

Recommended Programs for Chicano Studies/Latin American Studies Majors

Created by Madeline Wildeson, Fall 2025

As of Fall 2025, there are [twenty-seven UCEAP programs](#) with “Latin American Studies” coursework. UCEAP recommends the following seven programs for Chicano Studies and Latin American Studies majors for their suitability for beginner to intermediate Spanish learners. The criteria used to narrow these options includes the following: the programs have course offerings in the subject area in English or Spanish, the programs are located in Latin America, the programs feature Spanish language coursework, and include opportunities for applied learning via internships, research, or community engagement. These programs were selected based on the following qualifications: wide availability and robust course offerings with few restrictions in Latin American Studies for visiting students, well-established curricula within institutional academic structure, and unique learning or practical opportunities for students on and/or offsite.

	Country	Program Name	Language of Instruction	Spanish Language Level
1	Argentina, Chile	Human Rights & Cultural Memory	English	Beginner to intermediate level in Spanish
2	Mexico, USA	Leadership in Social Justice & Public Policy	English, Spanish	Beginner to intermediate level in Spanish
3	Chile	Pontifical Catholic University of Chile	Spanish	Intermediate level in Spanish required
4	Chile	University of Chile	Spanish	Intermediate level in Spanish required
5	Mexico	National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)	Spanish	Intermediate level in Spanish required
6	Mexico	Contemporary Mexico	English	Beginner to intermediate level in Spanish
7	Mexico	Field Research in Mexico	Spanish	Intermediate level in Spanish

Multi-site

[Human Rights and Cultural Memory](#)

Program type: UC Construct - Fall

Host institutions: University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) & Alberto Hurtado University (Chile)

Language of Instruction: English

Course list/handbook: [Current program offerings](#)

Course Offerings (per year) & Restrictions: Five courses for a total of 21 quarter/14 semester UC units, including one required Spanish language course.

Chicano /Latin American Topics Courses in UCEAP Catalogue: [View previous courses here](#)

Spanish Language Offerings: Required Spanish and Human Rights course – [Basic/intermediate](#) & [Advanced](#)

Best for: Beginner to intermediate level in Spanish

[Leadership in Social Justice and Public Policy, Mexico and Sacramento](#)

Program type: UC Construct – Year

Host institutions: UC Sacramento Center (UCCS) - Spring & National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) (Mexico City) - Fall

Language of Instruction: English, Spanish

Course list/handbook: [Current program offerings at UC Sacramento](#) and at UNAM

Course Offerings (per year) & Restrictions:

- In Sacramento, required classes include Political Science Internship, 10 quarter UC units; California Policy Seminar, 4 quarter UC units.

- At UNAM, Introduction to Leadership Development course, 4.5 quarter/3 semester UC units; ILP: Two courses for a total of 3–8.5 quarter/2–5.7 semester units; The UC online leadership course plus three to four UNAM courses for a total of 18 quarter/12 semester UC units.
- The following [majors](#) within the UNAM *Escuela de Filosofía y Letras* and *Escuela de Política y Ciencias Sociales* accept the B1 Spanish Language Certificate. All other majors require a B2 Spanish Language Certificate to enroll in courses taught in Spanish.
- All students are required to submit an Official [SIELE \(Global\)](#) or [DELE](#) Spanish Language Certificate equivalent to at least a B1 (intermediate) level of proficiency when submitting their UCEAP application. Review the [UCEAP Spanish Language Prerequisite Guide](#) for more information.

Chicano/Latin American Topics Courses in UCEAP Catalogue: [View previously taken courses here](#)

Spanish Language Offerings: Required 5-week Intensive Language Program (ILP) [Elementary](#), [Intermediate](#), and [Advanced](#) Spanish Language; optional continued Spanish language study upon completion of ILP at UNAM; content courses taught in Spanish.

Best for: Beginner to intermediate level in Spanish

Chile

[Pontifical Catholic University of Chile \(PUC Chile\)](#)

Program type: Immersion – Fall, Spring, Year

Host Department/School/College: relevant coursework may be found in [Faculty of Letters](#), [Faculty of Philosophy](#), [Faculty of Communication](#), [Faculty of History, Geography, and Political Science](#), and [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Course list/handbook: [Current course offerings in Spanish](#); also, there are [limited offerings in English](#)

Course Offerings (per year) & Restrictions:

- Minimum of 6 quarters/4 semesters university-level Spanish at the time of departure.
- Minimum of 18 quarter/12 semester UC units each semester and four courses.
- Spanish language course, research project, and/or internship may replace one course

Chicano/Latin American Topics Courses in UCEAP Catalogue: [View previously taken courses here](#)

Spanish Language Offerings: Available for an additional enrollment fee of USD 700. Students interested in taking these courses need to take an online Spanish diagnostic test. Students below B2 (intermediate-advanced), can only take courses in English plus the Spanish language course. [Syllabi available here.](#)

Best for: Intermediate level in Spanish

[University of Chile](#)

Program type: Immersion – Fall, Spring, Year

Host Department/School/College: relevant coursework may be found in the Faculty of Philosophy & Humanities and Faculty of Social Sciences.

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Course list/handbook: search for relevant coursework in the [Faculty of Philosophy & Humanities](#) and [Faculty of Social Sciences](#).

Course Offerings (per year) & Restrictions:

- Minimum of 6 quarters/4 semesters university-level Spanish at the time of departure.
- Minimum of 18 quarter/12 semester UC units and four courses each semester.
- Spanish language course, research project, and/or internship may replace one course

Chicano/Latin American Topics Courses in UCEAP Catalogue: [View previously taken courses here](#)

Spanish Language Offerings: Optional [Spanish courses for second language learners](#) are offered at a cost of approximately USD 250 enrollment fee ([more information here](#)). Courses span five different language levels: elementary, post-elementary, pre-intermediate, intermediate, and post-intermediate. These courses meet for 4.5 hours per week and are worth 7 UC quarter units. [Syllabi available here.](#)

Best for: Intermediate level in Spanish

Mexico

[National Autonomous University of Mexico \(UNAM\)](#)

Program type: Immersion – Fall, Spring, Year

Host Department/School/College: [Faculty of Philosophy and Letters](#)

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Course list/handbook: [Available courses in Latin American Studies \(in Spanish\)](#); courses in other departments may be relevant to Chicano Studies majors—refer [here](#) to determine language level required.

Course Offerings (per year) & Restrictions:

- The following [majors](#) within the UNAM *Escuela de Filosofía y Letras* and *Escuela de Política y Ciencias Sociales* accept the B1 Spanish Language Certificate. All other majors require a B2 Spanish Language Certificate to enroll in courses taught in Spanish. Latin American Studies is exempt from the B2 Spanish Language Certificate.
- All students are required to submit an Official [SIELE \(Global\)](#) or [DELE](#) Spanish Language Certificate equivalent to at least a B1 (intermediate) level of proficiency when submitting their UCEAP application. Review the [UCEAP Spanish Language Prerequisite Guide](#) for more information.

Chicano/Latin American Topics Courses in UCEAP Catalogue: [View previously taken courses here](#)

Spanish Language Offerings: Required 5-week Intensive Language Program (ILP) for [Elementary](#), [Intermediate](#), and [Advanced](#) levels for 4 quarter/2.7 semester UC units, letter grade required. Optional continued Spanish language study upon completion of ILP at UNAM; content courses taught in Spanish.

Best for: Intermediate level in Spanish

[Contemporary Mexico](#)

Program type: Themed – Summer

Host institution: UC Center Mexico City - La Casa de California

Language of Instruction: English

Course list/handbook: [View current course offerings here](#)

Course Offerings (per year) & Restrictions: Three courses for a total of 11 quarter/7.3 semester UC units.

Chicano/Latin American Topics Courses in UCEAP Catalogue: [View previously taken courses here](#)

Spanish Language Offerings: Required 5-week Intensive Language Program (ILP) for [Elementary](#), [Intermediate](#), and [Advanced](#) levels for 4 quarter/2.7 semester UC units, letter grade required.

Best for: Beginner to intermediate level in Spanish

[Field Research in Mexico](#)

Program type: Research – Fall

Host Department/School/College: UC Center Mexico City - La Casa de California

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Course list/handbook: [View current course offerings here](#)

Course Offerings (per year) & Restrictions: Four courses for a total of 22.5 quarter/15 semester UC units. Minimum of 6 quarters/4 semesters university-level Spanish at the time of departure. During first 5 weeks in Mexico City, participants take courses in Field Research Methods and Contemporary Mexico, focusing on proposal development, research techniques, and an intensive Spanish review. Over the next 11 weeks, they conduct field research at an established site in Oaxaca, Querétaro, Yucatán, or Mexico City, supervised by a local mentor. Final research paper and a presentation of findings to peers and instructors at end of program. Review [Mentor Profiles & Location Information](#) and [Field Research Project Samples](#) from past students.

Chicano/Latin American Topics Courses in UCEAP Catalogue: [View previously taken courses here](#)

Spanish Language Offerings: Instruction is in Spanish; all students must take a Spanish language course: [Advanced Spanish](#) or [Spanish Academic Writing for Heritage Speakers](#). Language level is determined by the results of an on-site placement exam.

Best for: Intermediate level in Spanish