Madrid Study Group  
Fall 2004  

Director: Fernando Plata

The Madrid Study Group offers qualified Colgate students the opportunity to live and study for one semester in a dynamic and culturally rich European capital. The Group is intended for students in their junior year who already have significant ability with the Spanish language, with the goals of perfecting their Spanish language skills, acquiring a deeper knowledge of Spanish life and culture, and undertaking a diverse and challenging academic experience on the premises of a private university in Madrid. At the same time, the Group is organized to recognize the unique needs of American students studying abroad. It includes a two-week introductory session in Santiago de Compostela in the northwestern region of Galicia, followed by a 12-week semester at the Universidad San Pablo CEU in Madrid. The curriculum balances courses designed especially for the Group with a broad array of courses drawn from the regular offerings of the Universidad San Pablo CEU. Through academic experiences connected with the cultural resources of Madrid, participants will become acquainted with the richness of Spanish art, film and theater, and through the everyday experience of living with Spanish families and sharing classes with Spanish students, participants will acquire a knowledge of Spanish culture in the more everyday sense. Excursions will be designed to give participants a good sense of the geographic and cultural diversity of Spain, its complex history, and its major artistic monuments.

Living Arrangements

During the two-week Santiago de Compostela session, participants will live in a dormitory of the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela. In Madrid, students will live with families, who will provide most meals. No more than one student will be housed with any given family. All housing arrangements will be made by the Director, after consultation with accepted students on living preferences.

Curriculum

Students must register for four courses, and will receive four Colgate credits. The course offerings are as follows:

The Program Seminar (Spanish 400)

This course, required of all participants, includes two segments: 1) the introductory two-week session in Santiago de Compostela, designed to prepare students for the semester in Madrid, and 2) “Madrid in the Arts,” offered in Madrid. In the Madrid segment, participants will attend weekly lectures on Spanish art, film, and theater complemented by visits to museums, cinemas and theaters.

Theater of the Golden Age (Spanish 461)

This course, offered by the Director, can count for the Spanish concentration or minor. This seminar studies the techniques and themes of the 17th-century comedia as exemplified primarily in the works of Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina, and Calderón de la Barca. The reading list will incorporate 17th-century plays performed in Madrid during the Fall of 2004.

Perfecting Language (Spanish 380)

This course will provide students with a comprehensive review of the finer points of the Spanish language, with an emphasis on fostering near-native pronunciation, correctness of grammar.
in speech and writing, and the idiomatic use of the language in a variety of contexts. This course will be required of all participants except for those who place out of it by exam.

**Electives**

Participants, with guidance from the Director, will choose two electives from the regular Universidad San Pablo CEU course offerings, in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. Students may petition departments at Colgate to have these electives count for a concentration or minor. Courses in literature may count toward the Spanish concentration or minor.

**Excursions**

The Group will include one day-long excursion during the Santiago de Compostela session, to one of the major natural or archaeological sites in Galicia. There will be two weekend excursions during the semester, linked to academic components of the Group. Possible sites include the Basque country, with a visit to the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, and Andalucía, whose architectural treasures include the mosque of Córdoba, the cathedral of Sevilla, and Granada’s famed Alhambra.

**Calendar**

The Group will follow the normal Colgate calendar closely, with the Santiago de Compostela session occupying the first two weeks of September, followed by an orientation in Madrid and a twelve-week semester in Madrid ending in mid-December.

**Student Costs**

In addition to normal Colgate tuition, the costs of books and supplies, and personal spending (including any personal travel), students should count on the following approximate expenses:

- Round trip flight (New York—Santiago de Compostela; Madrid—New York): $1,020
- Room and board, Santiago de Compostela: $724
- Room and Board, Madrid: $2,691
- Room and Board for Excursions: $280

**Prerequisites for Participation and Selection Criteria**

Prerequisite courses for participation in the Group are at least one 350-level Spanish class and Spanish 361 or 362.

The Director, in consultation with his department colleagues, will choose students for participation based on their ability in Spanish, their academic record at Colgate, their interest in the Group and commitment to its goals, and their disciplinary record. Preference will be given to Spanish concentrators and minors, but all qualified and interested students are encouraged to apply.

**Application procedure**

Applications are available in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, 215A Lawrence, and in the Office of Off-Campus Study, 105 McGregory. Applicants should note that the required essay must be written in Spanish. Applications should be received by Professor Plata in his department mailbox in 212 Lawrence by Friday, December 5, 2003. All inquiries about the Group may be directed to him by phone (ext. 7088) or e-mail (fplata@mail.colgate.edu).