



UNIVERSIDAD
DE ALMERÍA

Spanish Language & Culture: Basic, Independent and Proficient Users

JUNE 29 - JULY 24 | 11 ECTS | 80 HOURS



A SEA OF KNOWLEDGE
STUDY ABROAD



Table of Contents

Introduction	03
Main Goals	04
Contents	05
Methodology	06
Requirements	07
Academic Visits & Networking	07
Assessment	07
Lecturers	08



Introduction

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

Our courses offer students a program in which cultural contents are used as a starting point to the presentation of new language. In this sense, each lesson, from the very beginning, will introduce essential socio-cultural concepts in order to satisfy immediate needs in the society in which students are immersed. These types of content 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 actively, creating a total connection between the conversation and the culture. That is why an interest in our culture leads them to use the language as a working tool. With the purpose of making the most of this immersive context, all the modules will be taught in Spanish.

Coordinator

María del Mar Vique Domene

Main Goals

- Advancing in the development of communicative competence.
- Cultivating interest in the culture, traditions, and way of life of Spanish-speaking communities.
- Acquiring the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in an integrated manner.
- Understanding and appreciating the multicultural nature of the Spanish language.
- Effectively using spoken and written language at the appropriate CEFR level.
- Using the spoken and written language adequately at the corresponding level according to CEFR.
- Actively participating in interactive activities such as dialogues, interviews, opinion sharing, and discussions to enhance spoken production.
- Developing writing skills through various exercises, both individual and collaborative, conducted inside and outside the classroom.
- Introducing students to defining characteristics of Spanish identity, including daily life, historical events, notable figures, and works of art.
- Mastering grammatical structures to improve both comprehension and expression.



Contents

Module A: Spanish Language

This module will consist of 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](#). 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, spoken and written expression. The specific objectives are:

- Improving writing skills
- Covering the characteristics and standards of diverse types of texts
- Organising spoken and written language correctly
- Improving fluency
- Structuring an oral presentation appropriately
- Drawing the main & secondary ideas from spoken lang. and written texts
- Finding specific information in spoken language and written texts
- Adapting spoken & written messages to the adequate register and context
- Having a strong command of pragmatic resources
- Integrating the four communicative skills

Module B: Local & Spanish Culture

In the foreign language learning process, 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 covered:

- Conventions in social relations (greetings and farewells, leisure and free time activities, etc.)
- What you can do in Almería. Getting to know the province
- Spanish gastronomy (with special focus on 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 native speakers speak and interact with others
- Taking an interest in the current affairs
- Developing critical thinking capacity that contrasts their reality with the ones in the films they watch

Methodology

The course methodology will include academic visits, lectures, talks and others.

Requirements



No prerequisites needed, except for a level 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

On-campus survey

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 covered.

Language exchange

A language exchange with other students of the Language Center (if possible).

Cultural 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 the 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

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 as well as having many years experience in teaching Spanish as a foreign language. Also an examiner and head of the examining board at the Cervantes Institute.

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 and is an examiner for the Cervantes Institute.

Rosario Lisciandro

Rosario Lisciandro holds a PhD in Languages and Cultures: Theory and Practice of Discourse from the University of Córdoba, with a thesis on the teaching of phraseological units in a foreign language (Italian and Spanish). He currently teaches Spanish, English and Italian as foreign languages at the Language Centre of the University of Almería, where he is responsible for PLIDA certification and is a DELE examiner. He is also a lecturer in Spanish Language in the Department of Philology at the same university. He is the author of publications on the teaching of phraseology, contrastive phraseology (Spanish, Italian and English) and innovative methodologies in foreign language teaching.



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