Spanish

See also Modern Languages page 130

Degrees all available With or Without Integrated Year Abroad

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours degree)
Spanish

MA (Joint Honours degrees)
Spanish and one of:

- Ancient History
- Arabic
- Art History
- Classics
- Comparative Literature
- Economics
- English
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- Greek
- History
- International Relations
- Italian
- Latin
- Management
- Mathematics
- Mediaeval History
- Modern Languages
- Modern History
- Middle East Studies
- Modern Languages
- Philosophy
- Russian
- Social
- Anthropology
- Theological Studies

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject? – No.

Why study Spanish here?

- Degree programmes that engage with the language, culture and history of 21 countries.
- A wide range of topics, from the early modern period to the twenty-first century.
- A lively and communicative approach to language teaching.
- A team of high-profile, internationally-recognised, skilled and research-active academics, with specialised language teachers.
- A friendly and dynamic learning environment with an active Student Hispanic Society.
- Spanish was ranked top in Scotland and seventh in the UK in the Complete University Guide 2017 (Iberian Languages).

Facilities and resources

The School has a Multimedia Centre with the latest electronic technology to enhance the learning and practice of oral and aural skills.

What will I study?

Spanish at St Andrews is taught as a world language and offers a broad and diversified experience in a structured degree programme. Together with the many transferable skills acquired the degree will open many professional doors not limited to the Hispanic world. The primary objective of all our courses is knowledge and precise usage of the language, as well as to develop intellectual and cultural competence and to acquire communicative skills which will be valuable in any career. You will also gain the ability to analyse and discuss critically, to present a reasoned argument and to use Information Technology. The building of a high level of competence in language skills is a priority in all modules, and you will be expected to write using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation in both Spanish and English.

Spanish itself is studied in many contexts, including journalism, history, commerce and entertainment, in addition to the rich and interesting forms it takes in literature and cinema. Language is, after all, a social and historical phenomenon and literature is a sensitive and imaginative record of how meaning has been communicated throughout Spanish-speaking communities, both past and present. Our studies aim to explore the great continuities and shifts within Spanish and Spanish American culture, from its early beginnings to the Spain and Latin America of today.
“I took up Spanish as a complete beginner in my first semester – four years later, I can’t imagine studying anything else! The Department is very welcoming and offers a huge range of modules, from literature to history, cinema and linguistics. I’ve been lucky enough to travel widely around the Hispanic world: I spent my third year working in Madrid, and recently volunteered in Peru thanks to the generosity of the Alex Richardson Award.”

Sarah (Leeds, West Yorkshire, England)

Spanish element of your Honours degree

First year (2 x 20-credit modules required)

Students with no previous knowledge of the language are offered an intensive study of the language together with the study of three carefully chosen texts and one film. You are also introduced to a varied programme of language work. A satisfactory pass in Spanish for Beginners 1 and Spanish for Beginners 2 gives access to second year modules.

Students who have an SQA Higher pass or GCE A-Level or GCSE (or equivalent) take Spanish Language and Texts 1 and progress to Spanish Language and Texts 2 in the second semester. The work includes comprehensiveness, formal grammatical study, written and spoken Spanish (with an emphasis on communicative skills); an introduction to literature and film.

Second year (at least 2 x 20-credit modules required)

The language element of the core modules represents a progression from first year, based on a wide variety of language exercises, and provision is made for former beginners’ special requirements. These elements are complemented by a focus on the nature and methodologies of literary analysis, expression and form in the theatre, the novel and poetry, and on defined periods using selected texts from the mediaeval and the Golden Age to the present day. Another module, available to all but recommended in particular for those intending to take Spanish at Honours level, focuses on the development of language and communicative skills through the analysis of films from the Spanish-speaking world.

Students may apply to go either to Spain or Latin America for a year after second year – see Study abroad below.

Honours – third and fourth years

(4 x 15-credit core language modules required and at least 8 other 15-credit modules required over 2 years)

In Honours we offer four consecutive and cumulative 15-credit language modules. There are a variety of additional Spanish optional modules in literature, language, linguistics, cinema and history which vary from year to year. In Senior Honours there is also the option of a supervised dissertation on a topic of your personal interest, and the possibility to take a practical broadly-based Communication and Teaching module.

Typical class sizes and teaching information

First year: lectures 50 - 100, seminars 12 - 15, language classes 12 - 15
Second year: lectures 50 - 70, seminars 12 - 15, language classes 12 - 15
Honours: lectures and seminars 10 - 20, language classes 10 - 12

Both Spanish language and literature are taught through a variety of lively and communicative methods all of which are student-centred and which encourage student participation. Our staff have designed most of the teaching materials. The literature component is taught through lectures and small seminar groups to establish a dialogue with the historical, political, and aesthetic preoccupations of the Spanish-speaking world.

Typical methods of assessment

All our modules are assessed by at least 40% coursework, with the balance of assessment made up either by further coursework, or written examinations, depending on the module.

Study abroad

Students who spend a year or a semester abroad gain valuable experience for life as well as for study, enhancing their ability to compete effectively for employment after graduation. Spanish Honours degrees With Integrated Year Abroad (WIYA) involve residence in Spain or in Latin America for the academic session between second and third years. UK students may apply for teaching placements in schools abroad through the British Council’s Language Assistantship scheme. Alternatively, you may organise a work placement with the approval of the Department. In 2017-2018, Spanish students may also participate in Study Abroad during the third year of the degree course (Junior Honours) as an exchange student at one of our Erasmus+ partners in Spain or at the University of Montevideo. All of these opportunities are competitive and are subject to successful completion of modules.

For further information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad

You may also apply to study abroad under the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 22.

Careers

Recent graduates have gone into areas such as teaching, journalism, law, international business, publishing and media, the civil service and NGOs. Many graduates pursue postgraduate study in languages and literatures, translation studies and teaching. Others study law, or information technology.

See also page 46 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.

Scholarships

Spanish prizes include:

• Colmenaros Prize for a first or second year student
• Alex Richardson Award for a second or third year summer project
• Douglas Gifford Latin American Travel Bursary by application.
• Alan Paterson Prize awarded to the most outstanding final year student in Spanish.
• Bernard Bentley Prize awarded to the best ab initio student in Spanish.