

Study in the Dominican Republic Spring 2010 January – April



Dominican Republic Studies

University of Illinois
Colgate University
Lemoyne College
Hobart College
William Smith College
Wells College
Syracuse University

The Consortium Program of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Colgate University, Lemoyne College, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Wells College and Syracuse University offers students a chance to study and work in a vibrant setting in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

Santiago de los Caballeros

The Dominican Republic, which shares the island Columbus named Hispaniola (in Spanish: Espanola) with the Republic of Haiti, as a relatively small country with an astonishing variety of features, from coastal savannah lands to rain forest, to semi-desert to mountains that rival the Rockies—with colonial cities, rural villages, pristine beaches, and important archeological sites. All are within relatively easy access from our base city of Santiago de los Caballeros, in the heart of the Cibao region in the northern part of the island.

Founded as the city of "Los Treinta Caballeros", or the "Thirty Gentlemen," Santiago has a long history. Originally one of Columbus' settlements, the city was destroyed by an earthquake late in the 16th century. It was later re-settled and played a critical role in the Dominican Independence movement in the 19th century. Today, Santiago is the second largest city in the Dominican Republic. Home to more than 750,000 Dominicans, it is commonly known as the second capital.

Academic Program

The program is hosted by the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra, one of the best-regarded universities in the Caribbean. The modern, comfortable campus sits on the edge of the city, within easy reach of rural and urban communities.

Students enroll in four courses, all taught in Spanish:

Workshop in Spanish Conversation

(3 cr) If not exempted by a language proficiency exam given before classes begin, students are required to enroll in Spanish, which will be taught at intermediate and advanced levels. One language section will likely be for native Spanish speakers.



Director's Seminar – Body/Border: Gender and Body Image in Hispanic Literature (3 cr)

This course examines the theme of gender performance and body image in works by Mexican, Hispanic Caribbean, and Latino/a authors. Class discussions will focus on the

ways in which authors in different parts of the Hispanic world (and on different sides of the US national border) confirm, question, and/or transgress social norms regarding gender and the body. The course will examine the role of literature, language, and culture in reflecting and reshaping national and transnational attitudes about masculinity and femininity

Electives (3 cr.) – Students choose from several course offerings which in the past have included Afro-Caribbean Culture, Culture and Society through Cinema, Dominican Social Themes, Caribbean Short Story, Introduction to the Dominican History, and Dominican Economy. If students gain approval before departure, they may enroll in the ESL/EFL teacher training course. Depending on language proficiency and availability, students may be able to enroll in a course alongside Dominican students at the PUCMM.

Community Service: Theory and Practicum (3 cr.)

A service learning seminar that provides theoretical and intercultural perspectives on field work placements and allows students to connect with local communities and people. In the past, assignments have been available in schools, a rural community development project, an urban study/recreation

program for street children, and public health projects. Assignments amount to approximately six hours of work per week.



trip to the capital city of Santo Domingo, which combines guest lectures and visits to sites of historical, political, and cultural importance. Short excursions to other points of interest on the island will also be planned.

Accommodations

Home stays are an important component of the program, offering students an opportunity to perfect their language skills and learn about the daily routines of Dominican life. All students will live with families reasonably near the university.

Cost and Financial Aid

The estimated cost for the semester will be approximately \$7,680 (estimate). Included in this cost are tuition, housing, most meals, and the week-long study trip to Santo Domingo. Students should also budget for

Orientation and Excursions

The program begins with a three-day orientation that includes a tour of the city and its surroundings. Students also participate in a week-long study

roundtrip airfare at approximately \$700, books, personal expenses, and health insurance. Students who receive scholarships and financial aid can apply them toward the cost of the program.

Eligibility Requirements

- Good academic standing (2.5/4.0 cumulative GPA)
- Minimum 4 semesters of college Spanish or equivalent
- Have completed at least 12 hrs at UIC
- Graduates and undergraduates may apply.

Students must obtain strong recommendations from faculty and be able to articulate thoughtful and compelling reasons why going on this program will further their educational and personal goals.

Information and Applications

For further information about the program and its requirements, contact Irina Krymova, Assistant Director, UIC Study Abroad Office at krymova@uic.edu or 312-413-7662.

Completed applications must be returned to the Study Abroad Office by September 18 (priority deadline) and no later than October 16 (final deadline).

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Application instructions

- General UIC Study Abroad Application
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official transcript
 - Please order an official transcript from **all** colleges attended. UIC transcript can be ordered from the Office of Registration and Records in SSB. Please either pick up the transcript a day after ordering it or have it sent to the Study Abroad Office. Transcripts should be ordered no less than one week prior to your appointment.
- Essay
 - Write a short essay (700-1000 words) in English and Spanish explaining why you chose this study abroad program and describe how its theme or content relates to your UIC academic curriculum. You should address what effect overseas study will have on your academic/career goals and how you have prepared to study abroad. In addition, you should note any awards or honors you have received while at UIC.