



New York University in Madrid

M.A. in Spanish and Latin American Languages and Literatures

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YU's Graduate School of Arts and Science offers a unique one-year M.A. in Spanish and Latin American Languages and Literatures at NYU in Madrid.

With courses taught by NYU in Madrid's own faculty, as well as by professors from New York and Spanish universities, the M.A. brings a profoundly transatlantic perspective to the study of the Spanish-speaking world. The program takes full advantage of the vast range of cultural institutions and events in Madrid. Students have access to some of the richest libraries and archives in the world and live in one of the most dynamic cities in Europe. A young, ethnically diverse, and culturally vibrant city, home to growing Latin American communities, Madrid is a focal point of the meeting of the Iberian and Latin American worlds.

Depending on their interests and career goals, students choose one of two concentrations: Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Cultures or Spanish Language and Translation.

Students in Literatures and Cultures are usually interested in going on to Ph.D. programs in Literature or college-level teaching. The Language and Translation concentration is designed for people whose professional development would benefit from an in-depth knowledge of language and translation in the context of the Spanish-speaking world.

CORE AND ELECTIVE COURSES

Students in both concentrations take a year-long course on the Cultural History of Spain and Latin America, as well as a Seminar in Research Methods. The M.A. Project gives all students the opportunity to complete post-graduate level research on a topic of personal interest.

Students also take 6 electives, choosing from courses in Language, History and Art History, Literature, and Translation. All courses are taught in Spanish. See our website for this year's course offerings.

In the spring, approved students may also take a course at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, one of Spain's top universities.

SUMMARY OF ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor's Degree (normally with a GPA of 3.3 or above).

Undergraduate Spanish major or minor or the equivalent.

Evidence of language proficiency.

Official GRE scores.

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The M.A. program is housed in NYU in Madrid's campus in El Viso, a residential area of Madrid close to the city center. Classes are also held at the historic Instituto Internacional, where students benefit from membership of its excellent library.

Students choose from a range of housing options, from living with a Spanish family to sharing an apartment.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Two merit-based graduate assistant positions are awarded each year. Federal and state scholarships and loans, as well as funds from private sources, are generally applicable to foreign study.

HOW TO APPLY

To download an application or complete the application online, visit gsas.nyu.edu.

The deadline for Graduate Assistantships is January 4; all applicants April 1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.spanish.as.nyu.edu/page/NYUMadrid
212-998-7576 | nyu-in-madrid@nyu.edu

FAQs

What are the required components of the application?

You need to submit a completed application form and pay the application fee. You also need a personal statement **in Spanish or English**, a résumé or curriculum vitae in either language, as well as a writing sample in **Spanish, of 5–10 pages**. Official GRE scores are required, along with an official transcript from all universities attended and three letters of recommendation.

Is there a minimum GRE score?

No, there is no minimum GRE score required. When making admissions decisions, the committee looks at all aspects of a student's application and supporting material.

Is there a minimum GPA?

Your GPA should be above 3.3; however, in certain exceptional circumstances the committee will consider applications with a lower GPA, if other aspects of the application are compelling.

What level of Spanish do I need to be admitted to the program?

As the program is conducted exclusively in Spanish, you need excellent written and spoken Spanish skills and the ability to express yourself critically in the language.

How do I show in my application that my Spanish is at the right level?

We look at your formal academic training in Spanish as well as your writing sample in order to assess your command of the written and spoken language. If you are not a native speaker of Spanish, the admissions committee may contact you for a phone interview in order to verify that your language skills are sufficient to participate in the program.

What if I don't have a sample of academic writing in Spanish?

If you do not have an academic paper in Spanish, you can write one for the application. Choose a topic and approach that demonstrate your ability to articulate complex and critical thinking in Spanish.

Can I get professors who taught me in subjects other than Spanish to write recommendations?

If possible, you should have at least two recommendations from professors who have taught you in Spanish. If this is not possible, approach recommenders who can comment on your intellectual strengths and your contributions in the classroom. Letters from employers and other recommenders are also accepted, but you should provide at least two academic references.

Can letters of recommendation be written in Spanish?

Yes.

What can I do to improve my chances of acceptance?

The key documents for the application are the personal statement, the writing sample, and your letters of recommendation. Make sure to carefully proofread your Spanish-language documents (writing sample and personal statement) and to give as much information as you can to your recommenders to help them write the best possible letters for you.

Can I waive the application fee?

Unfortunately, only certain programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are eligible for a fee waiver and ours is not one of them.

FAQs

May I apply to the M.A. in Madrid and another program at the same time?

No, you cannot apply to more than one program in GSAS at the same time.

When can I expect a response about decisions?

If you apply by the January deadline, you will be notified in March. Applicants who submit between January and April will be notified on a rolling basis, usually about one month after receipt of the application.

What is the core curriculum?

All students in the program take a year-long course (4+4 credits) entitled the “Cultural History of Spain and Latin America.” Intended to provide an intellectual map of the historical and cultural development of the Iberian world from the Middle Ages to the present, this combines lectures from specialists in literature, language, cultural studies and history, attended by all students, with specialist seminar-style workshops devoted to either literature or language and translation.

The other dimension of the core curriculum is the Seminar in Research Methods (2 credits) in the fall, and the M.A. project (2 credits) which all students must complete in the spring. These are intended to provide all students the training and opportunity to conceive, design and complete post-graduate level research on a topic of personal interest.

What is the difference between the two concentrations?

The two concentrations differ in terms of the content and focus of the curriculum and the interests of the students.

Students in the concentration in Literatures and Cultures focus on literary and critical theory, Peninsular and Latin American literature, and the arts and culture of both regions. Most students who choose this option are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree and/or teaching at the college or university level. Others go on to careers as high-school teachers or in other fields in which they can use their deep knowledge and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world.

Courses in the concentration in Language and Translation focus on the study of Spanish, its syntax, lexicon, phonetics, pragmatics, language teaching, and on the theory and above all practice of translation. The program is designed for students interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in Spanish linguistics or related fields, in a career as a translator, as well as for people whose professions (teaching, business, community service, government, international affairs, etc.) would benefit from advanced training in the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. It is not meant for students wishing to go on to do a Ph.D. degree in literature.

Can I take courses outside my area of concentration?

All students may take one of their four credit electives, and one or both two-credit special topics courses, from outside their concentration. Literatures and Cultures students who are required to take a Spanish language class in the fall semester may also take a four credit elective outside their concentration in the spring.

FAQs

What is the M.A. project?

The M.A. project is a substantial piece of original scholarly work that students begin working on in the Research Methods Seminar in the fall and complete in the spring and/or summer. Completed under the guidance of an advisor from the faculty, the M.A. project gives students an opportunity to demonstrate expertise in their chosen area of research. The topics of the research projects area are as varied as the interests of our students. Typically taking the form of a 40–60 page research paper, M.A. projects may also consist of an undergraduate-level teaching unit, a commented translation, or a piece of original creative work in the field of Hispanic studies. All students present their research at the NYU in Madrid Graduate Research Symposium in April.

Who are the faculty?

Most courses are taught by NYU in Madrid's own faculty as well as by professors from other Spanish universities and research centers. NYU in Madrid's faculty comprises academics from Spain, Latin America and beyond. Visiting faculty from New York normally teach at least one course a year, as well as coming regularly to give lectures and workshops in the core cultural history course.

Can I enroll in courses at a Spanish university or must I take all my classes at NYU?

In the spring, approved students may take one 4-credit elective at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). Located about 20 minutes by train from the city center, and 40 minutes away from the NYU in Madrid campus, the UAM is one of Spain's top universities.

How many students are in the M.A. program typically?

Between 20 and 30.

How big are classes?

Class size varies; the required courses will have all of the students in the program, but most tend to be small seminars with between 5 and 15 students.

Are any field or study trips included in the program?

The use of local resources is a major feature of our M.A. program. Each semester usually includes at least one one-day field trip, as well as a three-day study trip, normally to Andalucía in the fall and to the Basque Country (Bilbao and San Sebastián) in the spring. The travel, accommodation and any admission costs for all these trips are paid for by the program. So too are the costs of other mandatory and extracurricular activities (visits to museums, exhibitions or the theater) that are organized each semester.

Where is the program located?

The M.A. program is housed in the NYU in Madrid campus in El Viso, a residential area of Madrid close to the business center of the city and the Real Madrid soccer stadium. Most classes are held on this modern campus, which also houses the administration, computer facilities and a small reference library.

What housing options does the program offer?

Students may choose from different housing options, from living with a Spanish family, renting a studio apartment, or sharing an apartment with Spaniards or other foreign students or young professionals. The program can arrange for students to live with a family or to live in an individual studio apartment, but if you wish to live with other students or young people, which is the most recommended option for linguistic and social integration and cost, you have to arrange your own accommodations.

FAQs

How do students find their own housing in Madrid?

The program can provide you with a list of useful web-sites and guidance on how to choose a suitable apartment and area. Students generally find it relatively easy to find a room in a shared apartment. Those who opt to find their own housing are advised to arrive in Madrid in mid-August in order to find and settle into accommodation before the Orientation program begins at the end of the month.

What is Madrid like as a city?

Madrid is a young, ethnically diverse and culturally vibrant city of some 4 million inhabitants. Combining a historic center with ever expanding new districts, it has a well-earned reputation for its nightlife, gastronomy and arts scene. A key meeting point for the Iberian and Latin American worlds, it is also the natural location for our program. Students are encouraged to explore and immerse themselves linguistically and culturally in the city, and are given information about events, restaurants and places of interest, and suggestions to help them make it their own.

What opportunities are there for working in Madrid while completing the M.A.?

The range of legal work opportunities for US students is extremely limited. While US nationals with a student visa are allowed to work up to 20 hours a week, in order for this to be legal their future employer must seek official authorization, something they are very rarely prepared to do. That said, in recent years the demand for English teachers is seemingly unlimited, and students have had no problem finding classes paid anything from 12-20€ an hour. Students are discouraged from doing more than 6-8 hours work a week, as the program is full time and the workload heavy.

What are the approximate cost of living expenses for the year?

This depends very much on individuals' tastes and lifestyles, as well as fluctuations in the exchange rate. For 2008-2009, we estimated average monthly living costs of between 700€ and 1,150€ for students living in a shared apartment, and between 1,100€ and 1,350€ for students living in homestay with half-board. Given that the program runs from the end of August to mid-May, this means that you should probably count on spending at least 10 months in Madrid; many students choose to spend the summer here working on their M.A. projects. On top of these expenses you would have to add the costs of flights, insurance, and other incidental expenses such as your visa. Taking all these variables into account, very approximately we can suggest living costs for the year of between 10,000€ and 18,000€.

Will I need a visa to study in Madrid?

Unless you are a citizen of Spain or one of the European Union Member States, you will need a student visa to complete the program in Spain. Obtaining a visa can be a long, complicated and frustrating process, but you will receive full information, application forms and support both before and after you arrive.

Does completing an M.A. at NYU in Madrid mean I will be able to continue on to the Ph.D. program in New York?

Please note that students who complete the M.A. degree in Madrid are not automatically accepted into the Ph.D. program in New York; a student wishing to enter the doctoral program in New York must go through the normal application process.

FAQs

What career opportunities does the M.A. open up for me?

Alumni from the M.A. program go on to pursue a variety of different careers both in and beyond education and academia, in the United States, Spain and elsewhere. Each year some 20–25% of recent graduates of the program go on to enter Ph.D. programs in the United States or elsewhere. Each year a number of alumni return to the United States to teach Spanish in private and public high schools, community colleges or universities. The destinations of other alumni are as varied as the interests of our student body. In recent years alumni have also gone on to work in translation, publishing, or marketing, as well as to further training in fields as diverse as social work or business studies. Others remain in Spain, in most cases working as English Language Assistants in bilingual elementary and high schools. In virtually all cases, in their careers they use the Spanish language and cultural competence gained from the program and spending a year in Spain.

How much does the program cost?

For the Academic Year 2008–2009, approximate costs are as follows:

Tuition: \$1,206 per point X 32 points = \$38,592

Registration fees: \$1295 Fall, \$1308 Spring.

Total (before 30% discount, see next question): \$41,195

Total (after discount): \$29,617

Students who elect to enroll in the NYU health insurance also pay the following fees:

Fall: Basic insurance \$536, Comprehensive \$838

Spring/Summer: Basic \$852, Comprehensive \$1,332.

What financial aid is available?

All students who complete the program in one year, taking the full course load of 16 credits a semester, receive a 30% tuition discount.

Each year NYU also offers two graduate assistantships. These include full tuition and a stipend for the year of approximately \$22,000 in exchange for work at the NYU in Madrid center. These are highly competitive positions and are awarded entirely on merit.

New York University offers several loan programs to students. Information is available at www.nyu.edu/financial.aid or at the Office of Financial Aid, 212-998-4444.

How can I be considered for a graduate assistantship?

If you apply by the first deadline (January 4) you will automatically be considered for the graduate assistantship.

What is the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)?

The Graduate School's Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) encourages students to apply for external grants and provides matching tuition points (from 50 to 100 percent) to eligible recipients of external awards from recognized, academic sources of funding outside NYU. For applications and specific details about TIP eligibility criteria, please visit www.nyu.edu/gsas/Admissions/tipform.html.