

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, bicultural competence, 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, 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.



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

\$8b+

Real Madrid (\$4.24 billion) and Barcelona (\$4.02 billion) are in the top 10 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 or the Language and Culture Assistance Programme 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.

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

Research assistant

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

Volunteer Abroad

- Provides support with aid programmes
- Builds relationships and links people to resources

Entrepreneur & self-employment

Entrepreneurship and innovation are an increasing part of the working landscape. Through generating a business idea, or getting involved in a start-up/business venture, you have the potential to create a work opportunity that aligns with your knowledge, skills, values and risk profile. To get started on how to establish, run and grow a new business, go to Te Pokapū Rakahinonga, Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Canterbury www.canterbury.ac.nz/uce

What professional organisations can I engage with?

Connecting with professional bodies and organisations can help you to establish professional networks and learn more about different career options in your area of interest. Gaining valuable insight into a profession can assist in making informed career decisions.

- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakaako Reo o Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Language Teachers www.nzalt.org.nz

- STANZA, Spanish Teachers' Association of New Zealand Aotearoa www.stanza.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

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as www.linkedin.com and Facebook can help you to keep up to date with important industry developments and trends, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies. Following relevant professional bodies, organisations, companies and thought leaders is a great way to gain a deeper awareness of the industries that interest you. Social media presents an opportunity to build and enhance networks as well as to display your involvement in projects and any academic successes.

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, Applied Translation and Interpreting, 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

Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers
www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

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

National Centre for Research on Europe
www.canterbury.ac.nz/ncre/

Te Tūao Tāwāhi Volunteer Service Abroad
www.vsa.org.nz



Joshua



Bachelor of Arts in Te Reo Māori and Spanish
Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning
Secondary School Language Teacher

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.

Read more online

Read more stories about our students' university experiences online. UC alumni make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where graduates are now visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/getstarted/whyuc/student-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.

Department of Global, Cultural and Language Studies

As well as providing classroom learning opportunities, UC works with the Spanish Government 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 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/spanish

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Te Rōpū Rapuara | UC Careers

UC 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 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Te Rōpū Takawaenga | Student Liaison

The liaison team provide advice to future students who are starting their degree for the first time. They can assist with information on degrees, scholarships, accommodation, and other aspects of university life. We have offices in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

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)

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

