

Medical Spanish Immersion



Earn CME &
CE credits

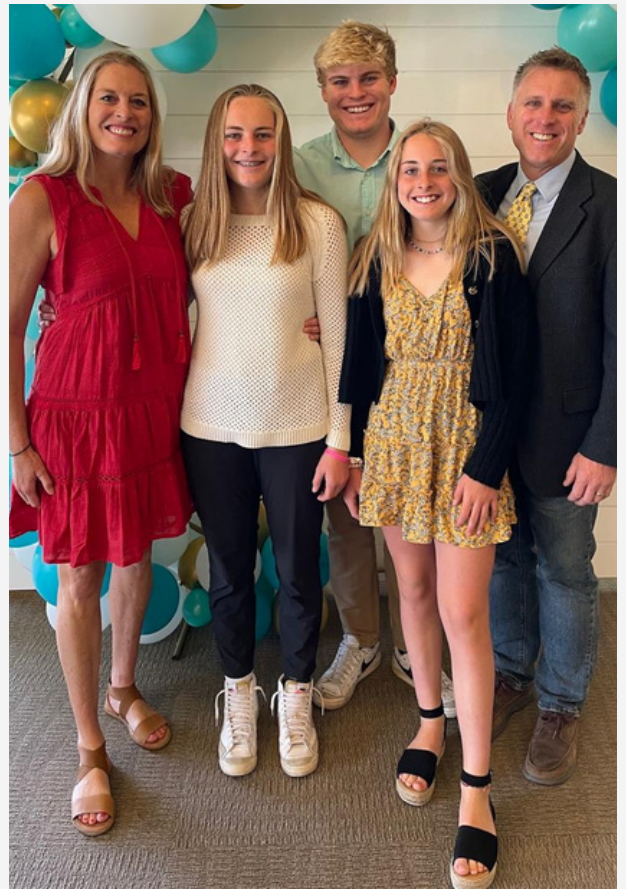


Who are we?

Our history

Rory and Leslie Foster founded Common Ground International in the fall of 2001 while they were teaching Spanish at a local college preparatory school in Colorado. During that year, through various personal and professional interactions, they noticed a real and urgent need to use language to have a greater impact that was not getting met.

The defining moment was when their friend, in a Doctorate of Nursing program, requested customized Medical Spanish classes to help them be more successful in treating their Spanish-speaking patients. It was in that request, that their passion for designing a language curriculum that could potentially save lives and improve patient health outcomes was discovered. Common Ground International emerged with a zest for teaching language to fill real-life needs and impact communities through industry-specific language trainings, services and immersion programs.



Since 2001, Common Ground International has developed language training programs across the nation and internationally in Central and South America. Our programs and curriculum serve Medical professionals and other professions across the nation that work with limited English-speaking families and need Spanish language support.

Rory and Leslie have a bilingual family, and a wonderful team of language professionals in the United States and throughout Central and South America that enjoy working with as they carry out Common Ground's mission: **"Impacting communities through language."**

Medical Spanish Immersion Trips



Our unique Medical Spanish immersion trips – whether you are a working healthcare professional or a healthcare student – place a balanced emphasis on 3 primary components of proficiency developing activities: medical outreach work in Spanish, Spanish classes focused on general and medical terminology, and host family lodging that gives you 24/7 immersion. This balanced approach ensures that our immersion students have unstructured & spontaneous language experiences with their host families (no memorized dialogue could ever prepare you for those conversations), structured time preparing for and delivering educational messages through various service learning projects, and time in a class to sort out the native-paced Spanish input they're receiving 24/7.

We accept healthcare students and professionals from across the country on these medical Spanish Immersion programs. While everyone has unique careers and varying professional aspirations, they all have something in common: they need Spanish for their work with patients. For example, some students are participating in a formal International Rotation through Common Ground. Others are just trying to bolster their Spanish before they hit the job market.

We have a small team of physicians and PAs that help supervise our programs in Costa Rica and Ecuador, therefore we're able to ensure that our outreach work remains ethical, accurate, and applicable to the local populations that we serve.



Our Medical Immersion program is acceptable for up to 22.50 Prescribed credit(s) by the American Academy of Family Physicians. We're also a Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing for 20 Contact Hours per week of immersion.

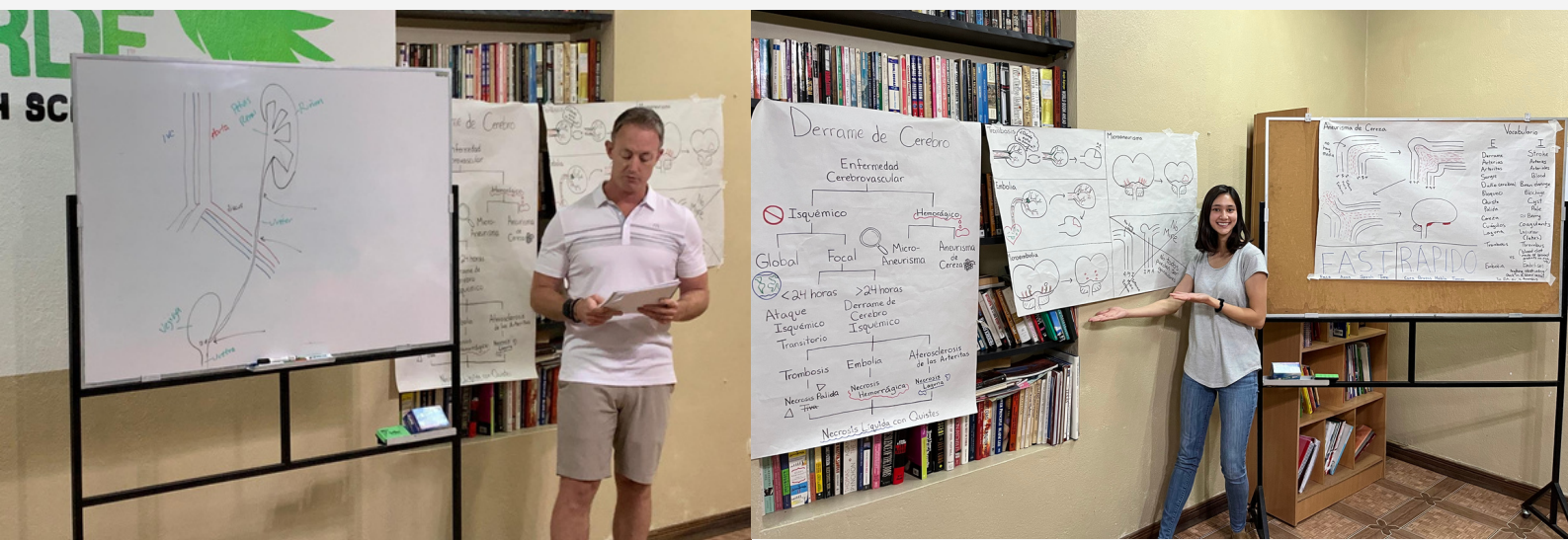
Conversational Medical Spanish classes



Our small-sized personalized Medical Spanish classes on our Immersion trips are a nice combination of learning new material and getting comfortable actually speaking. Too often we learn more but don't move the needle on our speaking. Our classes are taught by professionals and conversationally focused so that you build confidence speaking Spanish in a healthcare environment.

Our Immersion program also includes Pre-departure preparation: Multiple pre-departure webinars together as a group help you anticipate the experience, set your expectations realistically, prevent some culture shock, and prepare for your community involvement.

Your Spanish level will also be assessed before your Immersion program. You will be placed in a class in accordance with your level with other peers in the healthcare field with the same Spanish level in order to maximize your learning.



Community outreach work



Our approach to “medical mission” work is community health / public health education topics. We don’t focus on clinical work, we focus on education. This is ethically less complicated for local communities and local health systems and it’s actually more effective for your Spanish communication skills.

You will have 24/7 access to CGI coordinators and leadership: CGI has its staff and its partner medical providers who are always with the immersion group. Why does this matter?

1. You have someone you can rely on for logistical help.
2. You have a Spanish teacher around you all the time for those random language questions borne out of real-life situations.
3. You have a medical provider close by to assist you in your community work and help you ensure that the medical outreach work you’re doing is always relevant and sustainable for the community.

We focus on your language proficiency while we turn you loose to help the community – but NEVER at the community’s expense. We’re responsible to ensure that the work you do complies with our mission statement for responsible medical work abroad. The intentional combination of medical Spanish training with understanding cultural norms of health in Central and South America work together to make you a more effective healthcare worker.



Lodging with a local host family



Participants are immersed in speaking Spanish 24/7 and acquiring Spanish as they relate to the host family and experience daily culture in Latin America.

Your host families will take care of all of your basic needs:

- Provide you with a private bedroom.
- Share breakfast and dinner with you.
- Make sure that you are as comfortable as possible in their home.

We recommend host family stay to complete the 24/7 immersion aspect of the program, your general Spanish conversational skills will sharpen quickly!

Of course, you have the option in both Costa Rica and Ecuador to stay on your own in a hostel or hotel. You will miss out on some conversational Spanish, but if you need your private space, you can certainly get it.

Weekend Adventures

Saturday through Monday mornings we have time off to explore the countries we visit! You can do this on your own or with the CGI group. We speak Spanish on these excursions and help you capture teachable moments as they pop up!

- In Ecuador you can expect a mountainous & “hikey” weekend excursion.
- In Costa Rica we have multiple excursions, half a day, one day and weekend long to explore the many natural wonders of Costa Rica. For example: A trip to see a volcano crater, to the La Fortuna national park with the largest natural hot springs in the world, or to a white sand beach in a catamaran and other beaches where we may have a chance to see turtles nesting and laying their eggs!



General Program Itinerary

The following is a weekly general sample of our Medical Immersion program Itinerary. The specific details are only available to our participants:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday and Sunday
Mornings: Medical Volunteer orientation Afternoons: Medical Spanish classes Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Mornings: Medical Volunteer Preparation Afternoons: Medical Spanish classes Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Mornings: Medical Volunteer Work Afternoons: Medical Spanish classes Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Mornings: Medical Volunteer Work or 1/2 day excursion Afternoons: Medical Spanish classes Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Mornings: Medical Volunteer Work or 1/2 day excursion Afternoons: Medical Spanish classes Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Optional Excursions, hang out with your host family or explore on your own.

- **First Saturday:**

Saturday is generally the day we ask you to arrive in country so that you can get settled in with your host family and have Sunday to get to know the town before your program starts on Monday.

- **Mon – Fri afternoons:**

Small group Medical Spanish classes from 1-5pm. Optional activities in the evenings after class, or hang out with your host family.

- **Tue – Fri mornings:**

These are the days we dedicate to community outreach Medical work.

- **Weekends:**

Take time to explore the country! We put together a weekend trip every weekend. You are free to join us, stay with your host family, or DIY a weekend excursion!



Dance and cooking classes are some of the optional extra activities our Immersion students enjoy in the evenings after their Medical Spanish classes!



For more Information

**For more Information on our Medical Immersion programs,
please contact our program coordinator:**

Rory Foster

Medical Immersion Coordinator

rfoster@commongroundinternational.com

Toll Free: (888) 879-2575



Important Links

Our Website:

<https://commongroundinternational.com/>

Our Medical Immersion Programs:

<https://commongroundinternational.com/spanish-immersion/medical-spanish-immersion/>

Link to register:

<https://commongroundinternational.com/store/immersion-trips/medical-immersion-trip/>

Our socials



<https://www.facebook.com/commongroundinternational>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/CommonGroundInternational>



<https://www.instagram.com/commongroundintl>