The Center of Teaching for Foreigners, Campus Taxco (Centro de Enseñanza para Extranjeros - CEPE-Taxco) is an educational institution of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México-UNAM), whose main objective is to provide Spanish courses to foreign students and encourage a focus on Mexican and Ibero-American art, culture and history.

All of our Spanish teaching programs are designed and backed by UNAM. They have international validity and follow the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The commitment of this educational institution is to offer foreign students courses of high academic quality and international certification of the Spanish Language in a system of total immersion.

LOCATION

We are located in the state of Guerrero, in Taxco de Alarcón, considered one of the most important tourist and cultural destinations of Mexico.

The facilities of CEPE-Taxco are located in the Ex Hacienda de “El Chorrillo”, a historic property from the 16th century considered cultural and historical heritage to which UNAM has been granted
custody by the state government of Guerrero since 1992.

The Ex Hacienda de “El Chorrillo” was property of the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés and is recognized as one of the first mineral extraction locations on the American continent. Here, the process of silver extraction was conducted for more than 400 years.

The facilities of this university are available for the national and international academic community in order to organize forums, congresses, round table discussions and symposia, among other activities, in a unique environment that encourages integration, dialog, reflection, and creativity.

LIBRARY
“JUAN RUIZ DE ALARCÓN”
CEPE-Taxco offers foreign students the services of the Library “Juan Ruiz de Alarcón”, which contains more than 3,000 available publications for loan and reference about art, Mexican history, literature, Spanish, linguistics, and Ibero-American topics.

The library at this educational institution also contains the Historic Municipal Archive of Taxco, an acquisition of more than 400,000 written historical, linguistic and social documents that date from the year 1666 to the end of the 20th century.
BOTANICAL GARDEN
“HERNANDO RUIZ DE ALARCÓN”
Students can visit and enjoy the Botanical Garden “Hernando Ruiz de Alarcón”, which is located in the upper part of the Ex Hacienda de “El Chorrillo”.
The objective of this space is to promote the conservation of native plant species of the region and from other geographical areas, with the purpose of spreading knowledge and the traditional use of the plants between the local and academic communities.

As part of the activities of the botanical garden, guided tours are given to the general public and to schools, as well as courses and workshops about environmental education, ecology and eco-techniques, among others.
Currently this space of conservation and knowledge has three collections of plants: cacti and succulents, medicinal plants, and an arboretum.

CULTURAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
Foreign students’ learning is supplemented with a wide variety of cultural and artistic activities of the highest quality which CEPE-Taxco offers free of charge: concerts of diverse musical genres, theater and dance presentations, film series, exhibits, book presentations, conferences, literature, art, and history courses; all of which are part of the attractive cultural offer that is provided by this university campus.
Additionally, in order to deepen and contextualize their learning, students participate in guided tours to historical sites, archeological sites, museums and representative tourist places, whereupon the knowledge of the Spanish language and Mexico is strengthened.
SPANISH PROGRAMS
Intensive Courses in Spanish and Mexican Culture

Our intensive courses in Spanish and Mexican culture are organized in 3 blocks (basic, intermediate and advanced) and 8 levels.

Each level consists of 90 class hours that are given over 6 weeks. Each block has a value of 6 academic credits. Additionally, in each level, 2 supplementary courses of 30 hours are taken, which are equivalent to 2 academic credits each. In order to pass to the next level, it is a prerequisite to have a score of 85 points in previous course.

- Supplementary Courses
  - Pronunciation
  - Redaction workshop
  - Reading and conversation workshop
  - Literature
  - History
  - Dance
  - Eco-techniques

Supplementary courses are offered according to the Spanish level of the student. For the basic levels, workshops in conversation, reading, or redaction are offered, while for the intermediate and advanced levels, courses in the areas of culture, literature and history are offered. When it is required, undergraduate courses can be offered according to the students’ needs.

- Professional Practices
  Intermediate and advanced students will be able to carry out professional practices to become familiar with the Mexican workplace, improve their communicative abilities, and practice their Spanish in an authentic context.

The majority of the participating businesses in this program are in the area of tourism (hotels and restaurants) and exporting business (silver).

- Professional Practices Program
  - 50 hours of work without pay distributed over 6 weeks, at the student’s choice
  - Proof of participation will be given
  - 2 academic credits

- Volunteer Work
  As with professional practices, students will have the opportunity to practice their Spanish and know different perspectives of Mexican culture, as well as help in projects to benefit the community.
Participating students do not receive credits or a grade, but will receive an official record of participation.

**Spanish Courses for Foreign Graduate Students**

Academic courses for foreign graduate students, designed in different levels and development of abilities in written and oral expression, in technical and vocational specificity, for distinct areas of knowledge.

In these courses the emphasis is placed in the acquisition of the necessary tools for communication in academic environments: thesis writing, scientific essays, academic papers and reports, advanced oral expression, and reading specialized texts.

**Courses for Recovering Spanish as a Native Language**

Attentive to the needs of the large migrant population of our country, CEPE-Taxco offers an excellent opportunity for the generations of Mexicans born in another country to recover their native language, as well as their cultural roots through courses designed for those that have a slight knowledge of the language and the culture, but would like to acquire precision in the use of the language and the customs and traditions inherited from their ancestors.

**Special Spanish Courses**

CEPE-Taxco offers special Spanish courses with diverse topics on a university level (undergraduate and graduate). The purpose of these courses is to offer students a wide spectrum of topics that answer to their interests such as culture, literature, history, art; or more specific courses in the area of Humanities, Social Sciences, or Sciences. In these thematic courses, students can improve their knowledge in Spanish and in the chosen topic.

**Spanish Certification**

a) Examen de Posesión de la Lengua Española (EPLE)

CEPE-Taxco offers an exam (Examen de Posesión de la Lengua Española - EPLE), which is an instrument to determine the Spanish student’s level of dominance of the language independent of the way they acquired the language.
Based on their results, a certification of linguistic competence is given, which will be useful for the student in different areas such as in academics or for work.

The certification is an official record with the breakdown of the points obtained in each section of the exam. If the student reaches a score higher than 700, they can ask for a diploma. If the student receives less than 701 points and wishes to increase their score, they can present the exam a second time six months later.

b) Certificados de Español como Lengua Adicional (CELA)

The certifications for Spanish as an additional language (Certificados de Español como Lengua Adicional - CELA) are tests that determine the level of suitability of the candidates according to their linguistic and communicative competence in order to function primarily in the public and private sectors, and to a lesser extent in the academic and professional environment.

This exam is for one who has continued formal studies or has developed linguistic and communicative competence in Spanish by immersion or one who is self-taught.

A certificate with the student’s score will be given, as well as a description of the level of performance corresponding to each range of points.

Note: The issue of EPLE and CELA is an exclusive function of UNAM and validation of the results of each certification is for two years. Both certifications have a cost and a fixed application date.
OTHER OPTIONS
In addition to the regular Spanish courses, CEPE-Taxco offers different program options and specialized courses throughout the year. We respond to the necessities of educational institutions and students considering criteria of flexibility. We have over 20 years of experience in teaching Spanish, which allows us to design an option to suit their interests.

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