

Learn Spanish

Benefits of Language Learning

Research shows that language learning:

- has a positive impact on other academic studies
- increases both educational and career opportunities.

Did You Know?

Second language courses, including current authorized locally developed/ acquired language courses, may be used to meet the Alberta senior high school diploma requirements. Up to 25 credits of the 100-credit requirement may be earned in one or more second languages.

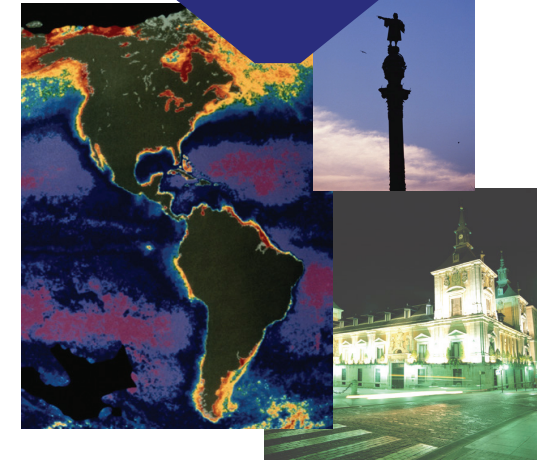
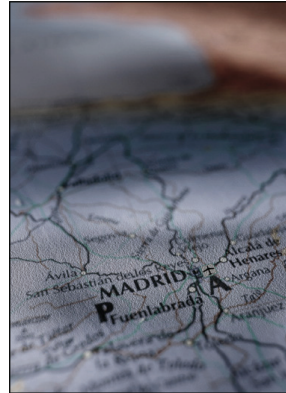
A 30-level (Grade 12) second-language course is accepted for university entrance and is a requirement for some faculties and programs. It may also help students meet the requirements for Rutherford scholarships.

Over 400 million people in more than 20 countries speak Spanish. It is the fourth-most spoken language in the world and the second-most used in international communication, according to the *Guía del Instituto Cervantes* (Instituto Cervantes, 2004, p. 7).

Special Relationships

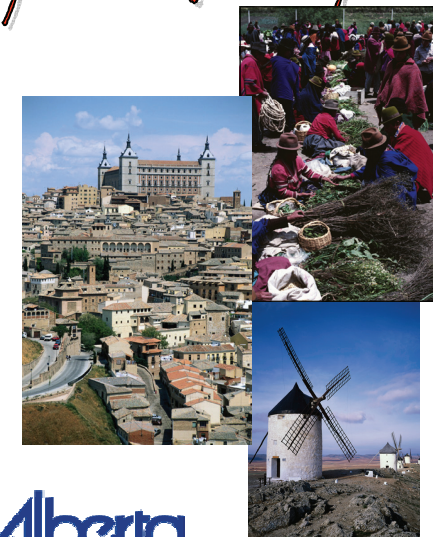
Alberta has a special relationship with:

- Jalisco, Mexico—Alberta and Jalisco have a special twinning relationship
- Spain—Alberta Education and the Ministry of Education in Spain have an agreement through which Alberta receives the support of a Spanish language consultant.



Aprenda Español

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Provincial Programs of Study

The following provincial programs of study are available:

- Spanish Language and Culture
 - Spanish Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 4–5
 - Spanish Language and Culture Six-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
 - Spanish Language and Culture 10-6Y, 20-6Y, 30-6Y
 - Spanish Language and Culture 10-3Y, 20-3Y, 30-3Y
- Spanish Language Arts
 - Spanish Language Arts, Kindergarten to Grade 6
 - Spanish Language Arts, Grades 7–8–9

Current provincial programs of study may be viewed and downloaded at www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages.

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents and *Curriculum Summaries* contain information on what students are expected to learn and be able to do in each subject by grade/course, including Spanish. These resources may be viewed and downloaded at www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks.

Where Is Spanish Offered?

A number of school jurisdictions offer Spanish. Contact your local school jurisdiction to find out more. Links to school jurisdiction Web sites can be accessed at www.education.gov.ab.ca/ei/maps.

Student Learning Opportunities

Students may be interested in available exchanges or work/study opportunities.

- Reciprocal student exchanges (Alberta/Mexico, Alberta/Spain) are available to senior high school students studying Spanish. An important part of this experience is the time student-exchange partners spend with each other as they alternate hosting their partner in their home countries. For more information, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/ie/exchange/student or contact the International Education Branch at 780-427-2035 or by e-mail at exchange.programs@gov.ab.ca.
- *Language Learning Opportunities for Students* outlines various learning opportunities available in a variety of language areas. For more information, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf.

Scholarships and Bursaries

- The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in Washington, DC, offers two scholarships of \$14,000 USD each to Canadian senior high school students for summer travel on a predetermined route through Spain and Latin America. For more information about the Ruta Quetzal-BBVA program, visit www.sgci.mec.es/usa/quetzal/indexe.shtml.

Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE)

The Instituto Cervantes, on behalf of Spain's Ministry of Education, offers official, internationally recognized accreditation of students' knowledge of Spanish as a foreign language for citizens of countries in which Spanish is not the official language.

The Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELEs) diploma examinations are offered at beginner, intermediate and proficiency levels and test the individual's ability to read, write, speak and understand Spanish. The diplomas are recognized by official institutions of Spanish-speaking countries and, increasingly, by corporations, chambers of commerce and educational institutions in Europe and the United States.

A number of writing centres in Canada, and two in Alberta, offer sittings for the DELE examinations. The beginner level, for students 12 to 16 years of age, may be of particular interest; however, students must specifically request this examination. For more information, visit <http://www.cervantes.es/docs/guias/GuiaICIngles.pdf> or contact Andrés Sánchez at 780-422-0664.