Service Learning

Spanish majors fulfill the non-course learning requirement by studying abroad for one quarter in a pre-approved program, or completing two quarters of service learning. Service learning is a teaching method, which combines community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility. This opportunity is available while enrolled in Spanish 301, 302, 303, 314, 315, and 316. Students commit to work approximately 3 hours a week for a total of 30 hours per quarter, for two quarters, in organizations that provide services primarily, although not exclusively, to Spanish speakers. Some of the organizations which collaborate with Service Learning are NGOs or schools. Examples are: Casa Latina, the Mexican Consulate, El Centro de la Raza, Center for Spanish Studies, John Stanford International School, Bryant Elementary School, John Hay Elementary School, Hamilton Middle School, Nathan Hale High School, Pipeline Project, and others.

Service Learning benefits not only these organizations, but also the students who participate in the program. Students have the chance to apply and increase their knowledge of the Spanish language in a real context. They are exposed to Hispanic multiculturalism and become active agents of social change in the community. Spanish majors who have not studied abroad previously, should plan to participate in Service Learning for two consecutive quarters, while enrolled in SPAN 301, 302, 303, 314, 315, or 316. Please note that all Service Learning opportunities are offered through pre-approved organizations in the greater Seattle area and are arranged through the Carlson Center. Please e-mail Dalia Correa at spsadv@uw.edu for more information.

Experiential Learning Step-by-Step:

1. Contact Dalia Correa at spsadv@uw.edu for overview of process and enrollment in 1 credit of SPAN 392.

2. Receive information via email from the Carlson Center about how to browse and select a position.

3. Choose an organization from the list of available opportunities.

4. Complete the steps required by the Carlson Center

5. FIRST QUARTER STUDENTS: Keep a reflective journal throughout the experience, and complete the required questionnaire provided by the 300-level instructor to whom you have been assigned for Service Learning. The journal will be turned in to your assigned instructor 3 times during the course of the quarter (exact dates to be specified by the instructor).

SECOND QUARTER STUDENTS: Write a 5-page reflective essay about your experience in the organization (in Spanish). This report must be turned in by the last day of classes, to the 300-level language instructor to whom you have been assigned for Service Learning.
This program is coordinated by María Gillman, Principal Lecturer & Heritage Language Coordinator, mgill@u.washington.edu.

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