

Study Spanish in Cuba



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Study Abroad Program

- This is a Study Abroad program operating annually in May and June through a partnership between Western and the University of Holguín Oscar Lucero Moya (UHO).
- Courses in this program are taught by UHO instructors.
- **Students are granted transfer credits by Western** base on their Letter of Permission (LOP) from Western, and their transcript from UHO.
- Western sends an instructor with the students to coordinate the program on site, and assist Canadian students (University of Holguín staff are also very helpful) - TBA

Letter of Permission

LOP for transfer credit approval

Download the form here:

http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/course_enrollment/pdfs/letterOfPermission.pdf

LOPs for this program must be signed by the Undergraduate Chair in Modern Languages, Professor Vladimir Tumanov (vtumanov@uwo.ca)

Vladimir Tumanov

Arts & Humanities Building, 3B26

519 661-2111 ext. 85866

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Academic Program

Language Course (6 weeks, May 1 to June 9) **1.0 credit**

- Spanish 1030: Spanish for Beginners
- Spanish 2200: Intermediate Spanish
- Spanish 3300: Advanced Spanish Language

Culture Courses (2 weeks) **0.5 credit**

- May 1 to May 12
- May 15 to May 26
- May 29 to June 9

- Spanish 2210A or 3360A: Cultures of the Caribbean
- Spanish 2210B or 3360B: Literature of the Caribbean
- Spanish 2211B or 3361B: Contemporary Cuban Cinema



Academic Program

- Other courses **0.5 credit**

If you are interested in taking another course, please let us know. Other Spanish courses may be offered depending on student interest.

Sociedad cubana actual	Literatura española
Cultura cubana	Historia de Cuba
Cine cubano	Historia de America Latina y Caribe
Literatura cubana	Traducción
Literatura latinoamericana	Conversación y redacción

All courses include 20 hours of instruction per week.

Cultural and recreational excursions are organized for participants.

* Exact titles of Culture Courses also subject to confirmation in the near future.

Cuba and Holguín

Why Cuba?

- Spanish-speaking country
- Warm Caribbean climate
- Friendly, hospitable people
- Rich culture: music, dance,
- literature, cinema, visual arts...
- A rich history
- A different socioeconomic system
- A different way of life...



Holguín

- Population 326,740
- Area: 666 km²
- Founded 1545
- Ciudad de los Parques
- Check it out online: <http://www.holguin.cu/>



Holguín



UNIVERSITY OF HOLGUÍN

- Founded in 1978
- Named after the prime decision-maker in the revolutionary struggle against Batista, the right-wing pro-U.S. dictatorship 1958.
- Public university, tuition is free for Cuban students.
- Partnership with Western for almost 15 years. Spanish and English are taught in the Facultad de Humanidades.
- Quality education despite material shortages; e.g. website is often inaccessible due to internet infrastructure issues.



Professors



Casas de renta



- Shared rooms in casas de renta very well maintained villas with a nice patio in the back.
- A 10-15 minute walk from the Parque Calixto García, the main square; c. 40-minute walk from campus – transportation provided.
- Friendly staff, attentive to your needs, who prepare and serve breakfast; special dietary concerns can be accommodated.
- 24-hour security.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqX41Br0-A&feature=youtu.be>



Rooms and bathrooms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFvunCrU9U&feature=youtu.be>



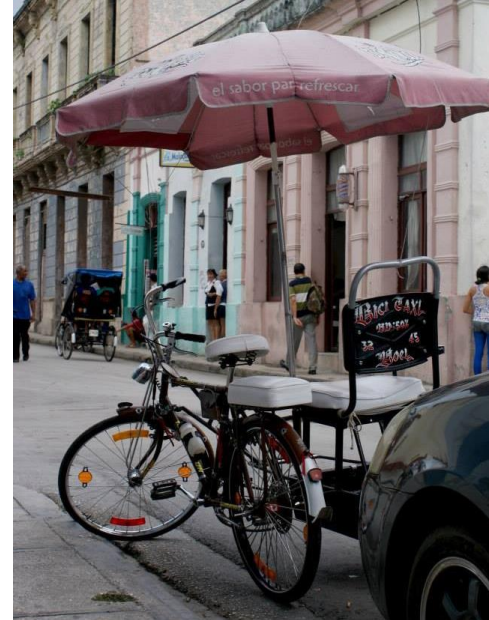
Common areas



Patios

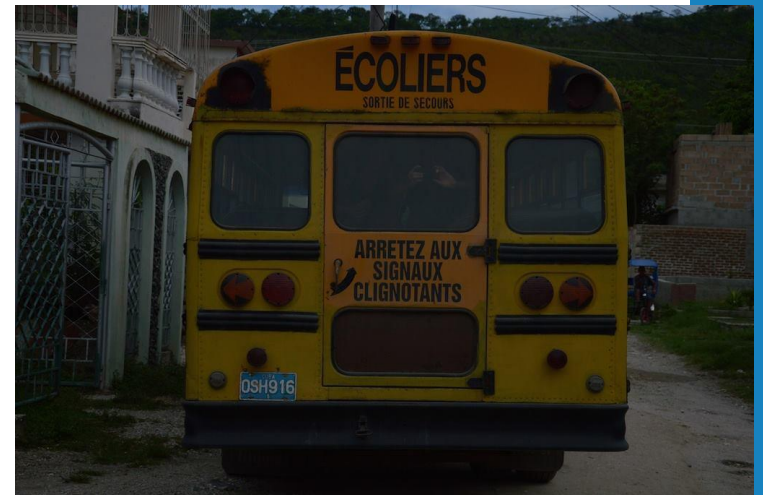


Taxis



Buses

<http://youtu.be/TznjxaMQ24Y>



Meals

- All meals, except breakfast, will be at a restaurant.
- The food is excellent and they can accommodate special diets.

Typical breakfast



Restaurant “Los almendros”



Dinner at Los almendros



Typical dinner



Street food



Trips



Groups



Cuba Coordinator

Luis Hernesto Millán



Typical day in Holguin

Monday to Friday:

- 8:00 am breakfast
- 8:30 am bus to University
- 9:00 am – 1:00 pm classes in the University
- 1:00 pm lunch in the University
- 1:30 pm come back casas de renta
- 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm time to study, walk around, hangout...
- 7:30 pm dinner in casa Walter

Weekends:

- Excursions
- Swim in the pool
- Visit other places
- Trips to the beach

Documentation:

Passport, tourist card and visa

- You need to have a passport with an expiry date sufficiently far in the future (usually six months beyond the end of your stay): **apply now** if you don't have one!
- You enter Cuba with a Tourist Card, provided by the airline (or the travel agency/tour operator); cost can be included through your travel agent or must be paid for additionally \$25 CUC (approx. \$25 CDN).
- A visa must be obtained in Cuba if you are staying for more than 4 weeks. Assistance will be provided with this process.

Travel

- Participants arrange their own travel.
- Direct flights are available out of Toronto to Holguín or flights with a connection in Havana (with possible overnight layover) are also popular.
- The University will arrange transportation:
 - from and to Holguín airport, but it is not included in the price.
 - to and from campus, and for all planned excursions, included in the price.



Costs

Full courses (six weeks) Spanish 1030, 2200, 3300

- Housing, Meals, Transportation: \$2,280 CUC (approx. \$2,977 CAD) (\$380 CUC per week)
- Letter of permission: \$64.50 CAD
- Student Visa: \$40 CUC (approx. \$53 CAD)
- Change of Visa: \$20 CUC (approx. \$27 CAD)
- Exit Cuba Fee: \$25 CUC (approx. \$33 CAD)
- Program Fee: \$60 CAD
- **TOTAL: \$2,425.50 CUC (today's change \$3,184.5 CAD). All the payments in CUC are to be paid in Cuba.**



*** Flight ticket prices: approximately \$900 for six weeks.

** what you pay will depend on fluctuation in exchange rates and airfares, so all figures we supply are approximate.

*CUC = Cuban Convertible Pesos

Costs*

Half courses (2 weeks) Cuban Culture / Cinema

- Housing, Meals and Transportation: \$760 CUC (approx. \$993.5CAD)
- Letter of permission: \$64.50 CAD
- Student Visa: \$40 CUC (\$53 CAD)
- Program Fee: \$60 CAD

TOTAL: \$1,170.50 CAD

All the payments in CUC are to be paid in Cuba.



*** Flight ticket prices: approximately \$750-\$900.

** what you pay will depend on fluctuation in exchange rates and airfares, so all figures we supply are approximate.

*CUC = Cuban Convertible Pesos

Global OPPORTUNITIES Awards

- The Global Opportunities Awards are \$1,000 scholarships for international learning that have been provided through generous donations, and matched by funding from Western. A number of donor-sponsored awards valued at \$2,000 are also available. These scholarships enable more Western students to participate in exchanges, study abroad programs, international field courses, summer programs, international service learning, field research and more.

You can find detailed information about this awards at

http://www.uwo.ca/international/learning/go_abroad/global_opp.html

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 15th



How to apply

- If you would like to participate, please e-mail Witton Becerra wbecerra@uwo.ca indicating which course(s) you want to take.
- Deadline to register (by paying Program Fee: \$60 CAD cheque to the order of The University of Western Ontario): **March 31th, 2017.**
- Deadline to book your flight: **April 5-10th** (plan to fly to Holguín on Saturday or Sunday, April 29-30th)
- Mandatory pre-departure meeting for all participants: April 13th, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Information required

We will ask you to provide the following info which we need to provide to U of Holguín for immigration formalities:

- Date of Birth
- Passport Number
- Flight itinerary (if making your own flight booking), as soon as you have booked your flight
- Copy of the Insurance

Information required*

Is recommended provide to Witton the information below. It will be confidential:

- Any kind of allergy
- Migraines
- Depression
- Changes in mood
- Asthma
- Etc...

Remember

Cuba is a warm place, so please do not forget about:

- Save money for bottled water (5L. aprox. 1.90 CUC)

Other things you may have into account before travel to Cuba:

- Some medicines (Advil, Tylenol, Pepto-bismol ...)
- Band aid
- Sunscreen
- Repellent
- Aloe vera (with no alcohol) or green tea
- Suncream

Student comments

- Mi experiencia en Cuba fue algo mucho más que poder he imaginado. En solamente dos semanas, aprendí mucho en mi curso de literatura, me descubrió una apreciación por la cultura cubana, ¡y tuve un buen rato con un grupo de estudiantes muy divertidos! Siempre quise hacer un intercambio o algo así a una otra universidad y este programa me dio la oportunidad para vivir mis sueños. Millán es un ser humano increíble quien cuida mucho ustedes. Algunas de sus familias anfitrionas van a ser como sus propias familias. ¡Recomiendo esta experiencia mucho! Fue la mejor decisión de mi carrera en Western. (Milani, Study Abroad en Cuba 2014)
- Trabajando al lado de mis nuevos amigos cubanos como este programa manda aprendimos mucho acerca de la vida y cultura de ellos – aprendimos mucho acerca de lo que es ser cubano – pero tal vez, lo más importante es que yo, al igual que mis compañeros canadienses, aprendimos mucho acerca de nosotros mismos – sobre nuestras vidas y el tipo de personas que somos y algún día quisiéramos llegar a ser en relación a nuestra responsabilidad como habitantes de un solo mundo. (Marcelo, CSL en Cuba, 2013)

Student comments

- Hola, me llamo Chloe y soy una estudiante de español a la Universidad de Waterloo. Este verano pasado (2014), tuve una experiencia extraordinaria de participar en un mes en Cuba para asistir a la Universidad de Holguín. Durante el mes, continué mis estudios mientras está completamente inmerso en la cultura cubana. Aprendí muchos detalles sobre la comida, la música, el baile y la vida de una persona cubana. Todo esto fue posible porque los lugareños nos acogieron en sus casas y nos ayudaron con el idioma y el modo de vida cubana. A causa de esta experiencia, era capaz de mejorar mi español, especialmente hablando, y tengo nuevos amigos, algunos de la Universidad de Western Ontario y de la ciudad de Holguín, Cuba. Recomiendo que todo el mundo tome ventaja de esta maravillosa oportunidad. (Chloe, Study Abroad en Cuba 2014)



Student comments

- ¡Mi experiencia en Cuba fue fantástica! Yo era capaz de mejorar mis habilidades de español mucho más en la mes que fui. Mis clases de traducción y conversación & composición me ayudaron a ganar confianza en mis conversaciones con mis amigos y mis profesores. Hice muchos nuevos amigos que tenían los mismos objetivos de yo, aprender tanto español que podimos. Me gusto estar en la comunidad y viviendo con otras personas nativos que hablaban con nosotros y nos animan a hablar en español. La vida en Holguín es muy tranquila y divertida, y pienso que la ciudad fue perfecta para estudiar y aprender sobre la cultura Cubana. Yo recomendaría este programa a alguien que quiere tener una experiencia de aprendizaje única y agradable. (Aliya, Study Abroad en Cuba 2014)



Questions!!

Don't hesitate to ask!

Contact info:

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