

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Undergraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	BA (Hons)
4	Programme Title	Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies (3-Year Programme) Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies with Placement Year
5	UCAS/Programme Code	RT47/1424U/1919U
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Languages, Cultures and Societies
8	FHEQ Level	6
9	Last updated	May 2025

10 Programme Aims

1. To foster intercultural awareness and understanding, and an attitude of curiosity and openness towards different cultures and societies, through a selection of modules and, for students undertaking a placement abroad, the opportunity to spend time studying or working in the countries in which the languages students are studying are spoken.
2. To provide students with knowledge and skills that prepare them for further intellectual development and further independent study.
3. To provide a flexible programme of study through variety of student choice in modules in Modern Languages within an informed advisory framework.
4. To give students the opportunity to spend time studying or working in a Spanish and/or Portuguese speaking country.
5. To develop proficiency in receptive (reading and listening), productive (writing and speaking), and mediating skills in Spanish and Portuguese.
6. To satisfy the requirements of a Level 6 award as set out in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).
7. To conform with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice.
8. To meet the requirements of the Benchmark Statements for Languages, Cultures and Societies.

RT47 only:

9. Offer students the opportunity to develop graduate attributes which increase employability, particularly communication and (where applicable) language skills, intercultural competencies, adaptability, resilience and global awareness.

10. Gain insight into international Higher Education and experience differences in academic approach and learning environment.
11. Provide the opportunity to experience new areas of study outside of their usual programme of study at Newcastle University.

1919U only:

12. Provide students with the experience of seeking and securing a position with an employer.
13. Facilitate independent self-management and proactive interaction in a non-university setting.
14. Provide a period of practical work experience that will benefit current academic study and longer term career plans.
15. Enable students to ethically apply their knowledge and skills in the workplace, reflect upon their development and effectively evidence and articulate their learning in relevant future settings.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should have a knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 The lexis, grammatical structures, registers and usage of Spanish language to BA Honours degree standard and Portuguese where chosen at Stages 3-4, to ALTE Level four
- A2 Aspects of the history, society, culture and linguistic development of Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries
- A3 Certain areas of specialist study, according to module selection, in cultural studies, film, history, language, linguistics, literary studies and politics
- A4 The internal diversity and connections between cultures
- A5 (For students opting to write a year- abroad project or a dissertation) a topic studied in-depth and independently.
- A6 (For RT47 only) Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning environments.

For 1919U only:

- A11 Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan, and manage their own skills development and learning.
- A12 Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement.

A13	Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it.
A14	Relate their work based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance.
Teaching and Learning Methods	
<p>The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding of the modern languages (A1) is via a mix of communicative, student-centred language teaching methods and formal linguistic instruction. In the case of A2-A3, knowledge and understanding are generally conveyed through lectures and seminars which guide students towards independent reading and enable them to self-assess and develop their learning through group discussion, take-home tasks; guided self-teaching activities; online discussion and online based group working; the preparation of presentations and/or reports. A4 is developed initially within the communicative language training framework and for students undertaking a year abroad, is further enhanced during the students' year abroad. In A5 (optional project or dissertation) one-to-one tutorials or online communication provide academic guidance, while the opportunity to carry out independent research allows students to apply and practise research skills.</p>	
Assessment Strategy	
<p>Knowledge and understanding of the modern language (A1) is assessed by written continuous assessment and class tests (evaluating student understanding and progress), and unseen written, aural and oral examinations. Outcomes A2-3 are assessed by essay and/or unseen written examination, oral presentation & video presentation (requiring independent, critical analysis and application of intellectual models, principles and theories). Outcome A4 is assessed during the year abroad by an ePortfolio and in some cases a work placement report. Outcome A5 by a cultural project carried out abroad, or a final-year dissertation or project.</p>	
Intellectual Skills	
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>B1 Gather, synthesise and evaluate information</p> <p>B2 Undertake independent, critical analysis</p> <p>B3 Organise and present ideas within the framework of a structured and reasoned argument, oral or written</p> <p>B4 Apply appropriate methodologies to specialist areas of study</p> <p>B5 (For those who choose to write a dissertation), design a research project and select and employ appropriate research methodologies</p>	
Teaching and Learning Methods	
<p>B1-4 skills are developed through seminar preparation and presentation, group discussion and written assignments. B5 is developed through one-to-one tutorials to facilitate the development of independent study and research skills through student self-evaluation.</p>	
Assessment Strategy	

B1-4 are assessed by means of course work (e.g. essays, oral presentations,) and unseen written examinations. They are also assessed as part of oral examinations. They may also be assessed by dissertation.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1 Show receptive (reading and listening) and productive (writing and speaking) skills in Spanish to BA Honours degree standard and in Portuguese, if taken in Stage 4, to ALTE level four

C2 Perform a range of communicative tasks

C3 Translate non-technical texts from and into the target language, develop competent liaison interpreting skills (in Spanish)

C4 Make effective use of language reference materials, such as grammars, dictionaries and corpora

C5 Practice independent language learning

C6 Make effective use of (and appropriately reference) a wide range of information sources, including qualitative and quantitative data, library, internet and other electronic sources, and governmental and non-governmental information.

C7 (For students opting to write a year- abroad project, or a final-year dissertation or project) Undertake, and report upon, an independently conducted research exercise.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning outcomes C1-2 are achieved via communicative, student-centred skills training (e.g. developing and practising reading skills, enhancing listening skills through language laboratory work, liaison interpreting, analysing and practising different writing skills, and conducting oral discussion and presentation, both individually and as part of a team), and formal grammar instruction (e.g. guided study, exercises, and use of IT resources). C1-2 skills may be further enhanced by delivery of specified modules in the target language. These skills are developed and consolidated during the year abroad. C3 is achieved by guided translation into and out of the target language, and analysis of translation techniques; liaison interpreting in and out of the target language; reading for gist exercises; summary and evaluation of texts in the modern language, working in the modern language. C4-5 are achieved in the teaching of C1-3, and further enhanced by study skills sessions as detailed in section 13 (below). Self-access language learning is also encouraged in order to further both C4 and C5. C6 is developed through lecture and seminar preparation, lectures, seminars, exercises, individual and group presentations, debates across all modules. C7 is developed particularly in undertaking a research project or a dissertation in the final stage of the programme.

Assessment Strategy

C1-3 are assessed by written continuous assessment and class tests (evaluating student progress) and unseen written examination (reading, writing, translating and interpreting skills), aural examination (listening and writing skills) and oral examination (listening, speaking and interpreting skills). Skills C4 and C5 are not formally assessed. C6 is assessed in all the programme assessment in various forms such as essays, projects and presentations. C7 is assessed by dissertation / final-year project.

Transferable/Key Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
D1	Communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing
D2	Give oral presentations
D3	Manage one's time, make plans and set priorities in order to achieve an objective
D4	Work creatively and flexibly with others as part of a team, and, in the case of the Year Abroad Work Placement Report, the ability to conduct an effective interview
D5	(For RT47 only) Adapt and operate effectively within a different cultural environment
D6	Use library and bibliographic research resources
D7	Analyse and solve problems
D8	Use IT effectively, such as word processing, email, databases, online environments and the use of the Internet as a research and study tool
For 1919U only:	
D9	Reflect on and manage own learning and development within the workplace.
D10	Use existing and new knowledge to enhance personal performance in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate this process.
D11	Use graduate skills in a professional manner in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate the personal development that has taken place.
Teaching and Learning Methods	
D1, and D3 are enhanced through seminars and seminar preparation, discussions, written assignments, group projects, simulations, oral presentations and examinations. Interpersonal communication (D2) is fostered throughout the programme but particularly through seminars, group projects, simulations and oral examinations. D3 and D4 is developed through seminar activities, team presentations, projects, simulations and oral examinations. Planning and organisation (D5), adaptability (D6), as well as problem solving (D8) are developed throughout the programme but are particularly developed in time constrained activities in class, projects and dissertation modules. D6 is also developed through communicative language training, and is later enhanced during the student's year abroad. D7-9 are fostered and practiced throughout the programme, but in particular through seminar preparation and presentation, written assignments and research-based modules. D7 and 9 are further enhanced through the use of IT resources in language teaching and as an organisational tool for certain modules. D6 and D8 skills are also developed during induction.	
Assessment Strategy	
D1 and D2 are assessed by essay, dissertation, projects, unseen written examination and oral examinations and assessed presentations. D4 is assessed via assessed seminar presentations team, oral examinations and projects (and also the work placement report), D3 and D6-7 are assessed in a number of ways, including written assignments, unseen examinations, assessed seminar preparation and presentation and self-directed language coursework. Adaptability (D5) is principally fostered, rather than assessed, and takes such forms such as written feedback on essays, language course work, reports, dissertations	

and projects and feedback on examination performance, but it is assessed via the posts produced during the year abroad. Computer literacy (D8) is diffusely assessed through the programme, for example, via requirements for word-processing of written work and the use of Powerpoint presentations.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The programme is studied over four years full-time based on 30 weeks attendance per annum. Stages 1, 2 and 4 of the programme are spent in residence attending Newcastle University; Stage 3 is an intercalating year during which students attend university or work in a Spanish and/or Portuguese-speaking country, or spend the year on placement in the UK. Each year or stage requires the study of modules with a total credit value of 120. 20 credits of module study represent 200 hours of student work, including lectures and other teaching (such as seminars), private study, preparation of coursework and exam preparation and revision. Larger modules are proportionately heavier in their work content. All modules at Stages 1, 2 and 4 are generally 20 credits in weight. Modules undertaken during the intercalating year are Year Abroad ePortfolio (100 credits) and Year Abroad Work Placement Report, Year Abroad Project or Study Abroad (20 credits). Students taking a Placement Year in the UK in Stage 3 will take one x 120 credit module, which is pass/fail but does not contribute to the final degree classification.

In each of Stages 1, 2 and 4, students are required to study 20 credits of practical language in Spanish and in Stages 1 and 2 also in Portuguese; at stage 1 the 20 credit language module in Spanish is core. In addition to the compulsory practical language module, students must take further modules to bring their credit weighting up to a total of 120 credits at Stages 1, 2 and 4. These modules are chosen from the range of modules offered at the appropriate stage in that particular year in the School of Modern Languages.

Language modules are conducted mainly in the foreign language; optional modules are taught in a combination of Spanish/Portuguese and English, varying from module to module and from year to year. The range of options includes those that are language specific and provided by the relevant constituent sections of the School of Modern Languages and those that are open to all students of modern languages and are provided by colleagues across the School.

At Stage 1, students develop the language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking; these modules also provide knowledge and understanding of the target language and its cultural context as well as the foundations of subject-specific skills (outcome A1, 2, & 4, C1-5). Students choose additional credits from a range of introductory modules within the School of Modern Languages in linguistics, film, literature, history, politics, and society; these modules enhance knowledge and understanding of the language and of specialist areas (outcomes A2, A3) as well as providing an introduction for cognitive skills (B1-3) and effective practice in key transferable skills (especially outcomes D1-4). They may also take 20 or 40 credits from outside the School (see above).

At Stage 2, a compulsory Spanish language module is taken and a compulsory Portuguese module is also taken; additional credits are chosen from a range of options in film, history, linguistics, literature, media and politics. Students continue to develop the language skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking and translation; language modules are designed to develop these skills in preparation for the forthcoming year abroad (outcome A1, 2, & 4, C1-5), practise cognitive skills in the target language (B1-3) as well as key transferable skills (D1, 2, 4 & 6). The optional modules are intended to be as broad-ranging as possible to allow informed choices to be made about more specialised final-year options; they develop knowledge and understanding of the language in relation to specialist areas of study (A2-3), while at the same time providing a sufficient introduction to critical skills and methodology appropriate to the area (B1-4) and further advancing key transferable skills (especially outcomes D1-2, 6-7).

At Stage 3 students generally may either spend the whole year in a country where one of the target languages is spoken, working as a teaching assistant in a school or college, or studying at a university, or undertaking an approved work placement, or split the year between two countries where the target languages are spoken, studying at universities or undertaking approved work placements. The School of Modern Languages have a number of student exchange programmes and/or formal links with Universities in Spain, Portugal and Latin America.

While all aspects of knowledge, understanding and language skills will be developed during Stage 3, there will be particular opportunities for increasing intercultural awareness and understanding (A4), for developing self-study skills for language learning (C5), for developing organisational and interpersonal skills (D2, D5); students preparing a dissertation will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and cognitive skills in this area too (A9, B5).

The Spanish language module at Stage 4 is taught on the basis that students have reached a very high level (Level D) of competence during their year abroad. The emphasis now is on sophisticated use of language in all skills (A1, 2 & 4, C1-5) as well as the cognitive abilities of analysis and structured argumentation (B2-3). Opportunities to practise interpreting skills are available through translation and interpreting courses (C3). Students opting to continue with Portuguese language are exercising and developing similar skills, but at a lower level (typically at ALTE Level 4/5 threshold). A wide range of more specialised options in film, history, linguistics, literature, media, and politics takes the cognitive skills to a much higher level of development, including greater emphasis upon independent analytical skills, use of appropriate methodologies and problem-solving skills (B1-4, D1-3, 6-7). Students writing a dissertation as well as those preparing an extended essay will develop their knowledge and understanding as well as their subject-specific, cognitive and transferable skills over a broad range of outcomes (A2, 3, & 5, C1 & 4, B1-5, D1, 3, 6 & 7).

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The combination of the two major languages of the Iberian peninsula and Latin America. However students also have flexibility. They may study either 2 years of Portuguese and concentrate on their Spanish or do Spanish and Portuguese together for 4 years. The programme also provides a beginners course in Catalan.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[Programme Regulations 2025/26](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.