

What can I do with a degree in Spanish?

Spanish.



What is Spanish?

In the world today, there are more native speakers of Spanish than native speakers of English. Spanish is the mother tongue of more than 450 million people in 21 countries and it is also widely spoken in 22 other countries and dependent territories. The largest concentrations of Spanish speakers are in Spain, Latin America, and the USA. In travel, culture, science, trade, cyberspace and sport, the Spanish language is a major player.

Studying Spanish will give you an insight into this mix of old and new traditions which form the tapestry of Hispanic culture. It will also put you in a position to understand and participate in the economic and political transformations that connect even the remotest places in Latin America with our increasingly global environment.

Learn more

It is important to do some research when planning a future career. Speak with, ask questions of, and follow relevant professional bodies, organisations, companies, thought leaders and industry professionals to learn more about:

- Career opportunities, work environments and salary information
- Education and training requirements.

Examples of professional bodies

- STANZA, Spanish Teachers' Association of New Zealand Aotearoa www.stanza.org.nz
- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakaako Reo o Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Language Teachers www.nzalt.org.nz
- Latin America Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence www.latamcape.org.nz
- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakamāori ā-waha, ā-tuhi o Aotearoa New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters Inc www.nzsti.org
- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakaako Reo Ingarihi Ki Iwi Reo Kē TESOLANZ www.tesolanz.org.nz
- Export New Zealand www.exportnz.org.nz

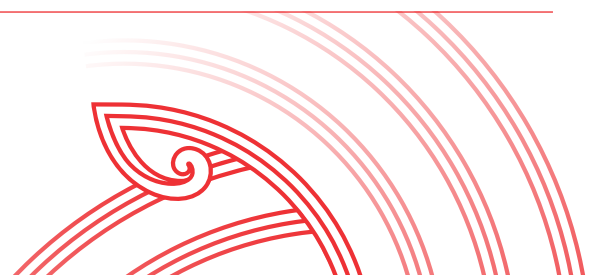
Career and study information

Some study pathways and degrees have a recommended school background, and some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional experience.

Gather helpful information from:

- Subject-specific content at www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects/spanish
- Job profiles on career websites like www.careers.govt.nz
- Job adverts/vacancy descriptions
- Industry professional bodies.

This resource is part of a set of brochures focused on subject majors; many can also be studied as minors.





What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying a degree in Spanish, graduates develop a valuable set of skills transferable to a range of careers. These skills can include:

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking Spanish
- Well-developed communication skills
- Understanding the global interactions which shape contemporary society
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Problem solving
- Research and computing
- Time management, planning and organisation.

Practise skills at work or in Spain

Applied learning opportunities are available through internships with potential employers, and immersive experiences in Spanish language and culture through an exchange programme or the Language and Culture Assistants Programme in Spain. These experiences can deepen graduates' skillset, working knowledge and employability

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking, technological literacy, AI and big data.*

*World Economic Forum: www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills

How can these skills be developed?

- Some skills are gained through studying
- Extra-curricular activities can help, such as getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it is undertaking work experience, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group.

Where have graduates been employed?

A degree in Spanish can lead to a variety of career options, for example:

- Focusing on language or linguistics-related fields such as immigration, diplomacy, language teaching, interpreting/translating, travel and tourism
- Entering any of the vast array of sectors that value the transferable skills of graduates, such as policy and governance, international relations, information services, research, social services, recruitment, librarianship
- Spanish has become a language of strategic importance to Aotearoa New Zealand's trading future, with opportunities in distribution, import/export services, sales, foreign affairs and trade, customer services
- Graduates also find roles in educational institutions at all levels
- Spanish will also benefit students who wish to work or do further studies in Spain, the USA or Latin America
- A popular combination is the study of a European language such as Spanish with that of a professional degree such as Law, Accounting or Teaching and Learning.

What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs — see some examples below.

Note: This list is not exhaustive, and some jobs may require further study, training or experience. It is recommended to start with the section 'How can I gain a sense of career direction?'

Interpreter

- Translate spoken language from one language to another, often simultaneously
- Keep abreast of up-to-date meaning of words
- Research specialist topics, travel with groups and present to different audiences

Translator

- Convey source text into the target language
- Research terminology, technical words and language trends
- Collaborate with other translators

Secondary school teacher

- Prepare and deliver learning experiences in specialised subjects
- Understand the learning needs of rangatahi, observe progress to personalise support
- Promote the wellbeing of rangatahi

Policy analyst / advisor

- Identify and investigate issues and opportunities e.g. in society, law or governance
- Interpret and consult on existing policies
- Prepare reports and recommend changes

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages

- Assess a student's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and needs
- Design and prepare learning materials
- Provide advice e.g. on settling into the area

Customer support consultant, client specialist

- Engage and listen to the needs of customers/clients
- Answer enquiries and discuss solutions

Immigration officer / migration consultant

- Understand immigration law and policy
- Assess clients to establish their eligibility for visas or help navigate migration processes
- Write submissions and file applications

Tutor

- Plan lessons for individuals or a group
- Teach students subject knowledge and skills
- Encourage interactive and practical learning

Research assistant

- Organise and conduct research surveys
- Test theories and interpret the results
- Write reports and make recommendations

Volunteer Abroad

- Provide support with aid programmes
- Build relationships and link people to resources

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- International and domestic business – sales, marketing, trade, supply chain, finance and HR
- Journalism – foreign correspondent, reporter, news editor, multimedia specialist
- Tourism – travel agent, tour guide, flight attendant, travel insurance
- Government agencies and departments – diplomat, foreign policy officer, analyst, case manager
- Education and research – tertiary lecturer, research assistant, language teacher.

Further study options

Graduates can prepare for a career through further study e.g. in Teaching and Learning, International Relations and Diplomacy, Policy and Governance, or in other areas such as Business.

Spanish graduates can progress into many higher programmes, from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers master's degrees in Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Many allow you to carry out research or project work.

Further study may facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, entry into a specific occupation, higher starting salary, faster progression rate, and advanced research capability.

It is important to determine which, if any, further study options align with future career aspirations.

For further UC study options visit:

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study

How can I gain a sense of career direction?

Understanding yourself and others is important to gain a sense of direction. This grows with experience; therefore, trying new things and reflecting on an ongoing basis is important.

Career planning checklist

Discover and reflect on:

- Your values, interests, strengths, abilities, and aspirations
- Your connection to whānau, people, and places
- Lifestyle preferences and location
- The skills you want to gain, use, or enhance

Engage in a variety of experiences to learn about:

- How you want to contribute to society, the environment, and global challenges
- The tasks, responsibilities and work environments you prefer
- Your work values, priorities and interests

Learn more and gather career and study information

(refer to page one of this resource)

- Speak with people working in careers that interest you; check the realities of a job/career
- Gather information from various sources

Identify your next steps

- Talking to a career consultant can help you to identify your next steps. Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers



What have other students and graduates done?

Explore career stories of students' university experiences and UC alumni who make a difference globally in varied ways.

Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/why-uc/our-students/student-stories



Joshua

Secondary School Language Teacher

Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning
Bachelor of Arts in Te Reo Māori and Spanish

What led you to study Spanish?

In my first year of studies at UC I had some spare electives which needed to be filled. I thought Spanish would be an interesting language to learn. After the first few classes it turned out to be one of my favourite subjects, due in large part to the awesome introductory lessons offered by the lecturing staff at the time. Spanish ended up becoming a double major subject for a Bachelor of arts degree for me, along with Te Reo Māori.

Where has Spanish taken you so far?

Without taking up Spanish at Canterbury University, I would not have had the opportunity to study in La Rioja, a small region in the north of Spain for around 7 months. A scholarship was offered by La Universidad de La Rioja (The University of La Rioja) through Canterbury University each year and I was lucky enough to take up the opportunity in 2011. Through having a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Te Reo Māori under my belt, I was able to study the graduate diploma in Teaching and Learning at UC in 2019. I am currently teaching (and still learning) languages in the second year of a two year provisional teaching registration. So learning Spanish and Te Reo Māori together has provided a lot of great opportunities. Something I could not have pursued without the support and encouragement of teachers and mentors, and of course my friends and family.

What advice would you give to current language students?

A number of practices which seem to have worked well for me are: to know what's to be covered in classes and lectures by reading the content prior to attending; trying to find the time to ask questions when something isn't quite clear; Reviewing what one has learned soon after having learnt it also seems to be a helpful method of remembering and retention.

How has knowing multiple languages helped you in your career?

It is a big part of my current job as a teacher and has also served me well in other jobs, such as tour guiding. I am very grateful for all the opportunities and experiences I have been provided while pursuing the path of language study. The many teachers, lecturers, friends, family members and other mentors I have been fortunate enough to meet and gain insight from, have always encouraged me to pursue my interests and to continue learning more.

Career guidance

Career services are available for future and current students, and recent graduates. To learn more, contact:

Te Rōpū Rapuara | Careers

T: +64 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers

Helpful career insights

- Speaking with employers is key to finding opportunities; not all jobs are advertised
- Developing an online presence is useful as employers can search for future employees online
- Learning about recruitment patterns and where to find opportunities is important.

Study advice

Student Advisors at UC help with questions focused on starting, planning and changing studies. To connect with Student Advisors, visit:

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-support

Future students – contact:

The Future Students team

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: futurestudents@canterbury.ac.nz

First year students – contact:

Kaitoko | First Year Student Advisors

T: +64 3 369 0409

E: firstyearadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

Continuing students – contact:

Toi Tangata | Arts

T: +64 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/arts

