

Graduate Studies Programs

Simmons in Madrid

Education Programs with International Practicum

A Project of
Simmons College General Education Department and
Unión de Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado de Madrid

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the eligibility requirements for the Simmons in Madrid Program?

To be eligible, participants must:

- Be a native English speaker or proficient with native-like pronunciation
- Document some academic coursework and/or experience in elementary and/or early childhood education
- Have an intermediate proficiency in Spanish. (Documentation of one year of college level Spanish language coursework or passing scores on the Simmons College Spanish language proficiency assessment will fulfill this requirement.)
- Have no felony record
- Have at least a 3.0 cumulative college grade point average
- Be independent, enthusiastic, flexible, mature, and sensitive to cultural differences

What are the academic admission requirements?

Applicants must meet requirements for the intended Masters or CAGS program. Participants must document academic coursework or experience working with children in early childhood and/or elementary education. In addition, participants must attend a series of orientation seminars prior to departure in Boston and bi-monthly seminars in Madrid.

Is this program for me? Why should I consider the Simmons in Madrid Program?

Many inspired by a great teacher decide to work with young learners. Many want to work and learn abroad. The Simmons in Madrid program is a unique opportunity to earn a graduate education degree in Boston and Madrid in a little over one year. Those interested may prepare for a teaching license as an elementary or English as a second language teacher. Customized programs of study are also available in consultation with program advisors. Programs with focus on elementary education, Spanish, or English Language Learners may be designed.

Will I have a job when I complete the program?

The Massachusetts Department of Education predicts that teacher retirement will reach an all time high in 2007. There are teacher shortages in public schools across the country. Because of increasing numbers of students who need support in English language learning, the Madrid internship is a most valuable experience. Those planning on teaching at the elementary level should enroll in a program with the license option.

Why should I do the graduate program with Madrid practicum?

Educators agree that one of the major goals of a study abroad experience is to train future global leaders to be more effective, respectful of other cultures' political and economic systems, and willing to take a stand for the world's welfare. In a national survey of students who interned and studied abroad, almost all respondents (98%) said their study abroad experience helped them to better understand their own cultural values and biases, and eighty two percent agreed that studying abroad contributed to their developing a more sophisticated way of looking at the world.

Why should I do an internship abroad?

Research shows that students gain most when a study abroad experience includes an internship as part of the curriculum. In a national survey of students who interned and studied abroad, 83 percent said that it allowed them to acquire skill sets that influenced their career path, compared to 75 percent who did not intern.

How many credits will I take during the program?

Depending on the course of study and if students seek Massachusetts teaching license, degrees will require between 32 and 52 credits. Participants will earn 14 credits while enrolled in the Madrid 10-month student teaching internship. See program outlines for license and degree options.

What type of degree will I earn?

Students will be eligible for the Master of Science in Education if they hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution and meet admissions criteria. Students will be eligible for the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) if they hold a master's degree and bachelor's degree from accredited U.S. institutions and meet admissions criteria. CAGS candidates will complete an independent study, including an individualized capstone project.

Will I be safe in Madrid?

Spain, one of the most desirable travel destinations in the world, is part of the European Union and highly westernized. Crime rates in Madrid are lower than those of most cities in the United States. All participating charter elementary schools are accessible by public transportation. As with any international destination, caution should be exercised and normal safety precautions followed.

What support will Simmons College provide while I am in Madrid?

Simmons College will provide an onsite English-speaking faculty member to monitor participants' progress through regularly scheduled school visits. The faculty member will also teach seminars on ELL teaching curriculum, track individual progress, and oversee educational issues.

How many hours a week will I work?

Participants will teach English language development in an assigned elementary classroom for at least 17 hours per week, using conversational activities and academic English language training. The accompanying bi-monthly seminars will provide support and opportunities for reflection on progress and the intern experience.

Where will I live while in Madrid?

Currently, Simmons and UCETAM are facilitating two housing options for students in Madrid. Those interested in apartment living will be connected with others in the program looking to share living accommodations. Additionally, the principal and parent groups from each school will work to identify families willing to host interns for a fee. Ultimately the responsibility for housing belongs to the students but the Simmons in Madrid program will facilitate options and placements.

What are the program costs?

Simmons current, on-campus tuition rates will apply for students enrolled in the Simmons in Madrid Program. The 2006-2007 tuition rate is \$700 per credit for students enrolled in Graduate Education programs. Students are responsible for living expenses in Boston and Madrid. Students will pay a one-time program fee of \$200. Detailed cost information is available at www.simmons.edu/gradstudies/education/madrid.

What should I anticipate for living expenses?

Below is an estimate of monthly living expenses in Madrid. Amounts are subject to change based on the exchange rate. Students should consult updated exchange rate figures for budgeting.

Individual Accommodation	€600 to €1,300
Shared Accommodation	€400 to €700
Electricity, gas and water	€100
Food	€300*
Transportation	€40
Medical insurance	TBA
Sundry expenses	€200
Books and study materials	€100
Estimated monthly cost	€1,440

*Lunch provided daily by schools

Am I eligible for Federal financial aid while enrolled in the Simmons in Madrid Program?

All students enrolled in the program will receive the UCETAM scholarship of \$8,000 and round trip airfare, Boston to Madrid. Additionally, students may apply for Simmons College merit aid and Federal financial aid. For U.S. citizens and permanent residents, the options for financial assistance include federal loans, private loans, and grants. Students should monitor their individual study plans to ensure compliance with award requirements. Consult your financial aid counselor to discuss your individual needs and financial aid package.

Can I defer my student loans while I am enrolled in the Simmons in Madrid program?

Depending on the requirements of your lender, student loans may be deferred while enrolled in the program. Participants will earn 14 credits while enrolled in the Madrid internship, and variable credits each term while in Boston. Simmons College requires graduate students enroll in 5 credits to qualify for halftime status and 10 credits to qualify for fulltime status each term. Generally, students with half-time enrollment status may defer student loans, though lender policies differ. Simmons College will provide enrollment documentation, as required. Consult your lender regarding deferment requirements.

What are the opportunities for fellowships or scholarships?

All students accepted into the program will receive the UCETAM scholarship of \$8,000 to be applied directly to tuition. Simmons College merit scholarships are also available. Detailed financial aid information is available at <http://my.simmons.edu/services/sfs/apply/graduate/shtml>.

Will I have Labor Union representation at my school?

Your placement in a charter school will be as a student intern, not as an employee of the school. Therefore, you will not have Spanish Labor Union representation of any kind.

What are my teaching responsibilities? How will Simmons College prepare me for my role?

Participants will assist classroom teachers in the development of both conversational and academic English language proficiency by teaching at least 17 hours per week. Student teachers are responsible for developing students' oral, aural, reading, and writing proficiency through a variety of teaching methods and resources. Training provided by Simmons College prior to departure is integral in preparing participants for these responsibilities.

What should I do to prepare for my travel experience?

There are a number of ways you may begin preparation for your time in Madrid. Travel guides are invaluable resources about the sites, culture, and history of Spain. Online resources on Spanish language and culture, as well as the history of Spain may prove useful. You may also want to refresh your language skills by enrolling in a Spanish language course.

When should I apply?

While there is rolling admission to the program, priority is given to those applications received by March 1st.

Do I need a passport and a visa? How do I obtain a passport and visa?

Participants are responsible for obtaining a passport from a passport agency. Forms are available in the Simmons College Office for Study Abroad (Suite E-110) or at www.state.gov. You may take your completed application in person to: USPS Passport Acceptance, 1295 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02146, Tel: 617-738-1776.

Simmons College will assist in obtaining visa documents. Participants are required to submit the necessary documents and passport to the Study Abroad Program office at a time appropriate prior to departure. Visa and eligibility requirements for non-U.S. citizens may change from year to year. Contact Simmons College Study Abroad Program Office at 617-521-2128 for further information.

How will my Spanish proficiency be assessed?

Students have two options to demonstrate the required intermediate Spanish proficiency: Submission of an official transcript verifying the participant has successfully completed one year of college-level Spanish language classes or documentation of passing scores on the Simmons College Spanish language proficiency assessment. The Simmons College Spanish language proficiency assessment is conducted onsite at Simmons. Contact the Academic Support Center, 617-521-2474, for detailed test information.

Does Simmons offer courses that will prepare me to work with English language learners?

Program participants will pursue coursework in Boston prior to departure to deepen pedagogical expertise and ensure success in internship placements. All program participants will enroll in one foundational course, beginning in Boston and continuing in Madrid. Students will select courses from a range of departments, including General Education, Teaching English as a Second Language, and Spanish.

How can I learn more about this opportunity?

For more information, contact the Office of Graduate Studies Admissions at 617-521-2519 or gsa@simmons.edu. Program information, including degree option outlines and Open House dates, is available online at www.simmons.edu/gradstudies/education/madrid.

Master of Science in Education with Spanish Concentration Frequently Asked Questions

What level of Spanish should I have to qualify for the Master of Science in Education with Spanish Concentration?

You should have completed a minimum of 6 semesters of college Spanish including at least one advanced language course (i.e. beyond the intermediate level) and one literature or culture course.

What additional documentation of coursework will I need to provide for the Master of Science in Education with Spanish Concentration?

You will need to submit an official transcript that you have taken appropriate courses. We also require a two to three-page writing sample that is an analysis of a literary text. You may submit a paper you have written for a Spanish literature course you have taken.

How many Spanish courses will I need to complete as part of Master of Science in Education with Spanish Concentration?

Students who opt for this program will need to take 3 graduate courses in Spanish at Simmons College.

When would I take these Spanish courses for the Master of Science in Education with Spanish Concentration?

This will depend on when you start the program: You will either take a course in the spring and one in the summer prior to your departure for Madrid, and the third in the summer after you return. Or you will take one in the summer prior to departure for Madrid, and upon your return one in the summer and another in the fall.