

Spanish



So, why Spanish?

- With some 400 million speakers, **Spanish** is the fourth most commonly spoken language in the world. Knowing how to speak Spanish will enable you to help others.
- There are reasons to learn language for language's sake.
- While Johann Wolfgang von Goethe may have been exaggerating when he said, "he who knows no foreign language, knows nothing of his own," it cannot be denied that by studying Spanish you will, without doubt, gain a better understanding of English. Spanish is what we call a "Romance" language, meaning that it is based on Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire. Many English words are also of Latin origin, and so when you learn vocabulary in Spanish, you will simultaneously be expanding your English vocabulary. You will also find that your understanding of the deep meaning of these Latin-based English words is greatly enhanced. Also, as you study the grammar of Spanish, you will notice how it is similar to English, as well as how it is different. This will raise your awareness of the grammar of your native language. Because Spanish is very nearly phonetically perfect, you can look at almost any word and immediately know exactly how to pronounce it. This characteristic makes Spanish one of the easiest languages to learn. And, when it comes to learning a third language, such as French or Italian, already knowing Spanish will be a huge advantage because these languages, too, are "Romance" languages.

Course Content & Learning Styles

- You will learn to organise your ideas, to carry out research, to report and evaluate, and to present arguments – all important skills in their own right.
- The specification is based on the following topics: Skills relating to listening, reading, extended writing, speaking and grammar. Identity and culture. Local national and international global areas of interest. Current and future study, employment, cultural awareness and tourism.

Entrance Requirements

You will have enjoyed taking Spanish to GCSE and you are interested in communicating with people and seeing how language works. The emphasis at GCSE is very much on communication skills. At AS and A2, those skills are still important, but you will learn to use more complex language, and the emphasis will very much be on grammatical accuracy. You need, therefore, to have excellent writing skills and to have a good understanding of GCSE grammar if you are to do well.

Progression Opportunities

If you enjoy your 'A' level course you may want to study Spanish at degree level, either on its own or, as is becoming increasingly popular, in combination with subjects such as business, marketing, law and engineering. If you decide to go straight into work, many firms will value the skills you have acquired through your language, particularly those that have links to Europe. You also open the door to the possibility of learning a completely new language at work or university, which may in turn open up exciting career avenues.