking and writing skills including creative expression, working with higher-level texts and the study of more complex grammatical structures.

SPAN 302 Composition and Conversation II.

Continuation of SPAN 301.

SPAN 303 Business Spanish.

Technical vocabulary used in the business world. Writing business letters and common business protocol are taught. This course requires at least four semesters of Spanish.

SPAN 304 Medical Spanish.

Technical vocabulary to be applied in the health field. This course is for people who are going to work in health related fields. This course requires at least two semesters of Spanish.

SPAN 305 Spanish American Culture and Civilization.

History and culture in the Spanish American world. Comparing Spanish-American cultural values to other relevant cultures.

SPAN 306 Intercultural Communication.

Communication between different cultures and contexts. Diversities and similarities in human communication and behavior.

SPAN 307 Latin American current events.

Current news, political and economic trends in Latin America.

SPAN 308 Latin American Literature: Introduction to literature and literary analysis.

This course includes Latin American writers.

HOW TO GET UNIVERSITY CREDIT?

To obtain university credit, students must have COSI's course list approved by the director of the Spanish department of the university. At the completion of the program, students are given a transcript with a letter and percentage grade. Transcripts are sent by email and regular mail to the student's host university. Based on COSI's transcripts, credit will be given through the host university. The amount of credits given for each class is determined by the university.

INTERNSHIP AND SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

It is possible to be placed in an internship or a volunteer position.

This program promotes intercultural personal communication and provides the opportunity to develop complementary academic knowledge and practical skills in professional, linguistic, and intercultural fields.

An academic mentor assists, guides, and supervises a student's work according to the internship plan.

CUSTOM PROGRAMS

COSI customizes programs for university groups which gives each group a personalized learning experience. Group coordinators choose which field trips, activities, lectures, and classes are included in the program.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Learning Spanish at COSI is exciting, efficient, and yet relaxed. Our methodology is based on the communicative approach emphasizing conversation. Students at COSI are encouraged to carry out actively meaningful tasks and solve meaningful problems in real life situations facilitating their ability to think in Spanish. Classes are very well-organized and based on lesson plans that follow COSI's proven effective program. COSI has published its own grammar books, workbooks, and additional materials to be used as complements to what is taught in class. COSI's books and materials are included in COSI's tuition.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In both locations, COSI arranges for each student's stay with a host family where they are provided with a private room, keys to the house, breakfast, dinner, and laundry service. In San José, most families are within walking distance to COSI. At the Manuel Antonio location, it is necessary for students to take a short bus ride to get to COSI.

APARTMENTS

COSI rents fully furnished apartments with WIFI one block away from the San José facilities. Each apartment has three bedrooms and each bedroom has a double bed. It is possible to rent the apartment or just one room.

HOTELS

Staying at a hotel near COSI is also an option. Please ask for a list of recommended hotels.

AIRPORT PICK UP

No matter what time students arrive, COSI will pick them up at the airport and take them to their host family or hotel at no extra cost. When leaving Costa Rica, students make their own transportation arrangements to the airport and at their own expense.

HEALTH INSURANCE

COSI recommends getting insurance in the students' home country.

TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

COSI provides weekly activities for students as well as weekend tours. Some activities include: city tours, coffee plantation tours, weekly dance class, cooking classes, visits to volcanoes, cultural night, beach trips, visits to waterfalls, canopy tours and white water rafting. COSI makes all hotel and transportation arrangements for activities. Students will have free time to explore their surroundings and to mingle with the locals.

STUDENTS' NATIONALITIES

Students come from more than 20 countries, but mainly from the USA, Asia, and Europe.

UNIVERSITIES FROM WHICH WE HAVE HAD STUDENTS

Michigan State University, Millsaps College, Wayne State College, Davenport University, Lake Michigan College, Minnesota State University (Mankato), Goucher College, Hampden-Sydney College, Meridian Community College, Clayton State University, University of Missouri, Community College of Philadelphia, University of Mississippi, North Central College, New Mexico State University, Queens College, Jamestown Community College, University of California San Diego, Wells College, Lynn University, Lycoming College and University of Saint Francis.

FACULTY

- Peggy Sharpe, PhD, University of South Florida, USA.
- Yani Saray Cordoba, MA, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.
- Dalia Borge, PhD, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.
- Lorena Lopez, MSc, Sherbrook University, Canada.
- Rolando Marin, MSc, Universidad Americana, Costa Rica.
- Mauricio Blandino, MSc, University of Essex, United Kingdom.
- Yanina Rovinski, MSc, University of California at Berkeley, USA.
- Liceth Alvarado, MA, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.
- Iran Barrantes, M. Ed, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.
- Francisco Escobar, Ph D, University of Kansas, USA.
- Karla Duran, MA, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.
- Jean-Jacques Oguilve, MBA, National University, San Diego, CA, USA.
- Valentin Molina, Ph D, Universidad de Castilla, Spain.
- Oren Marciano, MSc, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.
- Aharon Arguedas, Ph D, Texas Christian University, Texas, USA.
- Manuel Bermudez, M A, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.
- Rodolfo Vieto, M Sc, University of Idaho., USA.
- Yanina Rovinski, M J, University of California at Berkeley, USA.
- Isa Torrealba, Ph D, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.

"I love COSI! All of the staff is very friendly and helpful. The professors are very patient and positive". Amanda Quam; Minnesota State University.

"Very well structured program. Cares greatly about students" Brittany Mediano; Lynn University.

"I had a wonderful experience at COSI, it is a very nice school with great teachers and staff that make you feel welcome and at home immediately." Jessie Ede; Michigan State University.

"COSI is an educational institute that is both professional and laid back simultaneously. The wonderful experience that I received at COSI is something that has helped shape me in many ways - educationally, culturally, and personally. Thank You COSI!" Evita Predki; North Central College.



COSTA RICA
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The wisest choice!