

Endowment for the Study of Spanish Abroad (ESPA)

Application Information

The Endowment for the Study of Spanish Abroad (ESPA) was established in 1992 through the generosity of the Bredestege Family. The fund's purpose is to provide assistance to serious students of Spanish to learn Spanish in a natural context and in a culturally authentic setting.

A. Eligibility

The ESPA award is available to students at the University of Dayton who wish to study Spanish abroad during the summer. Two awards of \$1,000 will be granted.

The applicant must be an undergraduate in good standing, must not be a citizen of a Spanish speaking country or have Spanish as one's language of birth or upbringing, and must have completed SPN 202 or equivalent.

Non UD Programs: If not sponsored by UD, the academic program must be an accredited study abroad program of another university or institution, it must take place in a Spanish speaking country, and last a minimum of four weeks during the summer months. **Supporting documentation (course description, brochure, e.g.) and a letter of acceptance from the host institution must be submitted with the application.** (If notification of acceptance is not yet available, the application may be submitted on a tentative basis.)

Please note: Due to University guidelines, the following students are not eligible for this scholarship:

- a. Students attending UD on a full-scholarship
- b. Students attending UD on a tuition exchange program
- c. Students attending UD as a scholarship athlete

B. Application Procedures:

1. Submit a completed application form and **two official letters of recommendation** in separate, sealed envelopes by **February 12, 2016** to:

Endowment for the Study of Spanish Abroad
Department of Global Languages and Cultures
Jesse Philips Humanities Center Room 352
300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-1539

2. One letter of recommendation should be from a University of Dayton faculty member familiar with the applicant's academic or career goals. **This faculty member should not be a member of the Spanish section of the Department of Global Languages and Cultures.**
3. Another letter of recommendation should be from an acquaintance, (employer, advisor, but not a family member) who has known the applicant well during at least the last year and is familiar with the applicant's personal or career goals.

Official letter of recommendation: An official letter of recommendation should be a hard-copy (not an email) signed by the person. Request the person writing the recommendation to put their letter in a sealed envelope and sign their name across the flap of the envelope. Once this has been completed, the official letter of recommendation can be mailed directly to the specified address for this scholarship; or if the person prefers, they can give it or mail it to you, and you can turn it into the department office in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center Room 352. Any letters not received in this manner will be considered unofficial.

- C. Submit an essay (not to exceed 400 words) that:
1. gives a brief, overall picture of your academic and career plans, write a detailed description of your plans while abroad, and ways you will integrate your experience abroad with your academic program and your career goals; and other reasons you have for studying abroad.
 2. Briefly explain your need for financial assistance. Mention any grants or loans you currently have if they are applicable to summer study.
- D. Selection:

Selection is based on:

1. Clear indication of your language learning ability and readiness for integrated cultural experience in a Spanish speaking country.
2. Compatibility of the study program with your academic, career, or service goals.
3. The degree to which the program offers an “immersion experience in the host country,” (e.g. home stays, opportunities to interact with local people, etc.).

Special consideration is given to students with a demonstrated financial need and/or whose language program includes study of cultural or contemporary issues, a service component, or other activities that reinforce immersion experience.

The recipients of the award will be notified by March 11, 2016.

Important information from the Department of Global Languages and Cultures regarding language courses taken off campus.

Credit for language courses taken off campus: Students taking language courses off campus that are not taught by UD language faculty must first have them pre-approved by the Department of Global Languages and Cultures.

1. Students can obtain the Course Pre-Authorization Form from the Center of International Programs in the Rike Center.
2. Students will need to make an appointment with the Global Languages and Cultures language section coordinator for their language of instruction. Students will need to bring the completed Course Pre-Authorization Form, information about the institution they will be attending, and the course description for the language courses they plan to take while abroad.
3. A copy of the completed Course Pre-Authorization Form signed by the language faculty reviewer needs to be on file in the Department of Global Languages and Cultures.
4. After reviewed and signed by the language section coordinator, students need to take the Course Pre-Authorization Form to the College of Arts and Sciences dean’s office in O’Reilly Hall for final approval in order to receive UD credit for their language classes.

While this process does not need to be completed prior to the submission of your application for this scholarship, the pre-approval process will need to be completed prior to leaving campus for the study abroad program and should be addressed as soon as possible.