

Bard SPANISH STUDIES

Study Flbroad in Oaxaca, Mexico

Spanish Intensive: Bard & Oaxaca

Spanish Intensive is a course offered every year for students with little or no previous experience of Spanish who wish to acquire a strong grasp of the Spanish language and culture in the shortest time possible. The first eight credits are earned in the spring semester at Bard: you will attend two hours of class daily, with an additional two hours per week in a conversational class with our Foreign Language Exchange Tutors. In late December/early January, you will travel with the group to Oaxaca, where you will complete an additional four credit hours.



Oaxaca

Considered one of the jewels of Mexico's colonial past, Oaxaca is a mid-size city in the southern part of the country. Located on a high plateau, Oaxaca offers a mild climate all year round. Oaxaca is known for its warm and welcoming people, its architectural beauty, and its thriving contemporary arts scene. As the capital of the state of Oaxaca, which boasts sixteen different indigenous groups, Oaxaca City is also a wonderful place to witness the intermixing of many rich and varied cultures. During your month in Oaxaca, you will visit such archeological wonders as Monte Albán and Mitla. You will also have the chance to participate in volunteer work in a nearby Zapotec village.



Panoramic View of Monte Albán



Santo Domingo, Oaxaca's Main Cathedral and Cultural Center

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Spanish Language and Culture in Oaxaca

Bard students participating in this program will attend the *Instituto Cultural Oaxaca*, near the historic center of the city. Language classes are held from 9-12 each morning, with an additional hour of conversation (on the lawn among the ICO's fabulous gardens) from 12-1. After the midday meal with your host family, you will attend a culture workshop for two hours each afternoon. These workshops, taught by Mexican artisans and other professionals, may include weaving, ceramics, salsa and merengue dancing, and Mexican cooking.

The cultural immersion component of your month-long stay in Oaxaca is completed by placement in a Mexican host family, usually within easy walking distance of the ICO. You will eat breakfast and a large midday meal with your *familia*; you have the option to eat a light evening meal with them or out in the city with friends.

For program costs and other details, please contact Professors Patricia López-Gay (plopezga@bard.edu) Melanie Nicholson (nicholso@bard.edu). We will be glad to share with you our more than 16 years of working with this highly successful program! You can also check out the ICO's website at www.icomexico.com.



Entrance to the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca



Main Patio of the ICO



A Zapotec Weaving Family in the Village of Teotitlán del Valle