

Academic Advising for Study Abroad

Central College's international programs are structured as a hybrid model of study abroad. Considered the most effective model for facilitating intercultural and discipline-based learning abroad, Central's programs are designed to complement the curriculum of the home campus and offer students the most robust academic experience possible while overseas. To this end, all of our director-led programs offer students the opportunity to enroll in a combination of classes taught by Central College instructors, courses offered through local host universities, and credit-bearing internships and service learning opportunities. Students and advisors should consider the breadth and variety of learning opportunities available when planning for a term overseas.

To make the planning process easy, Central has created a series of advising resources which help to clarify and enumerate the full diversity of opportunities offered to students through our programs. Along with this *Advising Guide*, students and advisors are encouraged to review our *Opportunities by Major* resource and the Study Abroad website for more information on the distinct opportunities available at each program location.

What Every Student Needs Before Departing for Mérida

When preparing for a semester in Mérida, advisors should work with advisees to identify the courses offered by the Mérida program for that semester and select a full-time load of courses (12-18 hours). Available courses include those taught by visiting faculty members, courses regularly offered by the Central program (both required courses and optional electives), and courses (taught in Spanish) at partner institutions in Mérida. Students should also work closely with their advisor and the Department of Modern Languages to choose the most appropriate Spanish course to take while in Mérida. If students have credit for Spanish courses (either from classes in Pella or through transfer credit), they are not permitted to repeat those courses in Mérida. Students should aim to enroll in the next Spanish course in the sequence.

Selecting Courses in Mérida

As mentioned above, students should have a full-time schedule of courses in Mérida (12-18 hours) through a combination of the required courses, elective courses, internships, and/or service-learning.

Required Courses

The following courses are required of students studying in Mérida:

- GENR-110Y: Understanding Contemporary Mexico (3 credits, taught in English)
- A Spanish language course, depending on student's skill level:
 - SPAN-123Y: Intensive Beginning Spanish (4 credits)
 - SPAN-221Y: Intermediate Conversation and Composition I (4 credits)
 - SPAN-222Y: Intermediate Conversation and Composition II (4 credits)
 - SPAN-321Y: Advanced Conversation and Composition I (4 credits)
 - SPAN-322Y: Advanced Conversation and Composition II (4 credits)
 - SPAN-327Y: Advanced Practical Spanish (3 credits)

Courses from Visiting Faculty

Visiting faculty members in Mérida will also offer optional courses that students can enroll in. Visiting faculty typically teach two different classes during a given semester. These courses vary depending upon the disciplinary background of the faculty member. Recent classes included those in the fields of psychology, biology, religion, and communication studies. Please contact the Mérida Resident Director, the Study Abroad Office, or anyone on the International Programs Committee for information about visiting faculty in future semesters and the courses that might be offered.

Courses Offered through Central College

The following courses offered through the Central College program are offered on a regular basis and are taught in English:

- ART-250Y: Art & Architecture of Yucatán (3 credits; ART core designation)
- GENR-290Y: Healthcare in Yucatán (3 credits)

The following Central College courses are also offered regularly and are taught in Spanish:

- EXSC-123Y: Latin American Dance (1 credit)
- SPAN-346Y: Latin American Novel (3 credits; LP core designation)
- SPAN-344Y: Mexican Civilization (3 credits)
- SPAN-220Y: Spanish for Health Professionals (3 credits)
- SPAN-320Y: Spanish for Health Professionals (3 credits)

Internships & Service-Learning Courses in Mérida

Students can also participate in an internship or service-learning for course credit (1-3 credits). A number of sites are available for students of varying disciplinary interests. Examples of available placements include a veterinary clinic, local schools, special education program, physical therapy program, insurance office, sports medicine clinic, and non-profit organizations. While some sites require more advanced Spanish language skills, others do not. Please contact the Resident Director or faculty Program Advisor for more information about what options might be available for particular majors and for information about Spanish language requirements.

Courses Offered through Partner Institutions

For students with advanced Spanish language skills, courses are also available at partner institutions: Marista University, Modelo University, and Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan (UADY). Enrollment in courses at these partner institutions is dependent upon language level. All students wishing to take courses at Marista, Modelo, or UADY must contact the Mérida Resident Director prior to the start of the program to assess academic interests and language ability. The particulars of the higher-educational system in Mexico combined with the websites of all three universities can make selecting courses difficult, thus it is better that students work with the Resident Director from the beginning of the process to save time and avoid confusion. All courses taken through affiliated universities receive 3 Central credits.

Marista University:

Marista University is a popular choice for Marketing, Architecture, and Psychology students, among others. In the past, popular course areas have included: Accounting, Architecture, Environmental Science,

Interior Design, Marketing, Psychology, and Religion. A list of courses is available at <http://www.marista.edu.mx/p/22/licenciaturas>

Modelo University:

Modelo is a popular choice for students with an interest in International Business. In the past, popular course areas have included: Business Administration, Communications, Graphic Design, Information Technology, and Psychology. Available courses may be found at <http://www.unimodelo.edu.mx/merida/>

UADY:

UADY offers course work for students with a superior level of Spanish and is a popular choice for Spanish majors. In the past, popular courses areas have include: Anthropology, Communication, Latin American Studies, Marketing, and Psychology. Course areas are listed at <http://www.uady.mx/oferta/lic.html>

Opportunity for Study in the Global Health Program

Students may also enroll in the Studies in Global Health program in Mérida. The Global Health program exposes students to a healthcare system different than their own and provides Spanish language preparation for careers in healthcare. Two semesters of college Spanish is required. Full-time course load is generally 13-16 credit hours and is comprised of:

- GENR-110Y: Understanding Contemporary Mexico (3 credits, required, taught in English)
- Intermediate or Advanced Spanish language course (3-4 credits, required)
- Electives that can include:
 - GENR-290Y: Healthcare in the Yucatán (3 credits, taught in English)
 - SPAN-220Y: Spanish for Health Professionals (language course related to healthcare, taught in Spanish, 3 credits)
 - SPAN-320Y: Spanish for Health Professionals (language course related to healthcare, taught in Spanish, 3 credits)
 - Internships, service-learning, or additional courses taught by visiting faculty

How the Course Registration Process Works in Mérida

After students apply and are accepted to study abroad, students pre-register for classes as a part of the online registration process. Students should have a list of potential courses to take that have been discussed with their advisor(s). Upon arrival in Mérida, students will complete final registration with the assistance of the Resident Director.

Courses with Core Designations Currently Pre-Approved by the Central College Registrar

The list below only includes courses that have been previously approved for Core designations. These courses as well as additional courses may count for major and minor requirements (not just Core requirements). Students should consult their major/minor advisors regarding courses that may count for major/minor requirements. Advisors and students should also check to see what courses are being taught by future Visiting Faculty members to the Yucatán. Their courses, which are only offered in the one semester that the visiting faculty member is teaching in the Yucatán, typically carry Core designations.

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Note that the courses listed below are regularly taught but not necessarily every semester.

Core	Course	Title
ART	ART-250Y	Art & Architecture of Yucatán
LP	ENGL-290Y	Literature and Health
LP	ENGL-290Y	Fictions of National Identity
HP	SPAN-344Y	Mexican Civilization
GS	SUST-290Y	Sustainability in China and Mexico
LP	SPAN-346Y	Latin American Novel

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Questions?

Contact the following faculty and professional staff with advising questions related to the Mérida, Yucatan program:

John Roslien, Associate Professor of
Exercise Science
Faculty Program Advisor
roslienj@central.edu

Lisa Munro
Resident Director
munrol@central.edu