



Spanish Courses in

Mexico

Playa del Carmen

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¡Vívelo!



The beach



Windsurfing



School entrance



School building & garden



Playa del Carmen

You'll love it, everyone does!

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IH Riviera Maya

IH Riviera Maya was established in 2003 as a joint venture between IH Mexico City and IH Barcelona (Spain) and benefits from the 40 years experience in language teaching and language teacher training that these two schools provide. If you're looking for a school where you can study Spanish effectively in a safe, relaxing and beautiful environment, this is the school for you.

The school

IH Riviera Maya is located in the very centre of Playa del Carmen, just two blocks from the beach and with dozens of bars, restaurants and shops nearby.

The front of the school, which houses the reception and a number of student apartments, is a beautiful, colonial style house with a domed roof and terrace and a very good French restaurant on the ground floor.

The main school building which was purpose built in 2003, contains the staff room and offices and 10 spacious classrooms, all with air-conditioning and natural light.

There is also an Internet room in the school which students are invited to use at any time. Those students who have laptops or smartphones with a wireless card can logon to the Internet anywhere on the premises.

Last but not least, the school also has a beautiful garden which is full of exotic trees and plants. There is also a small bar area in the garden, so students can relax and socialise before or after class, browse the Internet from their laptop, or simply sit back, have something to drink and watch the humming birds come down to feed.

"The school has a great location, free Internet usage, and Playa del Carmen has enjoyable beaches and weather." Helen, CANADA

Our teachers

Our competitive advantage. . .

Our teachers are all university graduates with extensive teaching experience. They have also been specifically trained to teach Spanish as a foreign language, which makes them highly effective when it comes to maximising learning.

Our teaching staff can count on academic support and on-going training under the supervision of the director of studies and with the cooperation of our teacher training department. The optimal quality of teaching that IH offers is constantly reinforced through teachers' meetings, classroom observations and teachers' workshops.

Our materials

At the beginning of their course students are given:

- A welcome kit that helps them get to know the school and explains how it is organised. The kit also provides useful information about activities in Playa del Carmen and nearby locations.

At the end of the course:

- A certificate of attendance indicating the level reached and the number of hours studied.

All these materials are included in the course fee.

Please note: Books are not included. However students who don't want to purchase a book will be given the opportunity to borrow a copy on payment of a refundable deposit.

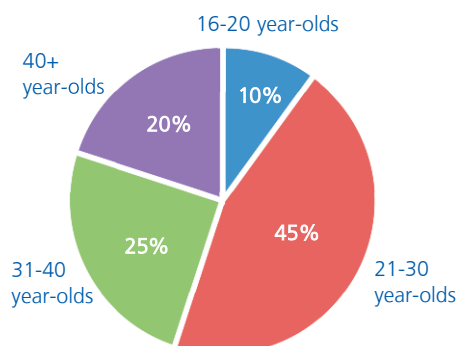


Our students

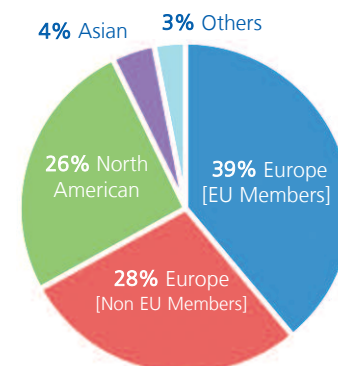
Your new friends. . .

Our students come from all over the world. The majority are from North America or Europe but we also have a number of students from other regions such as Asia and the Middle East. Some of our students are studying Spanish because they need it in their work; others are full-time students in their own countries, while others are studying Spanish simply as a hobby, or so that they can travel through Latin America. The one thing that unites them is their motivation to learn the language as effectively as possible and to enjoy themselves at the same time.

Age range of students on our Intensive Group Course:



Nationalities of students on our Intensive Group Course:



Our Courses

Something for everyone, including you!

"I really enjoyed my IH school experience, and commend you for the high standards you have set and achieved."

Alan, USA



Intensive Spanish Course

Intensive Group Course

This is our standard Spanish course which the vast majority of our students take. The course consists of 4 hours tuition per day, from 09.30 to 13.30, Monday to Friday. Courses are offered at all levels from complete beginners to very advanced.

Students who already have some knowledge of Spanish can begin a course any Monday of the year (except holidays). Courses for complete beginners start every two weeks. Please see our dates and prices information sheet for more details.

Min. age: 16

Intensive Group Course + Mexican Cooking Course

Learn how to make some of Mexico's most delicious dishes in our student residence kitchen. Cookery classes take place on 3 afternoons per week and students can take from 1-4 weeks of class. You can of course eat the food you prepare - and we even do the washing up for you!

Intensive Group Course + Diving

Playa del Carmen is the perfect place to learn to dive. In collaboration with a specialist dive school we offer diving courses at two levels:

- A) Diving for beginners: a 3-day course leading to the PADI Open Water dive certificate for dives of up to 18 meters.
- B) Advanced Diving Course: a 3-day course that leads to the PADI certificate for deep water dives of up to 30 meters.

Intensive Group Course + Latin Dancing

Cha Cha, Rumba, Salsa, Samba... the list of Latin dances is a long one. Learn the basic steps with our expert dance tutors. There's plenty of opportunity to practice in Playa's clubs and discos. Dance classes take place 3 afternoons per week and students can enrol for 1-4 weeks.

Intensive Group Course + Discover Mexico

This course combines an Intensive Group Course in the morning with an additional hour of study on three afternoons. The afternoon classes are designed to give students an insight into the immensely rich Mexican culture. Topics covered include the history of Mexico, regional and ethnic diversity, folklore, the arts, etc., and class activities are designed primarily to help students develop their communicative skills.

Intensive Group Course + Medical Spanish

This course consists of an Intensive Group Course (20 hours per week) plus 10 hours per week of private (1:1 or 2:1) medical Spanish. This course is designed for medical practitioners (doctors, nurses, care-workers, etc.) who need to use Spanish in their workplace. The course focuses on improving students' linguistic competency in a wide range of health care contexts and situations. The programme includes an optional visit to a Health Center, or encounters with Spanish speaking doctors or nurses.

Intensive Group Course + D.E.L.E. Preparation

This course combines an Intensive Group Course with one-to-one (or two-to-one) lessons that focus on preparing the students to take the DELE exams. Students are given access to past papers and have the opportunity to develop and practice specific exam techniques. Upon completion of a level test, we will advise students which level of the exam we think they should register for in order to ensure a successful outcome.

Spanish + Business in Mexico

IH Riviera Maya offers Business Spanish courses designed to help students who need to use the language in a working environment. Students are invited to take a BULATS exam at the end of the course. This exam, which is accredited by both the University of Salamanca (Spain) and the University of Cambridge (UK), measures a student's ability to communicate in a variety of real business situations.

Individual tuition

We can offer 1:1 (or 2:1) classes at any time of the year. The times of these classes can also be arranged to suit the students' preferences so classes can, for example, be scheduled to combine with an Intensive Group Course. The contents of our individual courses are always 'made-to-measure' so the focus is always on the individual students language needs and the learning style will reflect their own preferences.

Courses for teachers of Spanish

Refresher Course for Non-Native Spanish Teachers

This 2-week course is designed for practising teachers of Spanish working in a non-Spanish speaking country who want to update their skills and knowledge in recent trends in methodology (such as the use of technology in the classroom), and refresh their knowledge of current Spanish usage and Latin-American culture.

Introductory (or Pre-Service) Courses

These courses are designed for fluent Spanish speakers (either native or non-native) who would like to learn how to teach Spanish to foreigners. We offer these courses on both an intensive (full-time) basis, as well as an extensive (part-time) basis. The intensive courses last for 4 weeks (120 hours) and cover both theoretical and practical aspects of teaching. The extensive courses cover the same material over a period of 13 weeks (120 hours).

We also offer made-to-measure courses for closed groups, on-line Spanish courses and tailor-made teacher training courses. Please contact us for more information.

GENERAL NOTES:

Maximum number of students per class: 8
1 hour = 55 minutes

INCLUDED IN ALL COURSES: Registration, classes, level test, certificates, programme of social & cultural activities and access to all the school facilities



Mexican Cooking Class



Salsa Class

Accommodation

Your home from home. . .

"The student residence is really comfortable and is just a 5 minute walk from the school."

Sara, FRANCE

IH Riviera Maya offers students an unbeatable range of accommodation options at very competitive prices. Our aim is to cater for all needs and the options include:

IH Student Residence

This purpose-built student residence was opened in May 2005. Located in a quiet street just 5 minutes walk from the school, the residence has 22 spacious bedrooms, each with twin beds, so rooms can be booked for individual use or shared. All rooms have their own private bathrooms and they are all equipped with air-conditioning, ceiling fans and cable TV. We offer 3 accommodation options in the residence:

- A) Self-catering (no meals included)
- B) Bed and breakfast
- C) Half board (includes evening meal)

Apart from the bedrooms, the residence also has a kitchen and dining area and several roof terraces where students can relax under the thatched (palapa) roof.

Mexican Host Families

Staying with a Mexican host family is undoubtedly the best way to get a real feel for the Mexican way of life. It will also help you improve your Spanish. We offer single bedrooms in carefully selected host families on a bed and breakfast or half board basis (which also includes the evening meal). Our families really know how to look after our students and make them feel at home. And they will almost certainly introduce you to their family and friends.

On-site Apartments

We can offer students accommodation on the school premises. All on-site apartments are equipped with air conditioning, ceiling fans and cable TV.

Off-site Apartments

For students who are staying in Playa del Carmen for 4 or more weeks we can provide fully furnished self-catering apartments within walking distance of the school. Students can request a 1 or 2-bedroom apartment for their own exclusive use, or they can request to share.

Hotels

Playa del Carmen has a huge number of good value hotels and some of the best are within a 5-minute walk of the school. Single or double rooms with private bathroom are available all year round and the rooms always come with a healthy Mexican breakfast. The prices of the hotels vary, depending on the facilities they offer and on the time of year. Please contact us for further details.

GENERAL NOTE:

Accommodation is normally provided from the Sunday before the course begins to the Saturday morning after the course ends.

Extra nights are usually available upon request and payment of a supplement.



Student Residence



Residence bedroom



Cooking dinner in the residence

Social Programme

Your guide to the local culture. . .

"Playa del Carmen is an ideal spot to combine beach life and learning."
Markus, GERMANY



Diving lessons

IH Riviera Maya organises a regular programme of social activities in the school including cocktail parties, conversation exchange evenings with Mexican students studying English, lectures on different aspects of Mexican and Mayan culture, etc. We also organise excursions to some of the region's most interesting locations such as the ancient Mayan cities of Tulum and Chichén Itzá; the island of Cozumel, famous for its coral reefs and marine life; or one of the region's many superb nature reserves.

The social activities organised in the school are included in the course fee. Students are however asked to pay a fee to cover the costs of excursions.

Sample Social Programme

Week 1

Monday	City Tour
Tuesday	Salsa dance class
Wednesday	Mexican cooking class
Thursday	Mexican film night
Friday	Cocktail night
Saturday	Excursion to Xcaret

Week 2

Monday	Mexican Arts & Crafts class
Tuesday	Merengue dance class
Wednesday	Mexican cooking class
Thursday	Visit to Xaman Ha Aviary
Friday	Cocktail night
Saturday	Excursion to Tulum

Other activities

We are happy to organise additional activities such as diving lessons or golf classes on request. We can also help students hire cars or bicycles at competitive rates.

How to get to Playa del Carmen

There are direct flights from most major cities to Cancun International Airport which is just 60 km (40 miles) north of Playa del Carmen. The journey from the airport to Playa del Carmen by bus or taxi is very affordable and should take less than 1 hour. Alternatively the school can arrange an airport meeting and transfer service on request (see details on the price list attached).



Swimming with dolphins



Chichén Itzá



Flamingos in Río Lagartos



Artisan store on 5th Avenue

Why study at IH Riviera Maya?

- The school is located in Playa del Carmen, a marvellous town with a gorgeous beach on Mexico's stunning Caribbean coast.
- We have a beautiful, well-equipped and comfortable school building located in the very centre of the town and just 3 minutes from the beach.
- We are members of the International House World Organisation which is in itself a guarantee of the quality of our services.
- We have been teaching Spanish in IH for 40 years and during this time we've learned quite a lot about how to teach effectively.
- All our teachers have been specifically trained to teach Spanish to foreign students. We won't let anyone into our classrooms until they have demonstrated their ability to teach effectively and establish a good relationship with their students.
- We can offer a wide range of accommodation options - including our very own student residence - at very reasonable prices. Many of these accommodation options are within 5-10 minutes of the school.
- We will help you get to know this part of Mexico with organised excursions to some of the region's most interesting and attractive sites.
- We'll do our best to ensure that you have a wonderful time and that you leave Playa del Carmen wishing you could have stayed longer.

We hope to see you in Mexico soon!



Map of Playa del Carmen

Accreditations & Recommendations



Our Spanish teacher training courses are certified by IL3 - University of Barcelona



Bildungsurlaub





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IH Riviera Maya is a member of The VIVA Group
www.viva-group.info