

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF SPANISH IN THE USA, CANADA AND BRAZIL

1. The University of León

The University of León in Northern Spain was established in 1979, with some of its Faculties and Schools dating back to the 19th century. It is therefore a relatively young University, yet its influence is certainly felt in the daily life of the city. From its very beginning, this public University placed an emphasis on quality, both in teaching and research. Over 30 Departments from 13 different Faculties and Schools ensure the highest standards in both academic and research work. The University of León is modern and well equipped, with a network of infrastructures and human resources which provide our students and graduates with a comprehensive and solid education.

The University of León offers Spanish Courses at all levels. It has now been over 60 years since we started providing this service and our long established experience makes us one of the pioneering institutions in this field in Spain. While the courses have been adapted to developing needs, the original aspirations remain unchanged: to ensure the highest professional standards in teaching and to provide individual attention for all students, thus guaranteeing optimum conditions for learning at all levels. The course will take place at the University Language Centre, located in the city center. In the last few years the Language Center has undergone major transformations to offer our students the best possible environment and facilities to learn languages.

Further information about Spanish courses at <http://idiomas.unileon.es>

Further information about the University of León at <http://www.unileon.es>



Group of international students on exchange at the ULE



Statue "The Thinker". University Campus



ULE Language Centre

2. The city of León

The ancient city of León, which dates back to the year 68 BC, is an important cross-road in Northern Spain. It is also a prosperous, modern provincial capital which has proudly preserved all the charms of a very important and rich historical past.

Today, with a population of 135,000, León is a very manageable and hospitable city for visitors. The city has beautifully succeeded in combining the old with the new. In the more modern areas there are all the commodities and facilities of any modern capital, including wide avenues, public gardens and parks, and a modern University campus. Personal safety and very little crime are two features worth mentioning about this attractive city.

The city of León has something for everyone. Cultural events are ongoing throughout the year with colorful popular fiestas like carnival, solemn processions during Easter week, organ recitals in the cathedral, sport competitions, and of course, theatre, concerts, cinema, art exhibitions and night life. Within the walls of the old quarter is the *Barrio Húmedo* where you can taste all the delights of Spanish wines, *tapas* and local cuisine. It is full of restaurants, bars and life during the day and at night, mainly thanks to the large student population. Throughout the city, apart from the modern pubs and clubs, there is the relaxed atmosphere of the numerous cafes and a wide range of excellent restaurants, taverns and bodegas.

The climate in León is continental, with hot, dry summers and cold, dry winters. Average temperatures range from 30°C in summer to 0°C in winter.

For further information about León please visit the following websites:

Wikipedia: [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le%C3%B3n_\(Espa%C3%B1a\)](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le%C3%B3n_(Espa%C3%B1a))

Website of León City Council: <http://www.aytoleon.es/es/Paginas/home.aspx>

Website of León County Council: <http://dipuleon.es/>



3. Information about the course

Title

Professional Development Course for Teachers of Spanish in the USA, Canada and Brazil

Participants

Course aimed at teachers with an advanced or plus level of Spanish (*B2* according to the CEFR or *Intermediate High* according to the ACTFL proficiency guidelines).

Duration

From 8 to 26 July 2024. Three week course (60 contact hours; theory and practice).

Please note that accommodation will be available one day prior and a day after the course.

Schedule

Four hours of class per day in the morning, Monday to Friday. Extra-curricular activities will take place in the afternoon and at weekends.

Number of participants

Minimum 5, maximum 20.

Extracurricular activities (included in the tuition fee)

- Guided tour of León
- Visit to San Isidoro (Romanesque art)
- Visit to the Cathedral (Gothic art)
- Visit to San Marcos (Renaissance art)
- Visit to the MUSAC (Contemporary Art Museum)
- Excursion to Leon monasteries (Gradefes, San Miguel de Escalada, Mansilla de las Mulas)
- Excursion to the Valporquero mountain caves
- Excursion to Valencia de Don Juan + Winery
- Farewell dinner

(* Other activities and excursions are optional (i.e. Galicia, Basque region or Salamanca); for these there is an additional charge.



Board and lodging

There are two types of accommodation available:

- a) University Residence Halls (single room)
- b) Homestay with a local family (single room)

In both cases, the fee includes three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and in the case of a homestay, the washing and ironing of clothes is also included.

Getting to León

There are several ways to get to León:

- By train: <http://www.renfe.com/> (from Madrid Chamartín Railway Station)
- By bus: <http://www.alsa.es/> (from Madrid Méndez Álvaro Bus Station). There is also a direct ALSA bus to León from Terminal 4 at Madrid Barajas airport.
- Madrid underground map: <http://www.metromadrid.es/es/index.html>

Medical insurance

Medical insurance covers participants for the duration of the course. It is a basic policy which covers doctor visits and emergency hospitalization and surgery if needed. It does not include prescribed medications or check-ups.

Attendance certificate

The University of León awards an attendance certificate. Any student is eligible who has attended ninety per cent (90%) of the total number of classes scheduled.

Credits (Graduate Credits)

This course can be validated for credits at some American Universities in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Education Office of the Spanish Embassy in Washington.

Fees

1.Total cost: **1850 euros**. This amount includes: 60 contact hours, the aforementioned extracurricular activities, full room and board (3 weeks), classroom materials, the use of University facilities (free internet access, sports facilities, library, reading rooms...), certificate of attendance and medical insurance. (*)



2. Cost without accommodation: **1050 euros**. This includes everything specified in paragraph no. 1, except for accommodation. In this case, the participant will be responsible for organizing and paying for the costs involved.

() It is expected that the Castile and León regional government offer individual financial support of around 350 euros towards the cost of accommodation (subject to official call).*

Registration

Office of Education - EMBASSY OF SPAIN

2375 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington D.C. 20037-1710

Tel.: 1202-728-2335

Fax: 1202-728-2313

Website: <http://www.educacion.gob.es/eeuu/convocatorias-programas/convocatorias-eeuu/cursos-verano.html>

For further information about registration, please write to:
consejeria.usa@educacion.gob.es

For further information about the course, please write to:
joseluis.llamas@unileon.es

Registration dates: from 1 December 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Program

Course objectives

- To give participants new ideas, materials and resources for application in the classroom
- To expand and further the abilities for learning, practicing and teaching Spanish
- To develop and produce a series of activities on language skills
- To reflect on main trends on Spanish language teaching
- To better understand Spanish society today

Course content

The course is organized in four main sections:

- **Advanced Grammar** (15 contact hours) Analysis and practice of specific aspects of Spanish grammar and vocabulary.
- **Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills** (15 contact hours) Workshops to develop a practical understanding and integrated knowledge of the four main skills in Spanish.



- **Spanish culture and civilization** (15 contact hours) Review and presentation of main landmarks in the history of Spain against its historical and socio-economic background.
- **Short courses on special subjects** (15 contact hours)
 - *Literature in the classroom* (5 hours)
 - *The Camino de Santiago (St James Way)*; 5 hours)
 - *Pragmatics: how to get it right* (5 hours)

Evaluation

Letter grade according to the American system. For those willing to transfer credits, assessment will be as follows:

- Attendance to all scheduled classes (90 % at least) and active participation in them: 30 per cent of the grade for each module. The remaining 70% will be made up of:
- **Advanced Grammar** module: 70 per cent based on final examination.
- **Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills** module: 70 per cent based on one essay on one of the topics of the course.
- **Spanish culture and civilization** module: 70 per cent based on one essay on one of the topics of the course.
- **Short courses** module: 70 per cent based on one essay on one of the topics covered in the three courses.

Those that do not wish to transfer credit must attend at least 90 % of the scheduled classes and participate actively in them.