Quechua, a Latin American indigenous language family, is spoken by peoples of the Central Andes Mountains in South America. While it is known as the language spoken in the Inca Empire, it is also the most widely spoken indigenous language in the Americas today, with 8-10 million speakers. Most speakers live in the Peruvian Andes, but it is also spoken in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, and Ecuador, where it is known as Kichwa.

The Latin American & Iberian Institute offers Quechua language instruction through a partnership with Centro Tinku, based in Cusco, Peru. Centro Tinku instructors are native Quechua speakers and teach using real time distance-learning video conferencing. Andean culture, history and modern-day life are at the center of Quechua language instruction at UNM. In order to take Quechua, students must have at least an intermediate level of Spanish. This class is offered thanks to the generous support from the US/Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (UISFL) grant.

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