

ÁVILA

Designated a [World Heritage City](#), Ávila is one of the most historic and beautiful municipalities in Spain. Its world famous walls stand guard over the centuries-old artistic and cultural heritage found inside. Walking along its narrow winding streets, one easily encounters vestiges from the past... Veton (Celtic) and Roman architectural remains, Romanesque and Gothic churches, monasteries, convents, and Renaissance palaces. Not only is it a journey through the history and culture of Spain, but also that of Europe.

Several great figures were born in the city and its province: [Saint Teresa of Jesus](#) and [Saint John of the Cross](#), whose writings on mysticism are considered both spiritual and literary classics, [Queen Isabella of Castile](#), a leading Catholic monarch in the history of the peninsula and [Tomás Luis de Victoria](#), an outstanding polyphonic composer. Many vivid reminders of these four are located throughout the area where one can trace their influential lives.



Let nothing disturb thee... God alone sufficeth

teresa de jesús:

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA SANTA TERESA DE JESÚS DE ÁVILA

Institute of Spanish Language and Culture

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INSTITUTE OF SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE ÁVILA

30 JUNE - 25 JULY 2025





Perched atop a plateau with mountains in the distance, Ávila is a [dynamic city](#) offering students many cultural and leisure opportunities. In this unparalleled setting, the Universidad Católica de Ávila established the [Institute of Spanish Language and Culture](#) in 1999 to broaden the study of the Spanish language, civilization and culture. The program is one of [academic excellence taught](#) by experienced teachers.



The [Institute of Spanish Language and Culture](#) offers small classes; the language classes in particular use a communicative approach. Individualized attention is available for the special needs of each student. Of special interest is the class on Spanish Mysticism. Taught by internationally recognized professors, it explores the writings of Saint Teresa of Jesus and Saint John of the Cross.



The [main classroom building](#) of the Universidad Católica de Ávila sits just outside Ávila with a splendid view of its medieval walls. In the distance are the Zapatero mountains, part of the Sierra de Gredos range. The students also have access to good [libraries](#), computer laboratories, the university café and sports installations.



Watercolor inspired by Zurbarán's Saint Teresa of Jesus. **A. Dubois.**



Painting of Saint John of the Cross by an anonymous XVII century artist.

The courses last 4 weeks ([60 hours, 4 credits each course](#)). On an exceptional basis, students are allowed to register for a 2 credit (30 hour) course during the first two or last two weeks. Students may register for regular credit or audit the courses. Tuition fees are the same for either type of registration.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

There are visits to the main monuments in the city of Ávila and day excursions to [Alba de Tormes, Salamanca, Segovia and El Escorial](#). Professors and guides accompany the students on all excursions and explain the details of greatest interest, including the Carmelite sites. Aside from the above mentioned activities, there are many other diverse cultural offerings in the city: concerts, theatrical productions, conferences, and fiestas.

All visits and day excursions are required for those students officially registered in the courses.

For those interested, there are also several opportunities to do [volunteer work](#).

COURSES

SPANISH LANGUAGE

These courses emphasize the acquisition and development of the four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.
Levels: Beginning - Intermediate - Advanced

SPANISH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

The beginning level consists of a general introductory course to basic elements of Spanish culture including extensive vocabulary enrichment and conversation exercises. The other levels include segments on Spanish literature, art, history and geography.
Levels: Beginning - Intermediate - Advanced

BUSINESS SPANISH

These courses cover the acquisition and development vocabulary needed to do business in Spanish speaking regions and countries. Areas studied are correspondence, marketing, sales, negotiations, banking services, human resources, etc.
A minimum of six students must be registered for either section.
Levels: Intermediate - Advanced

MEDICAL SPANISH FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

A course specifically developed for doctors, nurses, students and other health care specialists who need to know how to communicate with patients in Spanish.
A minimum of six students must be registered for this class.
Levels: Intermediate - Advanced

SPANISH MYSTICISM

This literature course, taught in either Spanish or English, is based on selected readings from the works of Saint Teresa of Jesus and Saint John of the Cross.

SURVEY OF SPANISH LITERATURE - LITERARY CRITICISM

The survey literature course covers significant works from the X - XXI centuries. A minimum of six students must be registered for either section.

PASTORAL SPANISH

This course is designed to help seminarians, deacons, priests and catechists to be able to connect (in their diverse ministries) with the Spanish-speaking faithful.