

**SPANISH LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE: BASIC, INDEPENDENT
AND PROFICIENT USER**



**UNIVERSIDAD
DE ALMERÍA**

**JULY 1st
JULY 26th**

**11 ECTS
80 hours**



**A SEA OF KNOWLEDGE
STUDY ABROAD**

INTRODUCTION

The new perspectives in foreign languages teaching methodology pay special attention to the presence of cultural issues in the programmes, according to the assumption that learning a language without reference to its community is a difficult task and not very enriching. The communicative approach requires the inclusion of cultural aspects to develop the extra linguistic competence.

Our courses offer the students a programme in which the cultural contents are used as a starting point to the presentation of the linguistic system. In this sense, each lesson, from the beginning, will introduce essential socio-cultural contents in order to satisfy immediate needs in the society in which students are immersed. These contents also act as conversation topics in socio-cultural discussion forums that go from the language to the culture and from the culture to the language.

The main objective of our courses is to make the student participate as an active element, where there is a total connection between the conversation and the culture. That is why the interest in our culture leads them to use the language as a work tool. With the purpose of making the most of the immersion context, all the modules will be taught in Spanish.

Coordinator:

María del Mar Vique Domene

MAIN GOALS

1. Progressing in the acquisition of the communicative competence
2. Awakening the interest in the knowledge of the people and the villages
3. Acquiring the four skills in an integrated way
4. Knowing the multiculturalism of the language
5. Correcting the most common mistakes of the Spanish learners when it comes to pronouncing the sounds of the Spanish language.
6. Using the oral and written language oral adequately at the corresponding level according to CEFR
7. Participating dynamically in speeches such as dialogues, interviews, expression of opinions, comments, and others that allow them to develop their oral production
8. Training the writing skill by means of a series of exercises that can be individual, in groups, inside or outside the classroom
9. Providing the student with the typical characteristics that define our identity through not only daily life aspects but also historical events, great Spanish leading figures and some works of art
10. Having a good command of the structures for both the comprehension and expression
11. Progressing in the acquisition of the communicative competence

CONTENT

Module A: Spanish Language

This module will consist in the practice of the linguistic functions, as well as the basic contents of the grammar and the lexicon that are necessary to be able to communicate in Spanish in different real-life situations. The objectives, contents and specific criteria for each group will be developed according to the levels of CEFR (to see reference level, please go to last page). The communicative skills practice will be focused on providing the students with the necessary tools in order to improve their comprehension and expression skills: listening comprehension, reading comprehension, oral expression and writing expression. The specific objectives are:

- Improving the writing skills
- Knowing the characteristics and standards of diverse types of texts
- Organising oral and written speeches correctly.
- Improving fluency
- Structuring an oral presentation appropriately
- Drawing the main and the secondary ideas from oral and written texts
- Finding specific information in oral and written texts
- Adapting the oral and written messages to the adequate register depending on the context
- Having a good command of the pragmatic resources corresponding to its level

Module B: Local and Spanish Culture

In the foreign language learning process, the knowledge of the culture of the target language community turns out to be of great interest from a communicative perspective, since there is a direct relationship between the cultural elements and the communicative performance of the language. Thus, it is fundamental to provide the students with a wide and integrated basis of cultural knowledge. The following topics on local cultural aspects will be addressed:

- Conventions in social relations (greetings and farewells, leisure and free time activities, etc.)
- What can you do in Almería? Get to know the province
- Spanish gastronomy (with special attention to Almería), typical dishes and bar culture.
- Parties and celebrations.
- Almería, land of cinema.
- Spain, a multilingual and multicultural country.

The objectives of this module will be:

- Learning vocabulary
- Understanding how the native speakers speak and interact with others
- Taking an interest in the current topics
- Developing the capacity of critical thinking that contrasts their reality with the one of the films they watch.

METHODOLOGY

The **communicative method** is the fundamental pillar of our programme. The students will do different activities in which functional, cultural and grammatical contents will be integrated harmoniously. Our main objective is to enable the students to establish a real communication (both oral and written) with other Spanish speakers. All the modules will be taught in Spanish. Module B may include explanations in English if the needs of the students so require.

REQUIREMENTS

No prerequisites needed, except for a diagnostic test. At the beginning of the course there will be a diagnostic test for each module in order to establish both the student and group profile. By using this placement or level test, and/or the co-evaluation with the teachers, the groups will be divided into levels.

ACADEMIC VISITS & NETWORKING

- Conducting an **on-campus survey**. This activity will allow students to interact with other people who study or work at the University while practicing the language content studied.
- **Language exchange** with other students of the language center (if possible).
- Visit to the **Heritage Interpretation Center**. Through this off-campus visit, students will learn about the cultural heritage of Almeria from the Middle Ages to the present day. During this visit, students will carry out activities through which they will learn vocabulary and work in collaboration with their classmates.



ASSESSMENT

Continuous evaluation will be carried out throughout the course through direct observation of the tasks performed by the students in class and a final test based on the contents of the course. The final grade will be between 0 (minimum grade) and 10 (maximum grade).

It will be also necessary to attend at least 80% of the face-to-face lessons and the participation and involvement of the students in class will be assessed positively.

LECTURERS

Prof. María del Mar Vique Domene

Degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of Almeria. Master's Degree in Teaching Secondary Education and in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language. She has also taken several training courses. She has several years of experience in teaching Spanish as a foreign language. Examiner and head of the examining board at the Cervantes Institute.

Prof. José Manuel Miralles García

Bachelor's Degree in Humanities and Master's Degree in Linguistics. He has taught Spanish in several countries. He also teaches English and German. Examiner of the Cervantes Institute.

Prof. Isabel Ponte Ortega

Degree in Art History and Master in teaching Spanish as a foreign language. She has also taken several courses for teaching foreign languages and has participated in talks and colloquiums to share her teaching experience. Spanish teacher with several years of experience. Examiner of the Cervantes Institute.

Prof. María del Mar Rodríguez Ojeda

Bachelor's Degree in English Studies and Master's Degree in Secondary Education. She has worked as a Spanish teacher in the UK. She is also an English teacher. She has taken several training courses in didactic programming and the use of ICT.

Prof. Manuel Ferrando Caro

Degree in Humanities. Master in Secondary Education and Master in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language. Spanish and English teacher with several years of experience. He has worked as a teacher in several countries, including the United States, Romania and Spain.



