



Instituto Intercultural del Caribe



Spanish & Volunteering

THIS PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU IF:

- > You want to combine classroom experience with language practice
- > You like to do something meaningful
- > You want to learn more about cultural diversity in the Dominican Republic
- > You like to immerse yourself into a new culture
- > You want to make a difference

The IIC program "Spanish & Volunteering" offers a hands-on immersion experience: It combines Spanish classes with volunteer work in the Dominican Republic and therefore, provides the possibility to learn Spanish, whilst supporting local community projects.

More than 16% of the Dominicans live on less than USD 2.- per day, with a significant gap in income equality. Corruption, wasteful government spending, and unreliable electric service – all these factors reduce investment returns, pushing inflation, low-quality education, high unemployment and further nourishing social conflicts, e.g. between Dominicans and Haitians.

But the Dominican Republic is also one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America due to its most important economic drive force: tourism. Only few though benefit from it.

As a result, communities and local initiatives are working hard to find sustainable solutions for the most pressing problems.



Learning from each other

in a **typical rural environment**, only 10 min driving from the International Airport of Puerto Plata. The small coastal town, home to 12,000 inhabitants, is known for its beautiful beaches and scuba diving facilities. 15 min east of Sosua lies **surfer's paradise Cabarete**, one of the best wind and kite surfing spots in the world.

Due to its central location between the mountain range of the Cordillera Septentrional and the Atlantic Ocean, Sosua is the ideal starting point to explore Dominican country life.

THE PROGRAM

The 4-week program consists of 2 weeks of Spanish class plus 2 weeks of volunteer work; prolongations can be booked in addition. **Starting dates** are every second Monday all year round.

Spanish

During the first 2 weeks students will study Spanish at IIC in Sosua. Classes are offered on different language levels, also for Spanish beginners. The **group course** (max. 7 students) consists of **20 45-min lessons per week** and runs from Monday to Friday, usually from 9:00AM till 12:30PM.



IIC Sosua school building

PROGRAM KEY FACTS

2 weeks Spanish course + 2 weeks Volunteering	✓
Donation to partner project included	✓
Prolongations possible	✓
Various volunteer projects to choose from	✓
Also for Spanish beginners	✓
Lodging can be booked in addition through IIC	✓
Weekly cultural & social activities with student care	✓

THE LOCATION

Sosua is located on the north coast of the Dominican Republic

Believing in people and commitment.



Opening new perspectives

Volunteer Work

During the following 2 weeks students will be placed with our volunteer partners. They will take

direct care of the volunteers and cater the experience to their abilities, talents, and interests.

Volunteers should expect to work an **average of 15 hours per week**. They can choose from two different projects: a Montessori School or an Animal Clinic:

Project 1: Montessori School

Our program partner is a Dominican non-profit bilingual

early education program located in the neighborhood of La Cienaga (between Sosua and Cabarete), a mixed impoverished Dominican-Haitian community. The school follows the Montessori concept and is working with children ages 6 months to 7 years. Over 70% of the kids are living in poverty.

Volunteering experiences there include: workshops (e.g. English



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CONTACT US

Instituto Intercultural del Caribe
(IIC) / Casa Goethe

Email: info@iic-spanish.com
Web: www.iic-spanish.com
Tel. +1.809.571.3185

IIC Sosúa: La Puntilla 2, El Batey,
Sosúa, República Dominicana

IIC Santo Domingo: Aristides Fiallo
Cabral 456, Zona Universitaria, Santo
Domingo, República Dominicana

IIC PROGRAM “SPANISH & VOLUNTEERING”

or art) with the children, infrastructure changes (painting, building, murals, etc), garden work, animal care, school store management and overlook, photography and videography, and much more.

Project 2: Animal clinic

Our program partner is a Dominican NGO taking care of stray dogs and cats in the Sosua area. The organization runs a cost-free sterilization program, provides vaccines and parasite treatments, offers an adoption program, has a community outreach education program in local schools and communities and a foster program. Their intention is to provide good homes for as many dogs and cats as possible and likewise provide local families who take care of an



Taking care of others

animal with knowledge and funding where needed.

Volunteering experiences there

include: working with the animals, office support (e.g. answering questions about adoption, maintaining the website, organizing fundraising events), helping out in the organization's thrift store, and much more. **Vets**

and vet students are welcome to work in the spay & neuter program.

You can also join the program with your friends and **sign up as a group.**

Starting dates: every second Monday; first date: 11 Jan. 2016

Minimum age: 18 years

Program cost: USD 720.-

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[IIC Spanish School](http://www.iic-spanish.com)



Or see more on our website:

www.iic-spanish.com

through IIC, the **airport pick-up at arrival** from the nearest airport (Puerto Plata POP) is included in the cost.

All other transportation costs for traveling between the NGOs and the accommodation is at own ex-

STUDENTS' RESIDENCE



School Studio at IIC Sosua

LODGING & COSTS

Participants can choose to stay at a school studio/apartment (single room) in the students' residence at IIC Sosua **during the whole 4 week-program**, from Sunday to Saturday (27 nights). Extra nights can be booked in addition. Other accommodation options are available as well — see price list and IIC Spanish Course Program 2016 for further details.

Accommodation at IIC **includes breakfast** from Monday to Saturday (except for national holidays). During the 2-week volunteer part at the Montessori school, **lunch with a Dominican family** is also available (USD 5.-/meal).

Both volunteer partners are located within 10 to 20 min by public transport from IIC school.

If accommodation is booked

¡BIENVENIDOS AL IIC!



Enjoy learning Spanish.

IIC / CASA GOETHE: OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

pense (about RD\$ 60.- = USD 1.40 round-trip per day).

IIC was founded in 1994 as the Spanish Department of the German-Dominican Language and Culture Institute EDASE. The Institute runs two schools: one in the capital Santo Domingo and one in the beach town of Sosua.

Over the last 20 years it has become one of the major institutions in the country offering Spanish as

a Second Language. Its **sister school Casa Goethe** provides German/ English classes to the locals in the same building.

Spanish courses range from one week to several months. They are available at both IIC schools for all language levels throughout the whole year: from beginners to advanced students (A1 to C2).

We follow the Common European

Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Besides classes, the IIC student facilitators at both schools organize **weekly cultural and social activities and excursions.**

Accredited programs

In Germany, the intensive courses are recognized for **Bildungsurlaub** (educational leave for professionals). Several US universities work with IIC for **academic**