

Frequently Asked Questions

Why travel abroad to study when numerous US-based schools offer instruction in Spanish

- By traveling to a Spanish-speaking country, the participant has an “immersion” experience—one in which there is continuous exposure to the language and culture.
- The cost of travel is offset by the lower tuition and room and board costs.

Why Costa Rica?

- Costa Rica enjoys a stable government and comparatively low levels of violent crime.
- Costa Rica employs the same water purification standards and practices as the U.S.
- As an ecological tourism hub, Costa Rica is a popular destination for U.S. and European university students.
- The programs generally occur year round and offer flexible dates.
- The capital of Costa Rica, San José, boasts a mild climate due to its high elevation.
- Public transportation is inexpensive and reliable.
- The Costa Rican accent is a mild one, broadly comprehended by South and Central Americans as well as Spanish speaking people from the Caribbean Islands.

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Spanish Language Learning Program in Costa Rica



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Spanish Language Learning Program in Costa Rica



The Sacred Heart Institute is pleased to offer priests an opportunity to study Spanish in Costa Rica. The program of study is custom designed for each participant, depending upon level of fluency in Spanish, preferred dates, and personal goals.

This program is intended for people with a basic knowledge of Spanish Language.

The program requires dedication and discipline on the part of the participant. While it is reasonable to expect advancement on the spectrum of fluency in a typical four-week program, participants should not expect to achieve full fluency in four weeks.

The Sacred Heart Institute works with a priest of the Archdiocese of San José in the placement of visiting priests in rectories, which are comparable to U.S. facilities. In addition to assistance in planning, he provides local support to the participants.

Placement is determined by the location of the school. The parish setting is a critical part of the immersion experience. While residing in a parish, the visiting priest takes part in parish liturgies and has opportunities to participate in social events and other programs.



Rev. Thomas Pettei & Rev. Carlos Rojas during Mass

The Sacred Heart Institute utilizes schools and parishes in San José for ease of local commute.

SHI has worked with Universal de Idiomas for over 6 years. The program of study in San José schools is fairly uniform. Programs begin on Monday with a placement test for new students. Typically priests opt for 3-6 weeks of study. SHI recommends that priests plan a minimum of two weeks.

Estimated Expenses \$

Tuition varies according to each school and program selected. On average, tuition is approximately \$240 per week for small group classes. Private tutoring ranges from \$110-\$220 per week.

Most priests select the Group + Private option, which consists of four hours in a small group setting in the morning (8am -12 Noon) and two hours of private instruction every afternoon from Monday—Thursday.

Room and Board: Parishes do not charge a visiting priest. However, SHI strongly recommends an offering of approximately \$150-\$200 per week. For the sake of comparison, most schools charge \$170 per week for housing.

Other costs: Expenses vary for each person. Ordinary expenses in San José (transportation, restaurants, movies) are reasonably priced-significantly lower than U.S. services. Tourist services and excursions tend to be closer to US prices.



Estimated Cost	\$3000—\$3890
Tuition	\$960 — \$1200
Tutoring	\$440
Room & Board	\$600 — \$800
Airfare	\$550 — \$800
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$450 — \$650