

## **Teaching Languages Across Cultures: Experiences as a Language Assistant**

**By María Gracia Ceballos Paz**

This presentation explores my experience as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) at Northwest College in Wyoming and as a Language Assistant (assistante de langue) in Lycée Claude-Fauriel in France. The aim is to focus on the similarities and differences of the programs considering educational and cultural contexts as well as the influence of students' first language when learning Spanish.

Based on personal experience, I describe my responsibilities as an FLTA at NWC, including teaching Spanish, advising the Spanish Club and being my country's cultural ambassador. Then, I compare this role with my work in France focusing on the education system, classroom dynamics and teaching practices.

Finally, program requirements will be mentioned as well as practical advice for those who are interested in applying for cultural exchanges abroad. I want to share my journey as both experiences have contributed to my growth as an educator and deepened my understanding of language teaching not only as a pedagogical but also as a cultural practice.