

What can I do with a degree in Spanish?

Spanish.



Career planning: what do I need to know?

Knowledge of yourself is important for career decision making. Start by looking at your personal goals, abilities, values and interests to explore study and career options that are relevant to you. Some of these may change over time, so it is important to self-reflect and evaluate your career on an ongoing basis.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, customer-focus, cultural awareness and teamwork. With technology and globalisation changing the nature of society, skills such as resilience, problem solving and adaptability are valuable at work as well as in life.

How can I develop these skills?

- Some skills are developed through your degree
- Extra-curricular activities can help, for example

getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering

- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities. Whether it is undertaking an internship, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group — these activities will enhance your employability.

What else should I know?

The career options in this brochure are examples only and the list is not exhaustive. Some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional work experience. Some pathways and degrees have a recommended school background. Find more subject details at www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/span

If this brochure does not answer your questions, talking to an expert such as a career consultant can help you to identify the next steps in your career decision making journey.

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

What is Spanish?

In the world today, Spanish speakers are as numerous as native speakers of English. The largest concentrations are in Spain, Central and Latin America, and the USA. In travel, culture, trade, cyberspace and sport, the Spanish language is a major player.

The Hispanic world is unified by its main official language, but it also represents a rich, complex and heterogeneous space with significant ethnic, cultural, linguistic, political and religious practices. 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.



AT A GLANCE

20+

Spanish is spoken in over 20 countries

#1

in the Americas Spanish is the language that has the largest number of speakers

\$7b+

Real Madrid (\$3.65 billion) and Barcelona (\$3.55 billion) are the second and third most valuable sports franchises in the world

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Spanish degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that includes:

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

Practise your skills at work or in Spain

Opportunities to apply your learning are available:

- An internship can deepen your skillset, working knowledge and employability
- Immerse yourself in Spanish language and culture through an exchange programme, for example at the University of Castilla-La Mancha in Spain.

Where have UC 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 an Arts or Commerce graduate, such as policy and governance, finance, information services, research, social services
- 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 majoring in a science 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.

For examples of recruiting employers go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

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

Note: Some of the jobs listed may require postgraduate study. See the 'Further study' section.

Interpreter

- Translates spoken language from one language to another, often simultaneously
- Keeps abreast of up-to-date meaning of words
- Researches specialist topics, travels with groups and presents to different audiences

Translator

- Conveys source text into the target language
- Researches terminology, technical words and language trends
- Often works as part of a team of translators

Secondary school teacher

- Plans and delivers instructional lessons
- Evaluates performance and provides feedback
- Sets and marks assignments and tests

Policy analyst / advisor

- Identifies and investigates issues and opportunities eg, in society, law or governance
- Interprets and consults on existing policies
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages

- Assesses a student's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and needs
- Designs and prepares learning materials
- Provides advice eg, on settling in to the area

Customer support consultant, client specialist

- Is the first point of contact for customers/clients
- Engages and listens

- Answers enquiries and discusses solutions

Legal associate, lawyer, solicitor^

- Provides legal advice or legal opinions to clients and sometimes other lawyers
- Prepares legal or court documents
- Makes submissions and negotiates for clients

Tutor

- Plans lessons for individuals or a group
- Teaches students subject knowledge and skills
- Encourages interactive and practical learning

Business analyst

- Utilises data and analytical models for organisational information purposes
- Provides insight to assist with decision making
- Liaises with different business functions

Research assistant

- Organises and conducts research surveys
- Tests theories and interprets the results
- Writes reports and makes recommendations

Youth worker

- Provides support and guidance to young people
- Builds relations and links people to resources
- Writes reports and coordinates budgets

Entrepreneur and CEO

- Develops an idea, product or service
- Offers services as a freelancer/consultant

Get started at www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/Entrepreneurship/getting_started.shtml

UC Careerhub

UC students and alumni can find details of internships, job vacancies and employability tips at www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz

What professional bodies can people link to?

As they progress, students and graduates often join professional bodies relevant to their area of interest. These organisations can provide regular communications and offer the chance to network.

- New Zealand Association of Language Teachers www.nzalt.org.nz
- STANZA, Spanish Teachers' Association of New Zealand Aotearoa www.stanza.org.nz
- New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters Inc www.nzsti.org
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Aotearoa New Zealand www.tesolanz.org.nz
- Export New Zealand www.exportnz.org.nz

Social media networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter can provide avenues to keep up-to-date with industry knowledge, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies.

Why do further study and what are my options?

Postgraduate study can facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, entry into a specific occupation, and advanced research capability. It can also lead to an academic career. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your future career.

Spanish graduates can progress into many higher programmes, from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers master's degrees in Linguistics, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, and International Relations and Diplomacy.

Graduates can also do additional training in areas such as Teaching, Policy and Governance, Marketing or Business. For UC qualification listings visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses



Useful links

UC Careers, Internships & Employment
www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

UC School of Languages, Social and Political Sciences
www.canterbury.ac.nz/lsap

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
www.mfat.govt.nz

National Centre for Research on Europe
www.europe.canterbury.ac.nz

UCSA Clubs eg, Spanish Club
www.ucsa.org.nz/clubs

Lily Bale



Bachelor of Arts in French and Spanish
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in French
Customer Support Consultant, Instra
Corporation, Hawke's Bay

What did you enjoy about your BA?

The flexibility and versatility of a Bachelor of Arts allowed me to study English and Philosophy, as well as French and Spanish. Through my French and Spanish courses I have discovered facets of each country's culture that I would never have explored otherwise.

Were you employed because of your language skills?

Yes. My first graduate job came with Instra Corporation, which is a multinational company that sells domain names globally. They recruit multilingual support staff. Which means my fluency in French and English and my advanced language skills in Spanish helped get me the job.

What are the best aspects of your job?

Every day is different because each customer is unique. And of course, I'm using my French and Spanish skills, which not only makes me happy, but it makes our customers happy too!

I feel extremely fortunate to be employed by Instra, because not only are my manager and colleagues very supportive, but they are friendly and encouraging too.

Your employer helped you with your work visa for NZ, what did that mean to you?

I was completely overwhelmed by the lengths Instra was and is prepared to go to keep me in a job I love. Their faith in me has been priceless.

Do they offer any professional development?

My mentors are very direct and honest which I value because it has allowed me to grow professionally, not to mention we have great working relationships. Anyone who works here becomes part of the family. I think I've proven myself to the company and hope to stay with them for as long as I want!

Read more online

Read Lily's full story about her university experience online. UC alumni like Lily make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where language graduates are now visit
www.canterbury.ac.nz/profiles

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

More information

UC students seeking study advice.

School of Language, Social and Political Sciences
Te Rāngai Toi Tangata | College of Arts

As well as providing classroom learning opportunities, UC works with the Spanish Ministry of Education to place students in teaching opportunities in Spain. By emphasising language, cultural and interdisciplinary studies, we prepare our students to understand and to appreciate the Hispanic world and to face the demanding challenges of our globalised world, while promoting cultural diversity at UC and its community.

T: +64 3 364 2176

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/spanish

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Careers, Internships & Employment
Te Rōpū Rapuara

CIE offers intending and current students and recent graduates a wide range of services, including individual career guidance, seminars, career resources and student and graduate employment opportunities.

T: +64 3 364 3310

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

[UCCareersEmployment](#)

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Student Liaison
Te Rōpū Takawaenga

Student Liaison provides intending students with information about the university system in general and the courses, qualifications, support and facilities available at UC.

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: liaison@canterbury.ac.nz

Tāmaki-makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: auckland@canterbury.ac.nz

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748) ext 93231

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison