

Career opportunities

With Spanish being one of the three most widely spoken languages in the world, the ability to speak Spanish opens up a wide range of opportunities in the commercial, educational and hospitality fields, across a vast number of countries throughout the world.

Teaching Spanish in Victorian schools

Spanish is offered in primary and secondary schools as well as in community schools. The Victorian School of Languages offers Spanish through Distance Education and face to face classes in several locations.

The Spanish Government, through the Education Office at the Spanish Embassy, offers support for the learning and teaching of Spanish. The Education Office provides advisory services, Language Assistants, professional learning, information about scholarships in Spain, educational resources, a magazine, online resources and mailing lists.

There is a branch of the Education Office at the Spanish General Consulate in Melbourne (see contact details below).

Teaching resources are available on loan free of charge from:

Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC) at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs.htm>

The Spanish Cultural Resource Centre "Alejandro Malaspina" in Canberra, a section of the Spanish Education Office, at <http://www.mec.es/sgci/au/es/consejeria/crecursos/presentacion.shtml>
Telephone and Fax: 02 6239 7153

Information

For further support in developing a Spanish language program, please contact:

LOTE Unit
Student Learning Programs Division
Department of Education
Telephone: 9637 2041
Fax: 9637 2040
www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/lotte/

Further

Spanish Advisor:
Telephone: 9637 2064

Spanish Education Office:
<http://www.mec.es/sgci/au>

Spanish Education Office in Melbourne
Telephone: 9347 9834
Email: asesoriamelbourne.au@mec.es

Victorian Association for Teachers of Spanish (VATS)
<http://www.spanishlinx.vic.edu.au/vats.htm>

Why learn Spanish?



Spanish-speaking countries

Spanish is one of the three most widely spoken languages in the world. It originated in Spain and is now spoken by over 400 million people in over 20 different countries across four continents.

Spanish is the official language of most of Latin America. It is also widely spoken in Israel, Morocco, the Philippines, and the United States of America, where 40 million people are native Spanish speakers.

Spanish ranks second after English as the world's most popular choice for people wanting to learn a second language. Spanish is also one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

Why Learn Spanish?

Learning any second language is good for young people's mental development. Research shows that when it comes to learning languages, the earlier you start, the better and easier it is.

Learning a second language not only provides a deeper understanding of other cultures and societies, it also provides the student with additional all-round advantages, including enhanced literacy, verbal and mathematical skills, increased creativity, and improved ability to solve complex problems.

Spanish language skills can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities in many different countries throughout the world.

Spanish is very easy to learn!

The rules for spelling and pronunciation are relatively simple and consistent.

Spanish is a very accessible language for English speakers.



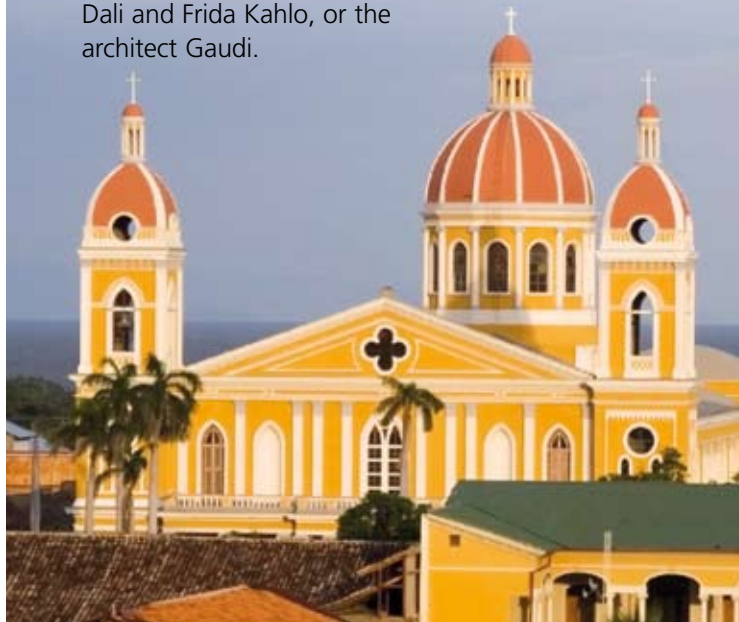
English and Spanish both use the Latin alphabet and some Spanish words are already familiar to English speakers, as English has absorbed many Spanish words such as *fiesta*, *merino*, *siesta*, *guerrilla*, *mosquito* or *patio*. Other words and expressions like *guitarra*, *tortilla*, *amigo*, *hombre*, *sombrero*, and *hasta la vista* are well known thanks to films and popular culture and many others are easily recognisable due to a common Latin origin.

In Spanish you can take a *taxi*, *autobús* or *metro* from the *aeropuerto* to your *hotel* and have some *café*, *chocolate* or *té* at the *cafetería* or some *paella*, *gazpacho*, or *tomates* and *patatas* at a *restaurante*, and afterwards, listen to a *concierto* at the *teatro*.

Culture

Spanish is the language, not only of a range of popular cultures, but one of the richest literary and artistic languages in the world.

Apart from the famous dances of flamenco, salsa or tango, you may be familiar with Latino singers or film stars such as Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek and Penelope Cruz, artists such as Picasso, Dali and Frida Kahlo, or the architect Gaudi.



Travelling

From California in the United States of America to Tierra del Fuego in the southern tip of South America, from Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean to Majorca in the Mediterranean Sea, Spanish is the key language for travellers. If you dream of travelling to exciting places such as Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, and the Andes, or of visiting ancient Roman sites, castles from the Middle Ages or exotic palaces such as the Alhambra in Spain itself, a knowledge of the Spanish language will greatly enrich your experience.



Trade

Spain is a member of the European Union with very close ties to Latin America, and is the second fastest growing economy in the European Union. Spanish speaking countries offer extensive trade opportunities for Australia, and trade between Spain and Australia has been steadily increasing in recent years.

Many Latin American countries are members of the Asian-Pacific organisations of which Australia and New Zealand are also members.

Several Australian companies operate in Latin America, including AGL and Hoyts cinemas. Some Spanish companies also operate in Australia, for example, Camper, Mango, Navantia, Ka International, Astralpool, Acciona and Ferrovial.