

What SLI Students Are Saying

SLI offers rich and engaging coursework with a cadre of teachers and colleagues that inspire you to raise the level of your teaching, gain confidence in the choices you are making as an educator, and deepen your own practice as cultural critic, linguist, and Spanish-lover.

- **Anonymous student feedback, 2021 program**

For me, this program is the perfect combination of location, coursework, and people. We could not ask for a more beautiful city to study in, and it is the perfect place for an immersive experience. People are friendly and the city is still relatively off the beaten path for American tourists. The classes are intensive but useful and fascinating at the same time. I love all of the exciting courses we got to choose from! The only shame is that I couldn't take more of them ;-). But the very best part of this program is the people! From the Guanajuato & SLI staff to the host families to my classmates and colleagues... the connections are deep & fierce. It is such a wonderful feeling. - **Zosha Darnell, MA '19**

Being a part of this program has allowed me to take an important step in my future as a professional language teacher. Thanks to the great instructors of this program, I've been introduced to several empirical studies as well as inspiring teaching methods that have shaped my understanding of how people most effectively learn languages. The training that I have received from SLI has been so invaluable. Because of this program, I've made many radical changes to how I teach my students Spanish. As a result of this program, I'm now using task-based instruction in which I try to replicate how the language would be used in the real world. I've learned how to assess students' language abilities not only looking at the accuracy but their complexity and fluency of language use as well. As I've been seeking more authentic resources and products to teach my students, the culture and history classes that I've taken have given me a wealth of stories to share with my students. Coming to Guanajuato has been one of the most enriching experiences of my career as a Spanish teacher. - **Anonymous student feedback, 2019 program**

The SLI program is rigorous in the best way. It challenged me to self-evaluate from various perspectives, and to consider including more aspects of cultural learning in my classroom. I felt that I not only learned from excellent professors, but also made lasting connections with other teachers and shared resources and experiences with them. - **Julia Nazarenko, MA '23**

Estudiar en la Universidad de Guanajuato fue una oportunidad única e inolvidable. La magia de la ciudad, la cultura, la historia, y la UGTO me transmitió orgullo y honor de ser maestra de Español. - **Anonymous student feedback, 2021 program**

SLI at SOU was the only Masters of Teaching Program that I could find that centered around the current researched based language teaching practices. There is such a need for more programs like this! Teachers are required to teach to all 5 C's by federal and state standards, but many programs do not provide adequate training. Many schools in (*my region*) are centered around Spanish literature and traditional grammar-heavy methods. Much research has happened in the field of language education and so many teachers are not being trained about the wonderful methods and frameworks that can meet ALL of their students' needs. All of SOU's instruction-based classes delve into cutting edge developments in language instruction and provide the context out of which they were born. This is what every language teacher needs to know and how to defend your choices to any department or administrator. This program is for the risk taker who believes in growth mindset and is ready to delve deep into their personal motivations to be an educator, in order to stretch their professional practice to new levels. - **Genevieve H. Columbo, MA '23**

The best things about SLI are that we get to work with absolutely amazing professors and that we get to know other Spanish teachers from all around the U.S. I often feel a bit isolated as a foreign language teacher in my state and this program really helps with that. I take home so many ideas each summer that it is hard to narrow down which few things to focus on implementing each year. - **Anonymous student feedback, 2021 program**

SOU SLI is a great program because I feel more confident going into the next school year. I have learned so much about various techniques that I can use in my daily teaching whether that be about technology, SLA, integrating different assessment strategies or even bringing in the community to the Spanish classroom. Also, the classes that are conducted in Spanish help you acquire some more Spanish through deep topics that you normally do not discuss in daily conversation. Overall, I would suggest this program to anyone looking to increase Spanish skills and Teaching skills! - **Joshua Clark, MA '23**

My colleagues at SLI became family over the summer sessions I attended in Guanajuato, Mexico. That support was necessary to the success we felt as each session ended and we celebrated our accomplishments. The friendships that developed from shared classes, group projects, or Wednesday study groups, have continued outside of SOU. I now have a large network of professionals where ideas and brainstorming are available with a text, a post on FB or an email. Those friendships also resulted in travel to conferences together inside and outside of the USA. It is always a pleasure to recognize the name of a SLI graduate on the brochure who will be presenting! - **Tamara Batcha, MA '21**

The SLI program is amazing. It has some of the best professors from all over the country teaching Spanish teachers how to be the best at their profession. I get to rub shoulders with others in my profession and learn from them. It's also a great way to brush up on my Spanish. The emphasis is on teaching Spanish and all in an immersion environment in Mexico! - **Eric Briggs, MA '21**

SLI me ha proveído la oportunidad de expandir mi conocimiento y hacer amistades por todas partes del mundo. -**Martin Castro Jr., MA '22**

If you are looking for someplace to challenge you, motivate you and inspire you to be the best Spanish Teacher you can be and get your Master's in the process, this is the program for you. – **Ebony Johnson, MA '22**