

Details about COWS-L2H-SA Programs

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The corpus offers data from two Spanish-immersion study abroad (SA) programs: one in Madrid, Spain and another in Mendoza, Argentina. The Madrid data was collected from the 2023 program iteration, and the Mendoza data was collected from the 2022 and 2023 program iterations. The programs were offered by one large, public U.S. university. Faculty from this university's Spanish department led the SA programs and taught some of the classes. Other classes were taught by local professors. Only students from this SA program were enrolled in these “sheltered” classes. Students received course credit for Spanish classes at the home university through the courses they completed abroad. The programs lasted 10-11 weeks, which is the same length as a typical term at the home university.

The Madrid program took place at an international study center that hosted other SA programs. In contrast, the Mendoza program was housed at a major local university in the city. Another difference in the programs related to the course levels they offered: the Madrid program offered classes at the beginner and advanced Spanish proficiency levels, whereas the Mendoza program offered classes at the intermediate and advanced Spanish proficiency levels. Students completed a course load of 15-18 credit hours in the Madrid program and 18-21 credit hours in the Mendoza program. In the Mendoza program, all students were required to complete a homestay, in which they were the only U.S. student living with a local individual or family. In the Madrid program, students had the option of (1) completing a homestay—with another student from their program or alone—or (2) living in a dorm—either with a local university student or with another student from their program. The metadata spreadsheet (“[COWS-L2H-SA texts with metadata 1-6-25.csv](#)”) provides information about the students’ housing types.

All students in the Mendoza program were required to participate in a language exchange program in which they regularly spoke in Spanish and English with a local university student. In the Madrid program, students at the beginner level participated in infrequent language exchanges that took place during their First Year Spanish class meetings. Students at both levels in the Madrid program had the option of participating in one Spanish-English language exchange organized by their international study center. Only P17 (a beginner student) attended this language exchange.

The programs were small in size, ranging from 6 to 13 students. Eleven total students from the programs—7 from Madrid and 4 from Mendoza—consented to participate in the corpus data collection. One spoke Spanish as an L1, 6 were L2 Spanish learners, and four were heritage language learners (HLL; Valdés, 2001). The HLLs had begun learning Spanish in their home communities and had Mexican or Central American ancestry.

The information provided in the metadata about the corpus includes the following:

- **Program:** the student’s SA program is described in the following manner: location_year of participation

- **level_program**: the student's Spanish course level in the program (beginner, intermediate, or advanced Spanish proficiency)
- **housing**: the student's housing is described as one of the following:
 - host_family_sole_US_student
 - host_family_with_one_other_US_student
 - dorm_with_one_other_US_student
 - None of the Madrid students who consented to participate in the corpus lived in a dorm with another local student.
- **year_undergraduate_degree**: the student's year of undergraduate studies (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)
- **major**: the student's academic area of focus or foci
- **age_beginning_of_program**: the student's age when they commenced the program
- **gender**: the student's gender identity
- **years_studying_Spanish_beginning_of_program**: the number of years the student had reported studying Spanish before they began the program
- **Spanish_in_home**: the student's response to the question: "Did you grow up with Spanish spoken in your home?"
 - Possible answers:
 - Yes
 - No
 - Other: infrequently
- **Proficiency_self_evaluation_beginning_of_program**: the student's Spanish proficiency self-assessment at the beginning of the program, ranging on a scale from beginner low to advanced high
- **Time**: time of text collection

Time	Description	Prompt
Time 1	Beginning of SA program	Ask for information about something
Time 2	Middle of SA program	Ask for a favor
Time 3	End of SA program	Request something
Time 4	2.5 months after SA program	Ask for advice about something
Time 5	5 months after SA program	Request information
Time 6	7.5 months after SA program	Ask for feedback about something
Time 7	1 year since beginning of SA program	Ask for information about something (repeat of first prompt)

- **Formality**: formality condition intended to be elicited in the response (based on targeted interlocutor)
 - Formal: An older professor from the host country (greater social distance)

- Informal: A peer (someone around their age) from the host country (less social distance)