



Graduate and
Professional Studies

The Newport MFA Havana, Cuba Residency

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Apply by September 30, 2022, Program runs January 7 - January 15, 2023

Faculty Leader: Tim Weed

The residency will take place in the magical time capsule city of Havana, with an itinerary that combines literary learning with active exploration of Cuba's fascinating cultural scene, including a dynamic, off-the-beaten track exploration of the "real" Cuba, with its unique cultural, historical, artistic, and literary legacy. Participants will choose a focus from among three possible tracks: Writing, History & Society, Arts & Culture.

Program Highlights

- ⇒ Immerse yourself in living history as you explore Havana's vibrant neighborhoods on foot and by bicycle taxi
- ⇒ Connect with Cuban artists, dancers, scholars, and entrepreneurs through a fascinating array of museum and studio visits, music and dance rehearsals, historic sites, cigar factories, organic farms, community arts projects, and other daily activities
- ⇒ Visit literary landmarks from Hemingway's three decades in Cuba, including the author's home, the Finca Vigía, and La Terraza, which is the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*
- ⇒ Sample Havana's famous nightlife, including *paladares* (privately owned restaurants) and open-air bars hosting some of the city's many world-class musicians
- ⇒ Spend three days in the quiet beachside village of Playa Larga, home to azure waters for snorkeling and the Caribbean's largest protected mangrove area





Program Elements:

Part of each day will be dedicated to the program focus of your choice: Writing, History & Society, or Arts & Culture. In addition to these specialized activities the whole group will attend lectures on the history of Cuba, visit artists' studios and galleries, participate in music & dance rehearsals and lessons, and explore many of the city's fascinating and lesser-known cultural hot-spots, including synagogues, neighborhood produce markets, Santería temples, and much more.

We'll explore several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Caribbean's largest colonial fortress, and legendary Finca Vigía, where Ernest Hemingway lived and wrote for more than two decades.

In addition to a full daily schedule of arts and cultural exploration, we'll have many opportunities to sample the cuisine in many of Cuba's famous paladares (officially sanctioned restaurants located in private homes), and, of course, to experience Cuba's justly renowned music scene.

About Cuba, Havana, and the Newport MFA

The largest landmass in the Caribbean, Cuba is a Spanish-speaking country best known as a relic of the Cold War and the sole remaining Communist state in the Western Hemisphere. However, there is a great deal more to Cuba than its political history. It is an extremely safe place to travel, has an extraordinarily high rate of literacy, and boasts one of the most advanced medical systems in Latin America. It is renowned for pristine national parks, white sand beaches, and the incredibly rich cultural heritage that continues to enliven the plazas and neighborhoods of the colorful and contradictory capital city, Havana.

In this unique, picturesque, culturally rich city, ingeniously preserved American cars from the 1950s coexist with monumental billboards and statues celebrating figures from the Cuban Revolution, while an unparalleled concentration of architecture from the 16th to the early 20th centuries creates an atmosphere of down-at-the-heels elegance found nowhere else in the world. The traditional African folk religion of Santería is alive and thriving, and the country's rich cuisine has experienced a renaissance in *paladares*, intimate private restaurants located in government-licensed homes. Cubans are extremely friendly and well disposed toward North American visitors, and their exuberance and passion for living finds expression in the rhythms of the country's world-famous music and dance.

The linkages between Havana and Newport are long and surprising, mostly having to do with Cuba's pivotal sugar trade, which involved many Rhode Island merchants – and in fact some of the cobblestones in the World Heritage Site of Old Havana are reputed to have come to the island as ballast stones from Rhode Island merchant ships.

Accommodations/Meals

We will stay in historic, centrally-located lodgings an easy walk from Old Havana (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the Avenida de Maceo, Havana's iconic seaside promenade. Rooms are double occupancy, single supplement \$500. To spend one residency in Havana, the program carries a fee (in addition to regular tuition, room & board) to cover the ground costs including lodging, transportation, instruction, guides, visits, activities, and most meals. Participants will be responsible for their own round trip airfare to Havana, a few meals on their own to allow time for independent exploration, and personal expenses including communication, nights out, and tips.

Program Fee

MFA Participants:

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Non-MFA participants:

- Room, board, local travel and fees in Cuba: \$

Included in this fee:

Transportation in Cuba

Lodging, breakfasts and all but a few meals

Local Experts and a full time, English speaking Cuban guide

Official excursions, entrance fees and related tips

@ Travel Insurance

Not Included in this fee:

Course tuition fee (MFA students)

Flight to Cuba

Passport fee - if applicable

Visa fee

A few meals

Personal expenses (recreation, tips, snacks, other personal items)

Personal travel / free time

Payment Schedule

\$1,950 Deposit due by September 30, 2022. Payment can be made to the Business Office by check, credit card, over the phone or by using the online payment portal. Final Payment due by Dec 15, 2022.

Application Instructions

Complete [online application](#) including uploaded photo and copy of passport picture page. Pay deposit. Applications due Sept 30, 2022.

Application Link

salve.edu/the-newport-mfa/cuba-application

