

# INFORMATION SHEET SPANISH



## Spanish Languages Take You Places

El Parque Güell, Barcelona

“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; learning to view and appreciate the world from a completely new perspective.”

Georgette Philp BA(Hons) Spanish

Spanish is spoken by more than 400 million people across all five continents in over 22 countries, including peninsular Spain, most of Middle America and South America and in the United States, where it is the main second language. Spanish is therefore a particularly relevant option for you to consider at Otago.

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

### YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

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## 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.

## Background required

No previous knowledge of Spanish is required.

## 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.

## Student Exchange

Otago has established exchange relationships with universities in Spain and Latin America. If your marks average B or better, you may qualify to attend one of these institutions for a semester or two. Honours students are able to benefit even more with a semester of immersion, in-country study. You pay only your New Zealand fees, and complete your

qualification within the same time-frame as if you had never been away. Competitive scholarships are available to support students on exchange.

## 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.

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.

Every year the Spanish programme grants an award to the top student studying towards a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Spanish.

Apart from language courses, you can also choose papers which 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.

These courses reflect the varied research interests of the staff in the Spanish programme: Latin American narrative, poetry, micro fiction, linguistics, historiography of linguistics, Spanish variation, Latin American and Spanish 19th century literature and 20th century popular culture.

## Majors, minors and diplomas

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 Spanish Language or the Diploma in Spanish Language and Culture for students who major in other subjects. Minors in Spanish Language or Spanish Culture are available too.

**The major:** For a BA majoring in Spanish you must complete 10 Spanish language and culture papers, plus an additional 10 papers either from within the department and/or from other departments. 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 Culture comprises either five Spanish Language or five Spanish Culture papers. The minor can be combined with any Bachelor of Arts, Commerce, Theology or Science degree.

**The Diploma in Spanish Language** comprises seven Spanish language papers, two at 100 level, three at 200 level and two at 300 level.

**The Diploma in Spanish Language and Culture** comprises seven Spanish language and culture papers, at least two at 300 level and a combination at 100 and 200 level.

## BA Honours, MA or PhD

BA 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 MA or PhD programmes or undertake a jointly supervised postgraduate degree with other departments in the University.

## PROFILE

### Chloe Bailie BA(Hons) Spanish, DipLang, French

My love for languages started in high school and I've studied Spanish (and French) since then. Well, now it has almost come full-circle; I'm studying to be a secondary school Spanish and French teacher! I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Spanish in 2013, one of the most enriching learning experiences in my years of study.

Speaking another language opens up so many great opportunities for learning, communicating and expressing ourselves, and the cultures that go hand in hand with the Spanish spoken in different places are captivating to learn about and experience.

During the time I undertook my Spanish major I learnt about countless intriguing people, places, histories, literature, social and cultural phenomena from the inspiring teaching staff of the Spanish Department, and the fundamental part that brought it all together was Spanish. It is a language of rhyme and passion, embedded in the vibrant Hispanic cultures in Spain and Latin America.

The Department of Languages and Cultures supported my Honours exchange in 2013, when I spent the first semester living and studying Spanish literature in Madrid, before coming back to write my dissertation (in Spanish!). The experience was amazing and unforgettable; the personal growth that comes from exchanges and travel is invaluable, as is getting to know yourself and others in another language.

Through learning Spanish I have found such a deep appreciation for the beauty of words and communication around the world, but also that which is expressed with something more than words: culture.



For questions about Spanish  
[www.otago.ac.nz/spanish](http://www.otago.ac.nz/spanish)

