

Programmes with Spanish at the University of Surrey

Studying Spanish at Surrey is all about improving your language competencies in order to use the language in the professional world, and increasing your knowledge and understanding of Spain and the Spanish-Speaking world to enable you to live there, work there, and – importantly – make the most of your time there. Here are a few suggestions about how best to prepare for your studies in Spanish with us.

Post A-level Spanish

In your first year, you will take a **Spanish language** module in both semesters, and a **Spanish culture and society** module in the second semester. You may also take a **Spanish translation** module in semester 1.

For the first **Spanish language** module, there is an important accompanying text book, which you may want to purchase:

Pountain, Christopher & Juan Kattan-Ibarra, 2003. [Modern Spanish Grammar: A Practical Guide](#)

Howkins, Angela, Christopher J Pountain, & Teresa de Carlos, 2019. [Practising Spanish Grammar](#).

For the module **Spain: Introduction to Its History, Culture & Society**, there is no course book, but you might find the following books useful to familiarize yourself with Spanish history:

Carr, Raymond, 2000. *Spain : A History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Phillips, William D. & Carla Rahn Phillips, 2016. [A Concise History of Spain](#). Cambridge University Press.

The most important thing, though, is to keep up your Spanish – since it's unlikely that you will be able to travel there this summer! Just watching or listening to the news every day would be a good start. Here are some of the options we recommend.

NEWSPAPERS

- [El Pais](#) – a global Spanish newspaper
- [El Mundo](#) - Spain's second-largest newspaper
- [La Jornada](#) – one of Mexico's leading newspapers
- [Página 12](#) – an important Argentine newspaper

TELEVISION

Spain :

- [RTVE](#) – Spanish national television online, full of great Spanish series, documentaries and news programmes

Mexico:

- Jalisco TV: <https://jaliscotv.com/>
- Universidad de Guadalajara Mexico: <http://udgtv.com/>
- TV Azteca: <https://www.tvazteca.com/>
- Televisa: <http://televisa.com/> Lots of classic Latin American series here!

Argentina:

- TV publica (Argentina) <http://www.tvpublica.com.ar/>

RADIO

- <https://www.rtve.es/radio/> - Spanish national radio station

- <http://udgtv.com/radioudg/guadalajara/> (Guadalajara, Mexico)
- Radio AM750 <https://750.am/> (Argentina)

ONLINE RESOURCES

Language-learning apps – a fun way to build your vocabulary and brush up on grammar

<https://languagelearningwithnetflix.com/>

[DuoLingo](#)

[Babbel](#)

[UTalk](#)

Films & Series

- **Netflix.** There are some great series in Spanish here:
 - La casa de papel
 - Velvet
 - Narcos
- **[La Historia oficial](#)** - a fantastic film to introduce you to Spanish history!

Literature

[Latin American short stories online](#) – a great way to build your vocabulary and get to know some of Latin America's greatest writers!

[Latin American micro-fiction](#) – if you're a slow reader but still want to get your teeth stuck into some fiction this summer!

Ab initio Spanish

In your first year you will have intensive language classes which aim to bring you up to a similar level to students who already have an A level. You will have six contact hours per week rather than three, in order to give you plenty of opportunities to practise the language and gain confidence. The following grammar book is a good reference point for this module:

Mike Thacker & Pilar Muñoz, 2012. [A Spanish Learning Grammar](#).

We will also be using texts from other books and many online materials in Spanish. In the second semester the *ab initio* language classes will ensure that you have covered the same professional language as the post A level class and will also give language support for the Introduction to Spain module.

If you would like to prepare for this module before you have learnt much Spanish, there are many resources, both books and online, that cover Spanish and Latin American history, culture and society in English.

You could start with Encyclopaedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Spain> and <https://www.britannica.com/place/Latin-America/>