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

- Interpret academic and everyday communication across a number of genres in the target language relative to the entry level

- 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.

- Acquire enough intellectual sophistication to appreciate historical, cultural and anthropological differences within the Spanish-speaking communities from Spain and Latin-America

- Understand and self-reflect on the linguo-cultural acquisition process both in English and Spanish showing autonomous, self-directed and academic-level skills

- Appreciate and respect diversity and background difference by critically evaluating Spanish-speaking cultures and including the viewpoint of the target culture

- 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

- 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

- 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.

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](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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Translating</td>
<td>Business/multinational companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO</td>
<td>MA in Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreting</td>
<td>Business/multinational Companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO</td>
<td>MA in Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Spanish language</td>
<td>Private institutions</td>
<td>No specific requirements, though qualifications</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Teaching Spanish language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary/Secondary schools</th>
<th>Higher Education</th>
<th>Teaching Spanish as a Foreign/Second Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>assist eg Graduate Diploma in Spanish as a Second/Foreign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Master of Teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PhD in Spanish and Latin American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Requires additional training/certificate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Companion studies</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diplomacy/international relations</td>
<td>Politics and International studies History Communications</td>
<td>Government Intergovernmental bodies NGO/NPO Business/multinational companies</td>
<td>Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies - International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academia/research</td>
<td>Any field</td>
<td>University Research Centres</td>
<td>Honours Masters by research PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers and Scientists</td>
<td>Any field</td>
<td>Companies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musicians</td>
<td>Especially classical music History</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian – Spanish and Latin American Studies collection librarian</td>
<td>Arts Spanish and Latin American Studies</td>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td>Graduate Diploma/Masters (Information Management/Library Studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International business, in-country business, import-export in Australia</td>
<td>Business Marketing Commerce Economics Politics</td>
<td>Commercial businesses (e.g. fashion, food, manufacturing, agriculture) Trading companies</td>
<td>Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies-International Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation software, language engineering</td>
<td>IT/Computer Science Linguistics</td>
<td>Software companies IT Venture business</td>
<td>Degree in Computational Linguistics or Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism – in Australia, in the Spanish-speaking world</td>
<td>Arts Commerce History Communications</td>
<td>Tourism operators Hotel Restaurants Transport (eg. Airline industry)</td>
<td>Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies eg Business, Tourism Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESOL</td>
<td>English Education</td>
<td>Teaching in Spain and Latin American private colleges, universities Teaching in Australian Universities, Colleges and language schools</td>
<td>Some may require CELTA MA in TESOL Master of Education in TESOL (generally required but some private colleges may not require)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural exchange (project and program management roles)</td>
<td>Arts History Politics</td>
<td>Cultural exchange associations, industry groups eg</td>
<td>Graduate study in various areas may be appropriate eg Marketing, Arts Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Public sector Administration</td>
<td>Law Politics</td>
<td>Consulate and embassy Government Consultant</td>
<td>Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies – Public Policy, EMA, Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defence and National Security</td>
<td>Politics History</td>
<td>Defence force</td>
<td>Defence Academy</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Where can I find out more?**

**Further information on career areas:**
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/

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

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 Accredition Authority for Translators and Interpreters

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  

Latin American cultures in Australia  
Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR)  

CELAS  www.celas.org.au


Association of Spanish Teachers of Victoria http://vatsteachersofspanish.com/  
Spanish-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce  

Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies  

Latin America Down Under  
https://www.latinamericadownunder.com/

Latin American Film Festival  
http://www.nga.gov.au/laff/