

**Spanish Language Intensive Course**  
**Universidad Francisco de Vitoria**  
**92 contact hours**

**Level: Beginner (A2: Plataforma / *Waystage*)**

This course is divided into two parts:

- 1) Language and Communication: 50 hours
- 2) Spanish Culture and Civilization: 42 hours (30 hours in class, 12 hours dedicated to a total of 6 guided visits to places of interest in Madrid)

During the Spanish culture and civilization portion, students will study the following:

- Spanish Golden Age
- Spain Today
- Interculturalism and Multiculturalism in Spain
- Contemporary Spain
- Spanish Literature
- Panorama of Spain within the context of the European Union

Visits planned:

- Walking Tour of the Hapsburgs' Madrid
- Prado Museum
- Reina Sofia Museum
- Royal Palace
- Sorolla Museum
- Ermita de San Antonio and the Debod Temple
- Weekend Day excursion to Toledo

**Language & Communication**

Students should be able to:

- Understand sentences and expressions of frequent use related to areas of experience that are relevant (i.e. basic information about oneself and one's family, shopping, places of interest, occupations, etc.)
- Know how to communicate in order to carry out simple, everyday tasks that don't require more than simple and direct exchanges of information about well known or habitual matters.
- Know how to describe in simple terms aspects of one's past and one's environment, as well as matters related to one's immediate needs.

In this level, the student will learn to:

- Talk about the past:
  - Talk about past actions in relation to the present
  - Talk about habitual actions in the past
  - Describe past experiences, people and places
  - Write stories in the past
  - Tell stories in the past
  - Talk about past experiences and relate them to each other
- Rate activities and work
- Express different grades of preference
- Express qualities using superlatives
- Talk about professional life
- Describe objects
- Talk about clothes and fashion and interact in a clothing store

- Express need
- Offer and ask for help
- Relate elements and parts of speech
- Talk about plans and projects
- Express conditions
- Talk about the weather and weather predictions
- Express obligation, need, prohibition, possibility and finality
- Ask for, give and deny permission
- Make recommendations and give advice and instructions
- Ask for and give an opinion about people, objects and events
- Introduce ideas
- Talk about feelings and states of being
- Organize a speech
- Interrupt a speech
- Express and ask about level of assurance
- Formulate a hypothesis
- Call attention to something
- Show interest, disinterest and indifference
- Express displeasure

At the end of level A2, the student should be able to:

Listening Comprehension	Understand habitual sentences and vocabulary about themes of personal interest (i.e. basic personal and family information, shopping, place of residence, employment). Be able to capture the main idea of simple warnings and messages.
Reading Comprehension	Read brief and simple texts. Know how to find specific information in simple written information such as publicity announcements, menus and schedules. Understand brief and simple personal letters.
Oral Interaction	Communicate in simple and habitual tasks that require a simple and direct exchange of information about everyday activities and subjects. Carry out brief social exchanges, even though in general, the student cannot understand enough to maintain the conversation by himself/herself.
Oral Expression	Use a series of expressions and phrases to describe in simple terms one's family and other people, one's condition of life, education and work.
Written Expression	Write brief notes and messages related to one's immediate needs. Write very simple personal letters, for example, to thank someone.

## CULTURE

### Theme 1. Socio-cultural Knowledge

The first objective is to know geographic and socio-political facts about current Spain and know how to interpret and contextualize them.

Strictly speaking, knowledge of the society and culture of the community or communities in which Spanish is spoken is an important aspect of knowledge of the world.

The different characteristics could relate, for example, to:

1. *Daily life – for example,*
  - Food and drink, hours of meals, table manners
  - holidays
  - hours and practice of work
  - leisure activities (hobbies, sports, reading habits, the media).

2. *Conditions of life – for example,*
  - Levels of life (with regional, social and cultural variations)
  - Housing conditions
  - Means of social assistance
  
3. *Personal relationships – including relationships of power and solidarity, for example:*
  - Social structure and relationships between its members
  - Relationships between the sexes
  - Family relationships
  - Relationships between generations
  - Work relationships
  - Relations with authority, with the government
  - Relations of race and community
  - Relations between political and religious groups
  
4. *Values, beliefs and attitudes – with regard to the following factors:*
  - Social class
  - Professional groups (academic, business, public service, workers)
  - Riches (earnings and inheritances)
  - Regional cultures
  - Security
  - Institutions
  - Tradition and social change
  - History: above all, representative people and events
  - Minorities (ethnic and religious)
  - National identity
  - Foreign countries, states and peoples
  - Politics
  - Religions
  - Humor
  
5. *Body Language.* Knowledge of the conventions that govern behavior forms part of the socio-cultural competence of the student.
  
6. *Social Conventions.* (for example, related to offering and receiving hospitality)
  - Punctuality
  - Gifts
  - Dress
  - Apertif, drinks, food
  - Conventions and taboos related to behavior and conversations
  - Length of stay
  - Saying goodbye
  
7. *Ritual Behavior* in areas such as the following:
  - Religious ceremonies and practices
  - Birth, marriage and death
  - Behavior of the public and the audience in public ceremonies
  - Celebrations, festivities, dances, discotheques, etc.

## **Theme 2. Intercultural Conscience**

The knowledge, perception and comprehension of the relationship between the “world of origin” and the “world of the community being studied” (similarities and differences) produce an intercultural conscience that includes, naturally, the awareness of the regional and social diversity in both worlds, that are enriched with the awareness of a wider series of culture than that which includes the mother tongue and second language, which contributes to placing both

in its context. In addition to the objective knowledge, intercultural awareness involves an awareness of how they see the community from the perspective of others, often in the form of national stereotypes.

The following objectives are considered relevant:

- Know the history of Spain in relation to the passage of different peoples
- Know what consists of the crossing of three cultures and understand the terms of multiculturalism and interculturalism in its application and analysis of present-day Spain

### **Themes 3 & 4. Awareness of Artistic Manifestations**

Art and history are also different characteristics and forms of learning about a culture and understanding it from a better perspective.

- Know the history and artistic movements of the Golden Age, as well as the main authors and works of the Renaissance and Baroque Spain
  1. A comprehensive vision of Lazarillo de Tormes and Don Quijote de la Mancha
  2. Life and works of Velázquez. Discuss and interpret the painting *Las Meninas*
- Know the history and artistic movements of the 20th century, as well as the main authors and works of modern and contemporary Spain
  1. History of the second Republic, the civil war and the two stages of the Franco dictatorship
  2. Know who the Generation of '27 were and what they represent. Read and interpret poetry and theatre by Federico García Lorca and the poetry of Rafael Alberti. Know the general lines of the vanguards and its interrelationship in Europe..
  3. Study Spanish painting of the 20th century: cubism and surrealism.
  4. Vanguard art and design: the innovations of Azúa
- Know the main places of historical and artistic interest in the city of Madrid.
  1. El templo de Debod.
  2. El Palacio Real.
  3. El Madrid de los Austrias.
  4. El Senado.
  5. El Museo del Prado.
  6. El Museo Reina Sofia.