

Usil International Center  
**CUSCO**  
Study & Research Programs





# Welcome to CUSCO

We invite you to study while enjoying a unique cultural immersion experience in the most important historic city in South America, the former capital of the Inca Empire, and visiting one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Inca royal residence of Machu Picchu.

Cusco is situated in the heart of the Andes, at an altitude of 3400 meters (11,300 feet). It is a city in which ancient Inca royal palaces and temples share space with colonial-era Spanish mansions and beautifully decorated churches. Today, Cusco is a melting pot of cultures with a richly cosmopolitan feel, where ancient indigenous traditions and customs are overlaid with the trappings of the modern world.

Every year, millions of tourists come to Cusco to see Machu Picchu, the legendary Inca settlement nestled among mountains covered in tropical forest, just four hours from Cusco by bus and train. Over the past one hundred years, Machu Picchu has emerged as one of the most emblematic sites on the continent, and a must-see experience for travelers interested in history and culture.

The Cusco region boasts a series of spectacular landscapes, from the high peaks of the Andes, which give way to the foothills surrounding the city itself, to the forests of the Amazon basin, with their breathtaking variety of plant and animal species.

The people of Cusco are open, forthcoming and always willing to give a warm welcome to visitors.

**We take pleasure in sharing these treasures with you.**



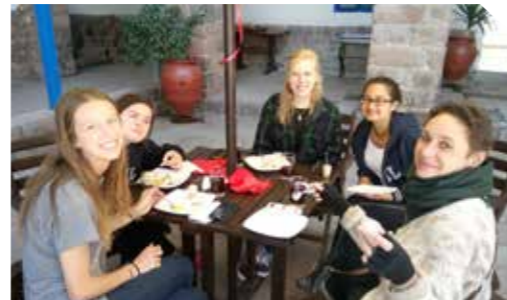


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# Our International Study Program



## Semesters & Summer terms

### 2 Semesters

(4 months, choose up to 5 courses):

- ▶ Mid - January - early May
- ▶ Mid - August - early December

### 2 Summer Terms

(5 weeks, choose 2 courses):

- ▶ Late May - late June
- ▶ Late June - early August



## USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco

USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco is located in the heart of the historic city center, on the main street of the former Inca capital that connects the Main Square with the ancient temple known as Qorikancha, once the most important shrine in the Inca Empire. The university building occupies part of one of the ancient residences of the Inca nobility, which subsequently became the site of a Spanish colonial-style house. Fragments of the original Inca stonework have survived, combining harmoniously with beautiful Mediterranean-style arcades.

The building is equipped with all the modern facilities required by such an institution, including Wi-Fi, a computer lab, library, conference hall and multimedia projectors.



## Our Cultural Center

USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco also serves as a Cultural Center. Non-profit free admission cultural events are held here, including film festivals and screening, concerts, art exhibitions and book launches. In cooperation with other cultural institutions in Cusco, USIL supports local art and culture, through an annual program of cultural activities.





## Housing: the University Residence

Students may choose to stay at our university residence Casa Don Ignacio, which offers Wi-Fi, kitchen, TV room, laundry service and other facilities.

Visit us at: [www.casadedonignacio.com](http://www.casadedonignacio.com)



## Housing: Family Stay

Another housing option is family stay, which offers an excellent opportunity for cultural immersion and a way to learn at firsthand about local customs, traditions and lifestyle. You will be living with a friendly host family, accustomed to receiving foreign visitors, who will provide you with three meals a day and the chance to practice your Spanish beyond the classroom.





## USIL's Hands-on Component

USIL believes that acquiring knowledge through hands-on experience is essential. The Cusco program's courses have been created to enable international students to participate in enriching experiences, through a combination of theory and activities designed for significant learning.

## Our Field Trips

Our courses incorporate a range of field trips. These include:

- ▶ Museums
- ▶ Archaeological sites
- ▶ Landscapes rich in biodiversity
- ▶ Governmental institutions
- ▶ Churches, monasteries and convents
- ▶ Exhibitions, book fairs, other cultural events and spaces
- ▶ Local educational establishments
- ▶ Formal and informal markets and fairs
- ▶ Independent non-profit organizations
- ▶ Native rural communities



## Visit Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley of the Incas

Our program offers students faculty-led guided visits to Machu Picchu, as well as the Sacred Valley of the Incas, where the Incas built a series of royal residences set amid the stunning scenery of a green, temperate valley. Students travel accompanied by our specialist faculty staff, using services provided by a professional tour company.





# Our Courses



## Languages

### Advanced Spanish

**Area of study:** Spanish Language  
 4 credits / 84 contact hours  
**Taught in:** Spanish

This course enables students to develop communication skills in Spanish, according to their level of knowledge of the language. Students will improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through a Communicative Approach in a Spanish-speaking environment among friendly and receptive people. In addition, they will learn about a local culture that is very different from their own, while practicing their newly-acquired language skills as part of a cultural immersion process.

### Intermediate Spanish

**Area of study:** Spanish Language  
 4 credits / 84 contact hours  
**Taught in:** Spanish

In this course students develop their linguistic and socio-linguistic abilities, gaining the skills necessary for language use in an immersion context. The course is founded upon an integrated approach to language learning: grammar, vocabulary, writing skills, conversation and comprehension.

### Pre - Intermediate Spanish

**Area of study:** Spanish Language  
 4 credits / 84 contact hours  
**Taught in:** Spanish

In this Spanish course students develop fundamental language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing), through participation in real-life communication with native speakers as well as through exercising their knowledge in structured classroom situations. They learn how to express simple ideas necessary for optimal communication in both personal and professional settings. They will also have an opportunity for personal reflection on language use, making the learning process more creative and meaningful.







### Written Communication in Spanish

**Area of study:** Spanish Language , Written Communication

4 credits / 64 contact hours

**Taught in:** Spanish

In this course students learn to write correctly and coherently in Spanish. The course covers the fundamentals of text production, writing strategies and styles, coherence in written texts and the grammar rules of the Spanish language.



### Beginning Quechua

**Area of study:** Quechua Language, Native Languages of South America, Andean Studies

4 credits / 84 contact hours

**Taught in:** Quechua & Spanish

Students are introduced to Quechua, once the official language of the Inca Empire and today the most widely spoken native language in the Andean region. The course develops reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, focusing on basic grammar and vocabulary and giving students opportunities to interact directly with native speakers during field trips in Cusco and rural Quechua-speaking areas beyond the city.





## Humanities & Social Sciences



### Contemporary Society and Culture of Peru

**Area of study:** History, Sociology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English or Spanish

This course allows students to explore and understand Peruvian society today as the result of a series of historical, anthropological and sociological processes and transformations. This exciting journey through Peru's past and present begins with the historical background (pre-Inca and Inca cultures, European colonization and independence), providing a pathway to a better understanding of current Peruvian politics and the nation's economy, spirituality, social conflicts and environmental challenges. A wide range of field trips, ranging from government institutions to informal markets, will introduce participants to different aspects of daily life in Cusco.

### History and Culture of the Incas

**Area of study:** History, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies, Andean Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English or Spanish

This course introduces students to the most renowned of all pre-colonial South American societies, enabling them to explore its history in the heartland of the Inca state: the ancient capital city of Cusco. The course covers key aspects of the social structure, political development, economy, technology, religion and spirituality of the Incas. The central aim of the course is to guide students towards a deeper understanding of this extraordinary non-Western culture and its role in world history. Visits to archaeological sites and museums are included.





## Institutions in Peruvian Society

**Area of study:** History, Sociology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

This course focuses on the main governmental, private and independent non-profit institutions within Peruvian society. Its content addresses the structure and function of social, political and economic organizations at all governmental levels. Students will gain a deeper understanding through field trips in the city and throughout the Cusco region, during which they will be able to compare local institutional frameworks with those of their home country.

## Introduction to Volunteering, Service Learning and Social Responsibility in Cusco

**Area of study:** Sociology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies, Volunteering and Service Learning  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

In essence, this course is intended to serve as an introduction for those students who come to Cusco for a volunteering or service learning experience. Its content addresses the legal framework for volunteering and service learning in Peru; vulnerable local populations and their needs; best practices for volunteering; governmental, non-governmental and private organizations and their social responsibility initiatives. Students will be able to apply the lessons learned in class to their practical volunteering and service learning projects.



## Latin American Literature

**Area of study:** Literature, Latin American Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** Spanish

This course offers a journey through Latin American literature, from the earliest works of the pre-Columbian age to our own time. It invites students to delve into the magic of Latin American culture and traditions through their reading and critical analysis of some of the continent's most representative examples of poetry and prose. Students attend literature related events and experience direct contact with the local literary scene.





## Art & Architecture



### Art and Design in Cusco

**Area of study:** Art, Art History, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

This course offers students a unique opportunity to experience cultural immersion and develop their personal artistic creativity. Along with lectures on the art history of Cusco and a range of contemporary art forms, they will be invited to participate in a number of field trips to museums, churches, art studios, cultural institutions, galleries and fairs. By the end of the course, students will have completed their own individual or group art projects, based on their experiences in Cusco.

### Photography in Cusco

**Area of study:** Art, Art History, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

In this theoretical and practical course students will learn about key elements in the process of photographic production, starting with basic technical aspects of the use of a digital camera and moving on to the subtle aesthetic effects of light, color, contrast and focus. They will have the opportunity to practice their newly acquired skills in a range of natural and urban settings, as well as in a professional studio and during their travels throughout other parts of Peru. The course also covers the essential facts concerning the history of photography, including the history of photography in Peru.

### Inca Architecture

**Area of study:** Architecture, Archaeology, Heritage Conservation, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

In this course students will learn about the evolution of architecture and urban planning among the Incas and other ancient Andean cultures. The course also addresses Andean geography and environment, and how this natural setting influenced Inca architecture. Students will visit archaeological monuments and historical sites undergoing restoration work, and to analyze Peruvian and global regulations governing the conservation of cultural heritage. The classroom for this course is the city of Cusco itself.

### Cultural Heritage Conservation

**Area of study:** Architecture, Archaeology, Cultural Heritage Conservation, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
 3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English or Spanish

This course demonstrates to students the importance of cultural heritage in our contemporary world. They will study procedures and policies designed to conserve culturally significant buildings and landscapes. Topics addressed by the course include: heritage site registration and cataloguing, UNESCO Heritage Conservation Charters, and principal restoration and conservation techniques. In Cusco, once the capital of the Inca Empire, a number of conservation projects remain ongoing. Students will visit archaeological and historical sites, in order to see for themselves how such theoretical knowledge is applied in practice.





## Communication



### Introduction to Communication

**Area of study:** Communication, Mass Media, Semiotics  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

We believe in the power of communication and media as vehicles for transformation. In this theoretical and practical course students learn how to use and understand communication in the context of a globalized world. They will also gain an overview of the range of current communication resources, from mass media and advertising to social networks, all within the context of contemporary Peruvian society.

### History of Latin American Cinema

**Area of study:** Cinema, Communication, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English or Spanish

This course introduces students to the world of Latin American cinema, from the early influence of the Italian neorealist movement to contemporary expressions of the seventh art across many of the countries of this unique region. It will also help students to find in Latin American cinema clues for an understanding of different realities, and to construct meaningful comparisons with their own culture, while engaging in personal reflection.

### Communication for Development

**Area of study:** Communication, Development, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

One of the most important ingredients of social projects is the area of communication. This course takes a close look at the potential of communication resources in development projects, including policy design, creativity strategies and the mechanisms employed to convey a specific message to a target audience. The course shows students how, beginning with a situational analysis, they can select the most efficient communication methods and tools for the success of a given project.

### Intercultural Communication

**Area of study:** Communication, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English or Spanish

This course guides students through an in-depth analysis of the role of communication in our modern human society, characterized as it is by the enormous cultural diversity of contemporary reality, through specific illustrative examples from the Peruvian context. The main objective of the course is to enhance students' capacity for appreciating the richness of any culture, including their own, and to show them the value of cultural identity, through an exploration of the multiple strategies for cross-cultural interaction.





## Communication Psychology

**Area of study:** Communication, Psychology

3 credits / 48 contact hours

**Taught in:** English

The aim of this course is to help students comprehend our social environment through a psychological interpretation of different forms of communication. The course explores the role of language as the fundamental tool in the communication process, the use of linguistic signs, and the concepts of message, transmission and reception. Also, a critical review is offered of mass media content, through a deconstruction of the methods and strategies underlying psychological impact.







## Business



### Business in Peru and Latin America

**Area of study:** Business, Latin American Studies,  
Peruvian Studies

4 credits / 64 contact hours

**Taught in:** English

This course gives students a better understanding of the economic environment for investment, trade and importing in Peru and Latin America. It provides a basic understanding of regional economics, marketing, trade opportunities and free trade agreements, in the context of doing business in Latin America.





## Environmental Studies



### Peru's Biodiversity

**Area of study:** Biodiversity, Biology, Environmental Studies

3 credits / 48 contact hours

**Taught in:** English

The Earth's biodiversity is composed of many millions of biological species which are the product of four billion years of evolution. Peru is one of the world's 17 mega diverse countries. The extraordinary biodiversity of Peru means that students are able to observe many of these teeming life forms for themselves, and gain a deeper appreciation of the life that exists all around us.





## Health and Nutrition



### Healing and Shamanism in Andean and Amazonian Cultures

**Area of study:** Health, Traditional Medicine, Anthropology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

This course introduces students to ancient and current traditional healing and shamanic practices and beliefs in the Andean and Amazonian worlds, focusing upon their origins in the pre-Columbian period and their development over time. We will discuss traditional concepts of health and illness, the roles and status of ritual specialists in native societies, the importance of sacred and medicinal plants and other natural resources, and the interaction of ancient Andean heritage with the contemporary cultural context of modern Peru. Field trips will enable students to experience firsthand traditional healing and healing-related practices.

### Andean Nutrition

**Area of study:** Nutrition, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

The purpose of this course is to reveal to students the remarkable nutritional qualities of Andean crops, their role in the diet of local populations, and their value within the context of local culture, comparing them with other crops of foreign origin and tracing their influence on the global food supply. Students will learn about the most widely practiced local agricultural methods and techniques, as well about the culinary products derived from native plant species.





## Tourism



### Economics and Sociology of Tourism

**Area of study:** Tourism, Economics, Sociology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

This course discusses the effects tourism has had on Peruvian society and the nation's economy, focusing specifically on the last thirty years. We will begin with a brief history of major archaeological discoveries and the development of tourist attractions, before examining how the resulting changes have affected local communities and Peru as a whole. At the end of the course, students will be encouraged to discuss the positive and negative impacts of tourism on Peru's current social and economic situation.

### Cultural Tourism in Cusco and Peru

**Area of study:** Tourism, Sociology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

This course addresses the cultural aspect of tourism, which is remarkably rich in the Peruvian context. The aim is to equip students with the concepts that will help them to better understand this aspect of tourism, while introducing them to a broad range of cultural attractions: archaeological sites, museums, local customs and traditions, art and festivities. Students are guided towards a deeper understanding of cultural tourism through a number of field trips in Cusco and the surrounding region.





## Participatory and Immersion Tourism in Peru

**Area of study:** Tourism, Sociology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

This course analyzes the experience of tourism in Peru in terms of cultural immersion. It addresses the best known practices of cultural immersion, offering an insight into the life of those native Andean communities facing a future in which tourism will constitute a new economic resource. Students will be guided towards a better understanding of the differences between classic tourism activities and cultural immersion, discovering how tourism has been integrated into the life of Andean communities. Visits to indigenous communities form an essential part of the learning process. At the end of the course, students will be encouraged to propose improvements to cultural immersion activities, based on their own experience.

## Sustainable Tourism

**Area of study:** Tourism, Sociology, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies  
3 credits / 48 contact hours  
**Taught in:** English

The tourism industry is a major player in the world economy and, more recently, in the Peruvian economy. This course gives students a better understanding of the positive and negative impacts of the tourism industry, through real life situations involving protected areas, local community participation and politics. At the end of the course, students will be encouraged to propose their own sustainable solution for a current tourism related issue.



## Gastronomy



### History of Peruvian Cuisine

**Area of study:** Gastronomy, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies

3 credits / 48 contact hours

**Taught in:** English

In this course students will learn about the importance of ancestral knowledge dating back to the varied and healthy diet of the Incas and earlier Andean cultures, the remarkable biodiversity of native crops such as corn and potatoes, and about cooking and food preservation methods. They will also gain insight into the impact of Old World influences following the arrival of the Spanish, and in the wake of a series of migrations throughout the 19th and the 20th centuries. Field trips will enable students to explore the rich cultural history underpinning Peru's dynamic gastronomic tradition.

### Gastronomic Tourism in Cusco and Peru

**Area of study:** Gastronomy, Tourism, Latin American Studies, Peruvian Studies

3 credits / 48 contact hours

**Taught in:** English

Tourism in Peru is about more than archaeological heritage and the Amazon rainforest. Peru is home to a vibrant culture which has so much to offer the rest of the world, including its fascinating gastronomy. During this course, students will have a chance to discover the contemporary significance of Peru's creative food culture, with its unique combination of styles inherited and adapted from both local and global sources. Peru's major gastronomic festivals, such as Mistura, will also be discussed. Students will learn about the traditional Cusco dishes prepared during specific local celebrations. And, of course, direct cultural experience will constitute an essential component of the course



# Customized and Faculty-Led Programs



USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco offers customized short-term programs designed to suit the specific needs and program ideas of our partner institutions. Prospective students can select the content of the program in accordance with their interests. In addition to the courses listed in this catalog, we can prepare customized courses by drawing upon our broad range of academic specialties. Custom-designed programs may include workshops, excursions, visits to museums and local institutions, guest speakers, cooking and dancing classes, and much more.

USIL-Cusco also offers facilities for the hosting of faculty-led study abroad programs on behalf of overseas universities, high schools and other educational institutions.



# Research Opportunities



USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco is pleased to announce the launch of its Resident Associate Researchers Network. If you are planning to travel to Peru for a short- or long-term research visit, you can elect to join our university community, free of charge, as a Resident Associate Researcher, a status which offers the following benefits:

1. Institutional support from USIL (letters of recommendation upon request).
2. The right to use our campus facilities: library, computer lab, Wi-Fi.
3. Logistical orientation and advice from our staff.
4. Institutional contacts (upon request).
5. Support in case of emergency.

Researchers wanting to feel at home during their visit to Cusco are most welcome at USIL.

To be accepted as part of our network, you should send us your application file at least two weeks prior to your visit, and include the following documents in digital form:

1. Application and letter of introduction from your home university / institution.
2. Research project summary.
3. CV.

Contact e-mail:  
[vtyuleneva@usil.edu.pe](mailto:vtyuleneva@usil.edu.pe), or [studyincusco@usil.edu.pe](mailto:studyincusco@usil.edu.pe)

Your file will be evaluated by USIL's academic authorities, and upon approval you will receive a letter of acceptance.

In addition to the free of charge network membership outlined above, we can also offer tutorship/supervision services for your research project, provided by our own teaching staff at professional rates.

There is no limit on research areas for those seeking to benefit free of charge from the institutional support offered by membership of our network; however, we recommend that those seeking our tutorship/supervision services limit their fields to the range of specialties covered by our Center (check the list of our courses and the profiles of our teaching staff).

The USIL Resident Associate Researchers Network is mostly aimed at postgraduate students and experienced researchers; however, undergraduate students who submit solid and well-sustained academic proposals may on occasion be accepted as Junior Associate Researchers.

Upon conclusion of their research visit to Cusco, Resident Associate Researchers will be asked to share the final results of their work with USIL or, in cases of ongoing research, to submit a written report describing the preliminary results of the research conducted in Cusco. USIL will issue a certificate confirming the researcher's membership of our network.



# Volunteering and Service Learning



We offer our international students in Cusco a wide range of options combining the learning process with social responsibility activities designed to meet the needs of the local community, while at the same time contributing to the professional training of young people. Being a volunteer means donating time and energy out of a sense of social responsibility and for the benefit of people in the community, rather than in expectation of financial reward. Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy which combines meaningful community service with instruction and reflection intended to enrich the learning experience, while imparting notions of civic responsibility and working to strengthen communities.

Our volunteering (short and medium term) and service learning (medium and long term) programs are based upon a series of projects divided into the following six areas:

## Intercultural Education

The goal of intercultural education is to improve the quality of education received by vulnerable populations. Our main field of action is the teaching of English to children, with the aim of improving their conversation skills and reading comprehension.

## Environmental Care

Our environmental awareness, reforestation, waste control and animal protection projects, together with other initiatives, seek to sustainably preserve the environment over the long term.

## Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage is a fundamentally important aspect of Cusco life. The city has been recognized as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO and the Peruvian government. AT USIL, we have formed strategic alliances with key partners for the protection and conservation of the region's cultural heritage, through projects focused on ways of raising awareness among the general public.

## Crafts and Local Traditions

We work with institutions and organizations dedicated to the revitalization of local traditions and the promotion of all aspects of local arts and crafts activities.

## Health and Social Welfare

Our health and wellbeing projects seek to contribute to improvements in the health of the most vulnerable sectors of the local population.

## Construction in Marginal Rural and Urban Areas

We work to improve quality of life in marginal rural and urban areas through activities such as building gardens, greenhouses, recreation areas, schools and community kitchens.



## Other Activities



- ▶ Salsa lessons
- ▶ Cooking lessons
- ▶ Participation in local festivals



# Our Teaching Staff

## Carolina Caceres



**Courses:** Spanish Language, Written Communication

Carolina holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Cusco's San Antonio Abad University, where she majored in Language and Literature, and a degree in Psychology from Cusco's Andina University, as well as a Master's degree in Higher Education from Cusco's San Antonio Abad University, and has completed a specialist course in teaching Spanish as a foreign language at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP-Lima). Carolina has worked as an academic coordinator and Spanish teacher with a number of Spanish language schools, and has taught Spanish, written communication and conversational Spanish at universities in Michigan (USA), Hebei (China) and Cusco (Peru). She has worked with the USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco since 2013.

## Kris Cardenas



**Courses:** Spanish Language; Latin American Literature

Kris has been teaching the Spanish language and Latin American Literature for more than ten years. She holds a Master's degree in teaching Spanish as a second language from the University of Cantabria, Spain, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Education, having majored in Spanish and Literature. Kris is Peruvian, loves traveling, books, art and languages, and really enjoys her work.

## Alberto Chara



**Courses:** Contemporary Society and Culture of Peru; Institutions in Peruvian Society; Economy and Sociology of Tourism; Cultural Tourism in Cusco and Peru; Participatory and Immersion Tourism in Peru; Introduction to Volunteering; Service Learning and Social Responsibility in Cusco

Alberto holds degrees in Latin American History, Tourism and Culture, having majored in Peruvian Society. He received his Bachelor's degree in Tourism in Peru before continuing his education in Spain, where he gained a Master's degree in Tourism and Management and Latin American History. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Higher Education. His research interests are centered on anthropology and the sociology of modern Peruvian society.

## Angelita Contreras



**Courses:** History of Peruvian Cuisine; Gastronomic Tourism in Cusco and Peru

Angelita holds a Master's degree in Business from USIL, where she majored in Marketing, and a Bachelor's degree in Tourism from Cusco's San Antonio Abad University, as well as diplomas for postgraduate studies in Public Investment Projects, Tourism Management and Administration. She is fluent in English, Quechua, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, and enjoys teaching. In addition to her work with the USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco, she is also Head of the Department of Tourism Administration and the Hospitality Industry at the Khipu Institute. She has worked in the travel and hospitality industry for seven years, and loves traveling and learning from her experiences as a traveler.



## Luis Figueroa



**Courses:** Photography

Luis is a photographer with seventeen years' professional experience, a co-founder of the local camera club "Foto Club Cusco" (2004), and co-author of the project "Machu Picchu, Cultura Viva" which focuses on living Andean heritage. His work has been exhibited both individually and as part of group shows in Cusco, Lima, Miami (USA), Lausanne (Switzerland), Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and Terni (Italy), and been published in several books and magazines.

## Nancy Florez



**Courses:** Quechua Language

Nancy was born in the village of Pucyura near Cusco, and Quechua is her native language. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Education and Law and is currently studying for a Master's degree in Higher Education and Administration. Over the past four years she has taught a number of courses, including the Quechua language, at the Technological University of the Andes, the Cusco Music Institute and the USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco. She is the author of the highly original Quechua course she teaches.

## Laura Jara



**Courses:** Spanish Language

Laura was born in Cusco and holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Cusco's San Antonio Abad University, and a Master's Degree in Education Management. She has considerable experience of teaching Spanish as a foreign language in a number of language schools in Cusco, and has worked with the USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco since 2011, where she enjoys sharing her knowledge about language and culture with foreign students.

## Miguel Landa



**Courses:** Inca Architecture, Cultural Heritage Conservation

Miguel is a Cusco architect with more than fifteen years' experience in heritage protection and the conservation of Inca roads, archaeological sites and colonial-era churches in and around Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. He has worked with leading local government institutions focused on heritage management, including the Municipality of Cusco and the Cusco office of Peru's Ministry of Culture. He is familiar with the educational system of the United States, having worked as a lecturer on Inca architecture with several North American institutions, including the University of Notre Dame.



## Oscar Ortega



**Courses:** Biodiversity of Peru, Andean Nutrition, Healing & Shamanism in Andean and Amazonian Cultures, Sustainable Tourism

Oscar graduated from Cusco's San Antonio Abad University as an Agricultural Engineer and holds a Master of Science Degree in Agronomy and Horticulture from the University of California at Davis. He has been a university professor for more than seven years, teaching both in Spanish and English. His main fields of expertise are: Biodiversity, Climate Change Adaptation and Indigenous Knowledge, Environmental Studies and Biostatistics. He also works as a researcher at the NGO IDSA-ANTARKI, focusing mainly on food security and the biodiversity conservation of Andean crops in rural communities.

## Mario Osorio



**Courses:** Introduction to Communication, Intercultural Communication, Communication for Development, History of Latin American Cinema, Communication Psychology

Mario graduated in Communication, Publicity and Advertisement from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP-Lima). He began his career working in advertising agencies, as well as for television and media companies such as Media Networks and Cable Mágico. He holds a Master's degree in Documentary Filmmaking from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where he filmed his first documentary, "For One Eye", which was shown at several film festivals in Spain, and has recently completed his first full-length documentary: "The City of Padlocks". He has worked on a number of social projects and runs his own production company, "La Llama Producciones".

## Vera Tyuleneva



**Courses:** History and Culture of the Incas; Art and Design in Cusco

Vera was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, and has lived and worked in Cusco since 1999. She graduated in History and Art History from the Saint Petersburg State University and received her Master's degree in Anthropology from the European University at Saint Petersburg. She holds a PhD in History and Andean Studies from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP-Lima). Her main areas of interest include relations between the Andean region and the Amazon lowlands during the late pre-colonial and early colonial period, as well as the contemporary art of Cusco. She has served as Director of the USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco since 2016.

## Maria Zarate



**Courses:** Spanish Language

Maria was born in Cusco and graduated in Business Management from Cusco's Andina University. She is currently studying for a Master's degree in Educational Psychology. She has worked in a number of Cusco's private institutions and Spanish language schools, and has been teaching Spanish as a foreign language with the USIL International Center for Studies and Research - Cusco for eight years. Her work has brought her considerable professional and personal satisfaction and reinforced her belief in the enormous potential of cultural and social diversity.

# Our Administrative and Support Staff



- ▶ **Dr. Vera Tyuleneva,**  
Director
- ▶ **Monica Aparicio,**  
Academic Coordinator
- ▶ **Sonia Ortiz,**  
Administrative Assistant
- ▶ **Pablo Irrarazabal,**  
Marketing & Technical Assistant
- ▶ **Bertha Ccama,**  
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- ▶ **Jose Luis Cadena,**  
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