

Careers for Spanish and Latin American Studies

Majors/Diploma of Languages in Spanish and Latin American Studies

With the increased globalization of knowledge, there are many career opportunities after completing your studies in Spanish. In choosing your career path, it is important to reflect on the skills you have learned through your major, the ones you prefer using, and the careers which are related to them.

Skills, knowledge and abilities acquired in the Spanish and Latin American Studies major

<p>☑ Interpret academic and everyday communication across a number of genres in the target language relative to the entry level</p>
<p>Understand the use of Spanish in real-life situations and be aware of the contributions of Spanish-Speakers to the economic, intellectual, cultural and social affairs of the Spanish and Latin American nations.</p>
<p>Acquire enough intellectual sophistication to appreciate historical, cultural and anthropological differences within the Spanish-speaking communities from Spain and Latin-America</p>
<p>Understand and self-reflect on the linguo-cultural acquisition process both in English and Spanish showing autonomous, self-directed and academic-level skills</p>
<p>Appreciate and respect diversity and background difference by critically evaluating Spanish-speaking cultures and including the viewpoint of the target culture</p>
<p>☑Be able to confidently interact in intellectually sophisticated conversations with both native and non-native speakers in the target language about historical and contemporary Spanish Speaking Australian, the Eastern Pacific Rim, together with Spanish and Latin American communities</p>
<p>☑Be able to defend arguments in public about the historical linguistic and cultural relevance of indigenous and migrant populations in Latin America and understanding their historical interaction with other European and American cultures</p>
<p>Develop a cross-cultural understanding in order to achieve an awareness of contemporary Spanish Speaking Australian, the Eastern Pacific Rim, together with Spanish and Latin American communities needs.</p>

Background

The Spanish-speaking multicultural and economic area offers opportunities for students interested in many fields. Spanish is now the common language of over **450 million** people in four continents, and the number is growing steadily. It is one of the six official languages of the **United Nations**, the official language of **21 countries**, **widely spoken in 22** and the **second language of the USA**. It is predicted that by 2050 the number of Spanish-speakers in the world will be higher than the number of English-speakers. It is also used in the Philippines and in Spain's former African

colonies. In Japan it is now taught as the **second most important foreign language after English**. There are about a hundred thousand Spanish speakers in Australia today, making it the eighth most commonly spoken language in the country. It is also used in the Philippines and in Spain's former African colonies. In Japan it is now taught as the **second most important foreign language after English**.

Students who are considering postgraduate study, and potentially academic careers, will find growing opportunities in the field of Spanish and Latin American Studies. The University of Melbourne has identified Latin America as a priority region for engagement and collaboration. Chile and Brazil in particular are emphasised by the Research at Melbourne program because of their rapid economic development and interest in collaborating with Australia. Other Australian universities are also becoming more aware of Spanish language and the Latin American region as valuable partners for research collaboration, student exchange, and diplomatic engagement.

There are about a hundred thousand Spanish speakers in Australia today, making it the eighth most commonly spoken language in the country. Australia has strong connections through trade with Spanish-speaking nations, particularly those within the Asia-Pacific region. The Spanish language is widely spoken within the Australian community, giving speakers the opportunity to hear and use the language in real-life situations. Spanish speakers in Australia make significant contributions to the economic, intellectual, cultural and social affairs of the nation. **The cultural impact of Spanish is without parallel.** Spain has undergone considerable social transformations since its transition to democracy, making it an exciting and vibrant culture to study. Furthermore, the countries of Latin America, although unified by the Spanish language, offer an exceptionally rich and varied body of literary and cultural production. Spanish language has a cultural connection with The Arab, Jew and Christian cultural worlds through Spain and Latin America. Spanish is spoken among the Native Americans and European descents in Latin America. Spanish is the main language of the Chicano and Hispanic citizens in the USA. Studying Spanish provides business and cultural cooperation opportunities in countries in the five continents, together with cooperation Projects with Latin American cultures and communities. Prof. Martínez Expósito summarizes in his book ten important facts on Spanish and Latin American studies (Martínez-Expósito & López 2008):

1. A second language is a definite advantage
2. Spanish is the first Western language by number of native speakers
3. Spanish is a major international language
4. Australia's trade with Spanish-speaking countries is ever expanding
5. Spanish is one of the three most demanded foreign languages worldwide
6. The Hispanic – A major world culture
7. Spanish is the language for travel and hospitality
8. Spanish enjoys proper academic standards
9. Learnability: Spanish is easy to learn
10. Spanish is an Australian community language

Career Fields in Spanish

The table below lists a range of careers which draw on studies in Spanish language and cultures. The list is not definitive; language skills can complement almost any occupational field and create specific opportunities. The table also provides some information about 'next steps' ie what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether the career field can be entered directly following Bachelor studies, or whether graduate study is required.

There are two employment types for post-Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates
- Graduate Employment Programs

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final year tertiary students and recent grads can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available. Where this is the case, graduate study may not be required.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/find_a_job/professional_and_graduate_work

Language as 'core business' – specialist language occupations

Career options generally fall into two categories – those where language is the core activity, and those where language skill is paired with another skill.

Role	Employers	Next Steps
Translating	Business/multinational companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO	MA in Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions
Interpreting	Business/multinational Companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO	MA in Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions
Teaching Spanish language	Private institutions	No specific requirements, though qualifications

Teaching Spanish language	Primary/Secondary schools	assist eg Graduate Diploma in Spanish as a Second/Foreign Language Master of Teaching
	Higher Education	PhD in Spanish and Latin American Studies
	Teaching Spanish as a Foreign/Second Language	Requires additional training/certificate

Careers which make use of language in conjunction with another skill

Note that language skill can be used to complement almost any other skill to suggest career possibilities. Below are some examples only.

Role	Companion studies	Employers	Next Steps
Diplomacy/international relations	Politics and International studies History Communications	Government Intergovernmental bodies NGO/NPO Business/multinational companies	Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies - International Relations
Academia/research	Any field	University Research Centres	Honours Masters by research PhD
Engineers and Scientists	Any field	Companies	
Musicians	Especially classical music History		
Librarian – Spanish and Latin American Studies collection librarian	Arts Spanish and Latin American Studies	Libraries	Graduate Diploma/Masters (Information Management/Library Studies)
International business, in-country business, import-export in Australia	Business Marketing Commerce Economics Politics	Commercial businesses (e.g. fashion, food, manufacturing, agriculture) Trading companies	Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies- International Business

Translation software, language engineering	IT/Computer Science Linguistics	Software companies IT Venture business	Degree in Computational Linguistics or Computer Science
Tourism – in Australia, in the Spanish-speaking world	Arts Commerce History Communications	Tourism operators Hotel Restaurants Transport (eg. Airline industry)	Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies eg Business, Tourism Management
TESOL	English Education	Teaching in Spain and Latin American private colleges, universities Teaching in Australian Universities, Colleges and language schools	Some may require CELTA MA in TESOL Master of Education in TESOL (generally required but some private colleges may not require)
Cultural exchange (project and program management roles)	Arts History Politics	Cultural exchange associations, industry groups eg	Graduate study in various areas may be appropriate eg Marketing, Arts Management
Policy and Public sector Administration	Law Politics	Consulate and embassy Government Consultant	Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies – Public Policy, EMA, Law
Defence and National Security	Politics History	Defence force	Defence Academy

Where can I find out more?

Further information on career areas:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Other discussions on careers with Spanish and Latin American Studies :

European Commission Languages Homepage

http://ec.europa.eu/languages/index_en.htm

Network Linguistic Policy for the Labour Market <http://www.lilama.org/documents>

Graduate study at University of Melbourne:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/graduate>

<http://graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>

<http://government.unimelb.edu.au/>

Studying in Spain and Latin America:

Many Honours and Research Higher Degree Students spend time in Spain and Latin America.

The Spanish Academic Exchange Service offers scholarships and has made available a scholarship database which covers offers from other facilitating institutions as well

<http://www.studyinspain.info/?l=en>

Working in Spain and Latin America:

Jobs in Australia using Spanish language

<http://www.careerjet.com.au/spanish-jobs.html>

Internships:

Completing an internship. Information by the Spanish Academic Exchange Service

Europe Internship is a free internship website and covers Spain

<http://www.europe-internship.com>

Organisations in Australia:

School of Languages and Linguistics <http://languages-linguistics.unimelb.edu.au/>

NAATI National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters

http://www.naati.com.au/home_page.html

Cervantes Institute <http://sidney.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm>

Cervantes Institute Job Opportunities

http://sidney.cervantes.es/en/associate_teacher.htm

Cervantes Institute Amigos Organization

http://sidney.cervantes.es/en/friends_spanish/friends_welcome.htm

Latin American cultures in Australia

<http://www.latinos.com.au/>

Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR)

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/coalar/>

CELAS www.celas.org.au

Australia-Latin America Business Council <http://www.alabc.com.au/About-Us>

Association of Spanish Teachers of Victoria <http://vatsteachersofspanish.com/>

Spanish-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce

<http://www.lacamara.com.au/>

Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies

<http://anclas.anu.edu.au/latin-america-events-and-opportunities-0>

Latin America Down Under

<https://www.latinamericadownunder.com/>

Latin American Film Festival

<http://www.nga.gov.au/laff/>