

October 12, 2011

It has been four years now since I did a survey of all the language institutes in Santiago de los Caballeros and decided upon ALPI (American Language Partners International) as our institution of choice to partner with for the intensive Spanish language and Dominican culture program required for our CIEE Gap Year students. Are we glad we did! Not only are the professors and administrators attentive, communicative, and sympathetic to young people learning another language, but the language classes themselves are of the highest quality. Even though they are 2 ½ hours long, four days per week, our students are never bored because classes are not just grammar-grammar-grammar in the classroom—in addition to watching and discussing movies, and talking about Dominican culture, in order to motivate and help students to learn by doing, the professors often take the students out of the classroom to get to know the city and its most fascinating places, teach them the steps of merengue, bachata, and salsa, and take them to the kitchen to learn how to make typical Dominican foods. Students also receive an excellent Teaching English as a Second Language course and get practice in the classrooms as assistants at various levels, and they participate in a wide variety of activities with ALPI's other students during Culture Nights. We simply could not ask for more, and all of this is offered at very reasonable rates as well. Thank you, ALPI, for this very successful collaborative Gap Year program!

Sincerely,



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