

Summer 2015

# What Summer Language Academy Students Say



**"My language abilities have skyrocketed thanks to the Academy.** While my vocabulary is far from perfect and I sometimes make grammatical errors (both problems are just a matter of practice and persistence), but I'm amazed at how much I learned so quickly. Although I've only been studying my language for three months, **I have found myself comfortably conversing with people who have been speaking Chinese for upwards of four or five years** with an occasional question when a high-level vocabulary term is used. Overall, I'm very pleased with the results, and I enjoyed my stay."

"I enjoy leaving campus and seeing life in China. It was a nice break from the classroom and let me see more of the city and put my language into use."

**"I really enjoyed the classes because they allowed us to explore a different way of life.** Even siesta was a new experience for me."

"I enjoyed learning about the new culture because it's different to see a new perspective and culture that is so different to what you are used to."

**"I came here to improve my Spanish speaking ability and that's exactly what happened."**

"The Flamenco performance was awesome!"

"I really liked the time spent outside of my academic class, studying and learning about cultural aspects of Granada, Spain and Spanish as a language in a more fun and interactive way. **I really enjoyed the different styles of learning and teaching each week,** such as taking dance class one week and a class learning about Spanish foods another."

"I really enjoyed the different excursions that my class carried out a couple days in the week."

"I loved Granada! I loved the culture! It was fantastic having native speakers as our RAs! **Meeting the local Spanish students was a real treat!** Thank you to all who helped to arrange the field trips. They were all great!"

**"My teacher was always very helpful, enthusiastic, and such an encouraging person."**

"I really enjoyed all of the friends that I made here, the amazing location, the fantastic teachers, and being able to explore a new city in a different language that I love."

"I really enjoyed this experience. Thank you! **I feel much more confident talking in Spanish** and I enjoyed my time here. The professors were incredible and the location-wow! I just wanted more time to explore such an awesome city."

"My teacher used many different types of materials during the class which made my time a lot easier"

and more fun."

"I thought it was an amazing opportunity to meet many new and different people who are passionate about learning a new language. **I wish I could stay here and continue to speak Spanish.** Even though I feel I have improved in many aspects of the language during my time here, I think there is so much still to learn."

**"Thank you for pushing me into my future and for helping me accomplish things I didn't know were possible.** Thank you very much!"

"I really liked the immersion setting and I found that to be particularly helpful for me. **I felt so accomplished each time after I had a complete conversation in French with my friends.** The Pledge is the best way to learn a language!"

"I found the Language Pledge to be very helpful for me in regard to learning and **being able to think more fluently in German.** My ability to read, write and speak German has also drastically improved."

"Theater was AMAZING. Not only was it fun but it also helped me with my understanding of the language and communication. When we had our first read-through of the script, I didn't understand anything but now when we walked through it and put acting to it I fully understand the play and not just bits and pieces. My director was amazing and very patient with me since the beginning, she lent me a hand when I was struggling with understanding the text and the character and I will miss her this year."

"I really liked learning different types of Arabic dances; it was really entertaining."

"I loved cooking. That was my favorite club. It was fun, and I want to make the recipes at home. I even remember them in Arabic! Thanks, Ibrahim!"

**"I feel confident that my ability to communicate in this language has significantly improved,** but I am still a long way from perfection. I was often frustrated, but never alone in that feeling. **A strong sense of community existed** among my peers and our supervisors. I felt comfortable expressing my frustration and always received words of reassurance and/or constructive criticism."

"The cultural exploration courses gave us cultural knowledge in the history and art and musical sides of Germany which was quite fun and interesting-giving us a sense of what it would be like to live there."

"I learned a lot about art, architecture, and cooking. It was fun having a class in German that wasn't specifically about the German language or country. I also enjoyed the hands-on activities: painting, building churches, and cooking."

"I enjoyed learning about the German culture while continuing to learn the language in a situation outside the classroom. **It was a nice break from the rigors of studying where I could still learn but in a much more relaxed setting.**"

"I loved music club and jamming with my friends on Spanish songs was so much fun, probably my favorite thing here at the Academy."

"In this program I was challenged not only academically but mentally as well, having to learn to live using a different language is one of the hardest things I have ever done. I would say that the first week is definitely the hardest and if I could give any piece of advice to any person it would be that it gets easier and hang in there. **I was challenged in this program, but I had a great time here and made friends who made this place that much more fun.**"

"I loved the dance classes! They were lots of fun and I feel more comfortable knowing that if I travel to Latin America I'll be able to dance and socialize like everyone else. I wish they were longer than just a week!"

"These classes offered different material than the things I have learned in school. Instead of focusing solely on grammar, they helped me understand the culture and way of life that was centered on the French language."

**"The cultural classes gave me a hands-on approach to learning about the culture, rather than just learning about the culture in the classroom."**