The city and the region: Located in Castilla-La Mancha, the region where Don Quijote and Sancho Panza had many of their adventures, Toledo features winding cobbled streets and breathtaking architecture. Founded in the pre-Roman era on a bend in the Tagus River, Toledo has been an important intellectual and political center for a succession of civilizations including the Romans (who ruled from 193 B.C. to 410 A.D.), the Visigoths (410 A.D. to 711 A.D.), the Muslims (711 A.D. to 1085 A.D), and the Spanish. Toledo has also been home to a vibrant Jewish community, the culture of which can still be seen in its picturesque neighborhood in the city’s Old Quarter. Toledo’s artistic masterpieces are thus the product of heterogeneous civilizations and three major religions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Toledo was designated an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.

The university: The University of Castilla-La Mancha was founded in 1979 and was sanctioned by law as a state university in 1982. Although the main governing unit is located in Toledo, other university centers operate in the regional cities of Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca, Almadén, Talavera de la Reina, and Puertollano. All in all, the University of Castilla-La Mancha is home to more than thirty distinct colleges, schools, and institutes. Toledo boasts the Colleges of Legal and Social Sciences, the College of Environmental Science, Schools of Nursing and Physiotherapy, Industrial Technical Engineering, Teacher Training, and the College of Humanities, whose faculty offer instruction in Spanish language, literature, and culture.

Programs available to UTM students: Intensive immersion courses in Spanish language and culture are given each summer to UTM students by native speakers on the university faculty in the newly remodeled San Pedro Márter Building, located in the heart of Toledo. This “study abroad” program lasts four weeks and will run in 2009 from June 27 to July 25. The “Don Quijote” Package (homestay with a Spanish family) costs $4,475 USD; the “Sancho Panza” Package (stay in the student residence hall) costs $4,275 USD. These prices include round-trip airfare from Nashville to Madrid, transportation from Barajas Airport in Madrid to Toledo and back, tuition, room and board, travel insurance, cultural package (with two excursions and optional classes), and access to university facilities. The program of study includes courses in Spanish conversation, grammar, and Spanish literature for advanced students. There are four levels of instruction (Basic, Lower Intermediate, Upper Intermediate, and Advanced) and each class has a maximum of twelve students. Upon completion of the program, students may transfer six to eight credits from UCLM to UTM. For more information, please contact Dr. Daniel Nappo, Chair, Department of Modern Foreign Languages, 427G Humanities, ext. 7420 or 7428, dnappo@utm.edu, or the Center for Global Studies, 124 Gooch Hall, ext. 1023.