Mérida is one of Mexico’s most beautiful and charming destinations. It is a city large enough to offer all the amenities of a large urban center but small enough to be friendly and welcoming to visitors. It is known for its excellent universities and hospitals, proximity to beaches and impressive ruins, extraordinary cuisine, and splendid fusion of colonial Hispanic and Mayan cultures. The people of the Yucatán Peninsula pride themselves on maintaining a unique identity, distinct from any other in Mexico or Latin America. Mérida is widely acknowledged to be one of the safest cities in the country and is home not only to a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint mission but to a beautiful temple, conveniently located downtown. Join us for what promises to be an unforgettable study abroad experience.

DATES
24 June–6 August 2024 (approx.)

HOUSING
Students will be housed in pairs with local host families who have been handpicked and carefully screened by BYU’s partner. Many former students report that their experience with their host family was the highlight of the program.

COURSES
All intermediate students will enroll in 6 credit hours from the following courses:
SPAN 205—University Spanish 3 (4 credit hours)
SPAN 211R—Spanish Conversation 3 (2 credit hours)
SPAN 212R—Spanish Conversation 4 (2 credit hours)

All advanced students will enroll in 6 credit hours from the following courses:
SPAN 321—Third-Year Spanish Reading, Grammar, and Culture (3 credit hours)
SPAN 330—Introduction to Hispanic Literature (3 credit hours; may be offered based on sufficient enrollment)
SPAN 355—Cultures of Spanish America (3 credit hours; may be offered based on sufficient enrollment)
SPAN 395R—Cultura Maya y Yucateca (3 credit hours)
SPAN 459R—Literatura Yucateca, Siglo XX (3 credit hours)

Students may not take any other courses on this program, including BYU Online courses, without approval by the program director and ISP.

COST
$5,500–5,900
Includes Latter-day Saint, undergraduate full tuition (increased cost for graduates and non-Latter-day Saint students), room and board, transportation on program excursions, laundry, some textbook expenses, and international health insurance coverage.

Does not include airfare, local transportation in Mérida (about $150), meals on excursions, some textbooks, or personal expenses.

TRAVEL
Students are responsible for purchasing their own airfare to and from the program sites. Airline reservations must be made through BYU Travel. Students should contact a BYU Travel agent.

BYU Travel | 280 HRCB | (801) 422-6293 | travel@byu.edu

PREPARATION
All intermediate students must have completed SPAN 106 or demonstrate equivalent proficiency prior to the program.
All advanced students must have completed SPAN 206 or demonstrate equivalent proficiency prior to the program.

Accepted students are required to participate in an international, cross-cultural preparation course (IAS 201R, 1 credit hour). This course will be held during the second block of winter semester 2024.

Part-time and non-BYU students will need to pay an additional tuition fee for enrolling in the prep class.

Students must meet all country- and program-specific COVID and health requirements for travel.

FUNDING SOURCES
Regular BYU tuition scholarships, Pell Grants, and Federal Insured Student Loans may be applied to study abroad programs.

Students who submit the financial aid section of the ISP application, and who have a current FAFSA form on file at the Financial Aid Office (A-41 ASB) will be considered for a Study Abroad scholarship.

Academic departments and colleges may assist with scholarships and grants. The College of Humanities will offer program discounts of up to $3,000 to majors in the College and up to $1,500 to minors in the College. Private grants and scholarships outside of BYU may also assist (see kennedy.byu.edu/scholarships).

APPLICATION PROCESS
Students must be 18 years of age or older to participate.
Complete the online application at kennedy.byu.edu/isp-apply. A nonrefundable $35 application fee is required.
Applicants will be interviewed once the application is complete.
Students will be notified via e-mail of their acceptance into the program.
The first payment is due upon acceptance. Please refer to the 2024 Payment Information page.

Application Deadline: 30 November 2023

FACULTY
Lauren Truman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, will lead this program. She has had the privilege of conducting research on language use in Mérida and the surrounding Maya towns and loves exploring the ruins, cenotes, villages, and many other attractions of Yucatán. 3155 JFSB | (801) 422-3124 | lauren_truman@byu.edu

SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT
Students should plan to be in Mérida from 24 June to 6 August and refrain from scheduling late arrivals or early departures.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT
International Study Programs
101 HRCB | (801) 422-3686
isp@byu.edu | kennedy.byu.edu/isp

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS
International Study Programs (ISP) reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost. If it becomes necessary for ISP to cancel a program, all program payments made to BYU ISP will be refunded to the student’s BYU Financial account. ISP is the only office authorized to cancel any of its programs.