

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience

Beyond St. James: Exploring the Cultural Heritage of the Camino de Santiago

Dates: May 11 - June 9, 2020

Credits: Choice of 0 or 3

Leaders: Belén Villarreal and Maxwell Paule

Application Deadline: November 1, 2019

Apply in Handshake



Description of Experience and Research:

You will research aspects of Spain's cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage while backpacking along the historic pilgrims' path known as the Camino de Santiago. Each student on the program will conduct research on one of two topics:

- 1) Students interested in religious iconography and/or the ancient world can research whether the famous shell-imagery of the Camino de Santiago is indicative of an older association of the pilgrimage path with a local cult of Venus in northern Spain.
- 2) Students with an interest in linguistics can research whether the Camino constitutes a community of practice, as understood in sociolinguistics. Spanish-speaking students will be able to collect data regarding regional language/dialect variation and its impact on membership in Spanish speech communities.

Career Focus:

This program is best suited to students intending to pursue post-graduate work in history, classical studies, or linguistics, as well as those looking to improve their proficiency in Spanish for either postgraduate or professional work.

Location and Living Arrangements:

You will fly into Madrid, Spain, where we'll meet you at the airport. From here, you'll take a bus to Burgos, where we'll have a day of orientation before beginning our pilgrimage. We'll be staying in a variety of public and private albergues (pilgrim hostels) along the way to Santiago. Note that while individual conditions may vary, we will always be in a communal living situation.

Expectations for Students:

This is a physically and academically **rigorous** program. You'll be walking an average of 15 miles (sometimes more) per day, every day. If you find that this pace is difficult to maintain, you'll be expected to make adjustments (start earlier in the day, take shorter breaks, etc.) in order to keep up with the group. Moreover, you will also need enough energy during and after the day's walk to complete interviews, take notes, and visit local sites as you conduct your research. After the program is completed, students will reflect on the experience's impacts on their career aspirations and (in groups) write up their research findings for presentation at the Fall EPIC Expo and/or submission to an undergraduate research journal. Our learning goals are for students to:

- Understand how to develop, structure, and conduct their own research inquiry in the field;
- Gain personal competencies in assessment of their own strengths and weaknesses; managing themselves in a group context; developing greater independence, resourcefulness and grit.
- Gain social competencies in being aware of their own cultural/personal biases the impact those biases have on other; cultivating humility and respect when in an unfamiliar setting.
- Gain increased familiarity with the culture, history, and society of northern Spain.

Faculty:

Belén Villarreal is a professor of Spanish and linguistics. Her research interests include questions of language and identity among Spanish speakers. She led the Ecuador Program in Cuenca in Fall of 2017, and co-led the Camino de Santiago EPIC/May Term in 2016 and 2018.

Maxwell Paule is a professor of Ancient and Classical Studies interested in the lasting influence of the Roman Empire. Last year he co-led another EPIC Advantage program "Hiking with Hadrian," in which students trekked the entirety of Hadrian's Wall in northern England.

Preparation:

There will be a one credit orientation course in Spring 2020 in which students and faculty will work together to lay the groundwork for our research in Spain. This will include readings focusing on both the historical and cultural context, research methods, and the media related to the Camino itself. Students will also be expected to complete a walking regimen (to be determined collectively) designed to ensure they are capable of maintaining a functional pace on the Camino.

Prerequisites:

Preference given to rising juniors and seniors. Rising sophomores and May graduates are eligible to apply. Ideally, students will have a strong background/interest in the Humanities, especially in Spanish, Ancient & Classical Studies, and/or History. However, we also invite students whose coursework does not reflect their interest in these areas to apply.

Cost to Student:

This experience is funded as an Epic Advantage opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board and additional expenses as required by the program. This funding does not include the cost of passports and immunizations, hiking gear or other personal expenses.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: <https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/>