



# Spanish Studies Abroad

## The CENTER for CROSS~CULTURAL STUDY

*Excellence in Spanish Studies Since 1969*

### EDML 400S: Practicum in Education

#### OVERVIEW

Spanish Studies Abroad's Practicum in Education combines the study of learning a second language with a for-credit internship in education. Participants work with the Seville Resident Director and Playschool faculty and staff for approximately 150 clock hours to earn four (4) course credits.

'Playschool' is a 5-week language immersion program in an urban summer camp setting. Although there is an hour of English class every day, the goal of Playschool is for students to learn through context-rich activities and routines that happen throughout the day. These include theater, cooking, science experiments, field trips and more. In fact, much of the learning happens outside of the class, as students naturally acquire the language from the English immersion setting.

The Practicum students are expected to participate in all of the activities that the teachers do: taking time to prepare small activities during class time (for example, to reinforce a certain grammar point or vocabulary set), aiding with classroom management, helping out in crafts and manual activities, and assisting in preparation and clean up. Keep in mind that this is not a 'theory only' practicum: it is an opportunity to get real life experience working with children both in and out of the classroom setting. It also gives you the chance to see various learning methods applied within an immersive setting, from project-based learning to context-rich class time.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to:

- Put some of the theoretical aspects of second language acquisition into practice;
- Allow participants to gain firsthand experience of English/Spanish teaching and learning;
- Provide practical insights into the integration of content, language, and culture in classroom materials, activities, tasks and projects;
- Encourage reflection on classroom language and its role as both input and output;
- Explore activities and tasks for developing both receptive and productive skills.

#### STUDENT SUPERVISION

The Seville Resident Director and Playschool staff and faculty work together to evaluate each participant's performance. Teacher's Assistants are required to keep a Language Learning Journal, in which language acquisition is analyzed from two perspectives: that of his or her own study of Spanish and that of the Playschool children's study of English.

## HOURS

The clock hours are divided in the following way:

1. Structured Field Experience: 125 hours in the classroom
2. Second Language Acquisition Study: 25 hours of individual study:
  - 15 hours: focusing on the issues in first- and second-language acquisition that are most relevant to the children.
  - 10 hours: dedicated to the planning and preparation of learning and creative activities in coordination with the Playschool staff.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Each student must prepare a teaching project at the end of the Practicum. A **letter grade** is assigned to each student based on his/her individual study, language learning journal, performance on the weekly evaluations and the final project. A Pass/Fail grade is also available upon request with prior consent from the home institution. Spanish Studies grants a Pass to a letter grade of C- or above.