



Spanish

Study languages: Make the world your place

“Learning a language at Otago has been an invaluable opportunity. A language is so much more than grammar and vocabulary. It enables you to experience an entire culture, history and society, and to learn to view and appreciate the world from a completely new perspective.”

Georgette Philp
BA(Hons) (Spanish)

Spanish is spoken by more than 500 million people in over 22 countries, including peninsular Spain, most of Central America, the Caribbean, South America and even in Equatorial Guinea, in Africa. Spanish is also spoken in several countries where it is not the official language, such as Trinidad, Aruba, Curacao and Belize. About 60 million people speak Spanish in the USA, where it is the second language, and in the last decade, Spanish has become a popular language in New Zealand due to immigration patterns and evolving commercial relations.

Spanish language and culture courses at Otago provide a useful tool to those seeking an international career. Proficiency in Spanish is a marketable skill, especially in international commerce, banking, travel, the media, teaching, and in government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

0800 80 80 98 | otago.ac.nz | txt 866 | university@otago.ac.nz



Why study Spanish?

Language specialists are constantly in demand in the modern world of global travel and communication. As New Zealand continues to strengthen its international relationships, there will be a need for Spanish-speaking graduates to represent New Zealand's interests in the Spanish-speaking world.

Learning a language broadens horizons. The University's exchange programme enables you to embark on an adventure with unforgettable experiences abroad. Living for several months in a country thousands of miles from home gives a boost to your confidence and valuable first-hand knowledge and understanding of another culture.

No background required

You can study Spanish at any level. If you have studied Spanish at school or elsewhere, you will be able to build upon your knowledge and skills, and the Spanish programme will determine which paper will best suit your level of Spanish.

Career opportunities

With Spanish in your background, you can carry your language skills into the fields of planning and consultancy, information sciences, journalism, publishing and advertising, finance and banking, tourism and hospitality and all levels of the education system.

Depending on your choice of papers, you will be able to offer specialised skills in dual-language business management or the literature, politics, society and culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish at Otago

Spanish is taught through the communicative approach, which emphasises your production skills in the language you are learning. You will have many opportunities to improve your speaking and comprehension skills using the latest text, audio, video and internet resources, including regular screenings of recent Spanish-language movies. You can practise in a more social setting during our Spanish Club events.

The University of Otago has a collaboration agreement with the Spanish Ministry of Education which means our students have priority in the language-assistance programme in Spain where they can choose to study for either half a year or a full year.

Apart from language courses, you can also choose papers that will give you perspectives on the social values and cultural life of the many countries around the world where Spanish is spoken. Some of these courses explore the social history of a particular period; others focus on cultural specifics such as cinema, literature and the arts.

Degrees

Spanish is available as both a major and a minor subject of the Bachelor of Arts programme. Spanish can be combined with another BA major or form part of a double degree. We offer the Diploma in Language for students who major in other subjects. A minor is also available.

The major in Spanish requires 10 Spanish language and culture papers, plus an additional 10 papers either from within Languages and/or from other programmes. You can also study Spanish as part of the

major in Global Studies or the major in Tourism, Languages and Cultures (TLC), which both have language acquisition as their core component. If you are considering teaching Spanish, a minor in Linguistics can help you understand the mechanics of languages and how we learn them.

The minor in Spanish Language or Spanish consists of five Spanish papers. The minor can be combined with any Bachelor of Arts, Commerce, Theology or Science degree.

The Diploma in Language, endorsed in Spanish, comprises two 100-level papers, three 200-level papers and two 300-level papers.

The Bachelor of Arts with Honours requires an extra year of study; you can go for one semester to a university in Spain or Latin America to experience language and culture papers taught in the target language and embedded in the cultural environment. Students who are interested in further research in Spanish can join our Master of Arts or PhD programmes, or undertake a jointly supervised postgraduate degree with other departments in the University. Spanish papers may be taken for interest, and will count towards your degree.

Student exchange

Otago has established exchange relationships with universities in Spain and Latin America. You may attend one of these institutions for a semester or two, as part of your Otago degree. You will pay the standard tuition fees to Otago and complete your qualification within the same time-frame, as if you had never been away. Scholarships are available and you'll continue to receive StudyLink loans and allowances.

PROFILE

Chloe Mackenzie

BA, PGDipArts, MA (Spanish)

I've always been a bit of a language geek. As a child I'd make up worlds and languages to go with them and record the words in a little notebook with their English translations. I chose Spanish at Otago because I wanted to study a language that is practical and interesting. With over 20 countries speaking Spanish worldwide it seemed a logical choice for future work options, and a great way to gain insights into various countries and cultures.

People often think learning a language is all about vocabulary and grammar but language learning never happens in isolation; it unlocks cultural insights while enriching your understanding of the world and its people. My interest in the culture of Spanish-speaking countries was motivation for postgraduate study. I found the literature and artistic movements of the Spanish-speaking world captivating.

The honour's year combined a dissertation with research in a Spanish-speaking country and the idea of travelling as part of my education really appealed. I travelled to Chile and was fascinated by the role street art and murals play in the local communities. This led to a master's programme

with Latin American muralism as my topic. I also received the Fanny Evans Postgraduate Women's scholarship, which helped fund my research and provided a big incentive to continue my studies to master's level.

The biggest highlight of my study was a trip to Mexico City to see the murals that were the focus of my master's thesis. Murals in Mexico date back to times long before the Spanish conquest, however, most of them were painted after the Mexican Revolution to promote unity and celebrate Mexico's indigenous heritage. The murals are huge and luminous in colour. Seeing them in person was an experience I will never forget.

I plan to continue using skills gained in my studies at Otago to help migrants and former refugees in my community and inform my doctoral research. Once I finish my PhD I hope to return to a Spanish-speaking country to either teach in a university or help with community peacebuilding initiatives. A core part of my studies has been the often overlooked value of the arts to humanity and I know this will be a theme that will continue to influence my journey.



For questions about
Spanish
otago.ac.nz/spanish

