



BROWN

CASA Consortium for
Advanced Studies Abroad

CASA CUBA ADVISOR KIT

ACADEMIC YEAR
2025 - 2026

CASA CUBA

PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

<p>LOCATION</p>	<p>As the capital and largest city in Cuba, Havana is the center of Cuban social, cultural, and political life and home to the country's most important educational, cultural, economic, and political institutions. It is home to 2 million residents, with a mix of European, Latin ,African and American influences.</p> <p>CASA Cuba provides students with a unique opportunity to have direct access to Cuba's largest, oldest and leading institution of higher learning, the University of Havana (1728), and to Casa de Las Américas, Cuba's premier institution – since its founding in 1959 – on Caribbean and Latin American studies, Cuban culture and the arts.</p>
<p>HOST INSTITUTION(S)</p>	<p>Casa de las Américas (CDLA) Universidad de la Habana (UH)</p>
<p>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION</p>	<p>Spanish</p>
<p>PROGRAM DATES*</p> <p><i>*subject to change based on UH calendar</i></p>	<p>Fall Semester: <i>early-September to mid-December</i> Spring Semester: <i>late-January to mid-May</i> Academic Year: <i>early-September to mid-May*</i></p> <p><i>*full-year students will need to return home in between semesters in order to activate their student visas</i></p>
<p>COURSEWORK</p>	<p>All students are required to enroll in 4 courses, choosing from a combination of CASA Courses and coursework at the University of Havana.</p> <p>CASA Courses (4 semester hours) CASA courses are taught at the CASA Cuba Study Center (la Galería) by distinguished Cuban scholars from Casa de las Américas and faculty from the University of Havana. They are specifically designed for CASA students and have a seminar-style format, more akin to the U.S. university classroom.</p> <p>See our website for a full list of courses.</p> <p>University of Havana courses (32, 48, and 60 contact hours / 2, 3, and 4 semester hours) Students can enroll in up to two courses at the University of Havana (UH) and are encouraged to take at least one of their courses at the UH to enhance cultural and social immersion into Cuban society. UH courses are designed for Cuban students, and are taught mostly by lecture, with little online/advance course information available.</p>

	<p>For more information on sample UH courses, please visit our website.</p> <p>To help students with the course selection process, students have 1:1 sessions with the CASA Cuba team. These sessions take place remotely before arrival and once students have arrived in the city, before the beginning of classes.</p>
<p>HOUSING</p>	<p>All students will either be housed directly in a homestay or at the Casa de las Américas Student Residence. Breakfast, dinner, and laundry will be included, and all homestays and the student residence are within walking distance of the CASA Center in Havana.</p> <p>The main difference between both options are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Homestay: One student per family; living together in same shared space/home as local family</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">CDLA Student Residence: Multiple CASA students in shared apartment; managed by a local family</p> <p>You can read more about the different housing options on our website.</p>
<p>INTERNSHIPS & VOLUNTEERING</p>	<p>While formal internships are less common in Cuba than in the U.S, CASA offers a variety of options for students looking to get involved in the local community.</p> <p>The most significant opportunity is to become a Teaching Assistant alongside an experienced Cuban Head Instructor to teach English as a Second Language to Cuban students. Upon completion, students receive a certificate.</p> <p>In previous semesters, students have worked with CDLA on cultural publications, exhibitions, and conferences. They have also worked with local journalists at Temas, Cuba's premier academic journal, and On Cuba, one of today's most widely-read online news sources.</p> <p>Students should contact onsite program staff if interested in engaging with the local community during their semester in Havana.</p>
<p>EXCURSIONS</p>	<p>The CASA Cuba program includes a variety of activities and excursions throughout the semester. Some of these have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A weekend trip to Cienfuegos-Trinidad ● A week-long program excursion to Santiago de Cuba ● Tours & lectures of Old Havana and Havana's Chinatown

	<p>A highlight of the program is its Student-Led Research Trips. Throughout the semester, students propose destinations for weekend study trips to explore different academic topics and expand their knowledge of Cuba outside of Havana. They are provided with a small stipend and are responsible for making their own travel arrangements with support from CASA staff.</p>
PROGRAM COSTS	<p>Visit the CASA Cuba website for information on program fees and financial aid.</p>
HEALTH INSURANCE	<p>During their semester in Havana, all students obtain local health insurance, at no additional cost, which provides access to the Clínica Internacional Cira García, and other international health clinics in Cuba. Cira García is similar to a student health center on campus with an emergency room, a walk-in clinic, and the ability to make appointments with specialists.</p> <p>Students are also enrolled in International SOS, through Brown University. International SOS covers virtual mental health counseling, medical evacuation/repatriation, and all other safety and security emergencies.</p>
APPLICATION PROCESS	
APPLICATION DEADLINES	<p>FALL 2025 (<i>tentative</i>) February 1: Preferred Application Deadline (<i>Visiting Students Only</i>) March 1: Final Application/Nomination Deadline March 15: Post-Acceptance Commitment Deadline</p> <p>SPRING 2026 (TBD) Check the OGE Visiting Students webpage for updates.</p>
HOW TO APPLY	<p>Open to students from all academic disciplines who have completed a minimum of six semesters of college-level Spanish (or the equivalent).</p> <p>This program is open to Brown students, CASA member students, and Visiting students.</p> <p>Visiting students should see Brown's Office of Global Engagement website for more information on how to apply. CASA students should visit their home school study abroad office.</p>
VISA REQUIREMENTS	<p>All students going to Havana will need a Cuban student visa. Brown/CASA staff will obtain the Cuban student visa on all students' behalf, in close coordination with our onsite partner, Casa de las Américas.</p> <p>Students simply need to provide a color copy of their passport and complete a form with biographical information. There is no need to present in-person or provide a physical passport. Visas will then be sent in electronic format by email from Brown to each student. Physical copies of their visa will be</p>

	deposited at the Havana International Airport where a representative from CDLA will receive students upon arrival.
TRANSCRIPTS	<p>CASA Member School Students: All transcripts will be sent directly from Brown to each member school.</p> <p>Visiting Students: All transcripts will be sent directly to Brown University. Brown's Office of Global Engagement (OGE) will send students' official Brown transcript, along with CASA course transcripts, and local host institution transcripts directly to students' home schools. Please visit the OGE website for more information.</p>
CONTACT INFORMATION	
CASA CUBA	<p>Rainer Schultz Director, CASA Cuba rainer@lahabana.casa.education</p>
BROWN UNIVERSITY	<p>Ivana Freitas Assistant Director, Global Programs ivana_freitas@brown.edu</p>