

Frequently Asked Questions about ICU language classes

What are the language classes at the ICU about, and what is unique about them?

ICU language classes are unique in several ways:

- they are flexible and informal,
- they are taught by native speakers, and
- they are small, allowing for individualized attention and more interaction.

There are no tests or grades, and there is no set curriculum: students come because they truly want to learn another language and culture.

What language classes does the ICU offer?

All the language classes that are offered by the ICU are posted on the website as soon as details are finalized.

Where do the classes and clubs meet?

All classes and club meet at the ICU, at the first floor of City Hall, 206 South Main Street, Greenville

What is the fee for a language class?

Most language classes are \$ 50 per 8-week term with a current ICU membership. Intensive classes have a higher fee of \$250. If a class costs more, it will be listed on the website.

There are different class levels offered. Which class is right for me?

There are usually several class levels starting with a Beginner's class, an Intermediate class and a Conversation class.

The Beginner's class is for students with no or very little knowledge in that language.

The Intermediate class usually requires 2-3 years of high school language classes taken or equivalent skills.

The Conversation classes usually focus on conversation in the chosen language with some corrective grammar, etc. These classes are designed for students who wish to keep up with and/or improve their oral language skills in the chosen language.

In general, the class level taught depends on the level of the students registered. If all the students in a Beginner's class know the numbers, for example, the teacher may repeat it quickly, but it does not make sense that the class spends much time on something that is known already by all the students.

How do I sign up for a language class?

You can sign up online through the [click&pledge](#) system with a credit card, or you can sign up in person by coming to the office to pay by check.

Do I need to register before I take a class?

We ask students to register prior to the start of class since we have to have a minimum number of students to offer the class. If the minimum number is not reached before the class starts, the class will be cancelled. Also if a class reaches the maximum number, it goes on a 'first come first serve' basis, which means a student who is not registered may not be able to take the class.

We ask students to register prior to the first lesson of the new term. Even if students have been registered in the prior term of the class, they need to register before every new term so that we can reduce our office work and thereby keep our class fees low.

What if I realize after the first class my skills are too advanced or not advanced enough for the class?

Students are welcome to switch to a different class if this class is available and if there is space available. Please let the teacher as well as the ICU office know which class you would like to switch to and we can arrange it.

May I join a class after the session has already started?

Yes, students can join the class at any time if there is still space in the class and if they are able to keep up with the class level. If you join a Beginner's class late, you may need to study a little more to catch up with the class. Please note that if you join during a session you will have to pay for the complete session; we will not pro-rate your class fees.

What is the difference between a conversation club and a conversation class?

The conversation classes are regular language classes emphasizing on conversation in that language. The classes run in 8 week sessions and students have to sign up for every session. The conversation classes are limited to 12 students and it is recommended that students will come to class regularly since themes may continue from previous classes.

The Conversation clubs meet once a week for casual meetings to practice Spanish and English conversation. Several club facilitators take turns leading. The themes are different every week and do not require skills from previous meetings. Clubs run year around from September/October to May.

Do I need to register for the Conversation clubs?

No but to participate in the Conversation clubs a current ICU membership is required and participants are asked to let the ICU office know that they are interested in coming to the Club. Members who plan to visit the English Conversation Club, may please let the office know their email address as we will send out the themes of the week for people who wish to prepare or look up some vocabulary.

What are the costs for the Conversation clubs?

The English and Spanish conversation clubs are included as a benefit of membership.

What skills do I need to participate in the Spanish or English Conversation Club?

To join the Conversation clubs, it is recommended that people can have a basic conversation in that language.

What is the refund policy?

Membership in the ICU is in essence a charitable contribution and thus is not refundable. Class fees are not refundable but can be transferred to another class or person before starting the class session.