

Engineering Tripos Part IIA Project, SL5: Spanish, 2025-26

Leader

[Mr S Bianchi](#) [1]

Timing and Structure

Wednesdays am plus timeslots to be determined (compatible with the other project timetable) for a weekly supervision with a PhD Assistant (native speaker).

Prerequisites

Previous or current study of Spanish at intermediate (middle or upper) or advanced level

Aims

The aims of the course are to:

- To use Spanish in the context of 'languages for work and life' by including specific scientific and engineering tasks which require specific technical input and knowledge.
- To encourage students to adopt the mode of 'learning languages for life' by stimulating independent study and research.
- To increase language performance by means of practice and reinforcement of all four linguistic skills (listening, reading, writing and particularly speaking) so as to be able to operate to a satisfactory level in Hispanic countries or regions.
- To extend technological knowledge and understanding of Hispanic industry in its historic and socio-political environment.
- To encourage the handling of authentic materials in Spanish in any particular format.

Content

NB: First introductory session of 2 hours TBA.

Students will be encouraged to research, dissect and find solutions to existing or potential problems/issues using technology and its application to the Hispanic world. This should be done by using all four linguistic skills and a specific knowledge of the correct terminology and structure of Spanish.

All students will have to complete an in-class assessment, submit a report (up to 8 pages) and do a 10 minute oral presentation.

TOPICS Students will choose a topic in agreement with the project leader and/or the PhD student that will support them throughout the project. The following is a list of suggested areas:

- High-speed train technology in Spain
- Airbus Spain
- Telecommunications in the Hispanic World
- Energy and its exploitation in the Hispanic world
- Dams and canals in Spanish America.

FORMAT

In order to achieve results applicable to the Spanish-speaking context, tasks will be underpinned by the following principles.

- task-based approach - to reflect the realities of current language use.
- skill integration - to operate efficiently in real life.
- language integration - to achieve the greatest degree of realism and authenticity.
- cultural awareness - to operate successfully in a linguistic and social sense.

Weekly: 4 hours contact teaching + 1 hour supervision + 12 hours untimetabled / research.

Group teaching, group work, pair work and individual work will be employed.

The projects will be run from CLIC (Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication) to enable full use of the resources therein.

Assessment will be based on current and technical language (60%) and engineering (40%) content.

ACTIVITIES

- *listening*: understanding spoken discourse of a technical nature, without prior preparation, and summarising effectively in spoken or written form.
- *speaking*: initiating technical discussions or responding to them fluently and accurately.
- *reading*: reading, understanding, interpreting, extracting data from technical sources.
- *writing*: writing using the appropriate structure, vocabulary and registers. Special emphasis will be placed on report writing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A Foreign Language Projects information session will be held in Michaelmas in CLIC. See '[Key Dates](#) [2] [2]' to find out the exact date.

Coursework

Coursework	Due date	Marks
In-class assessment	Week 2 of the project, exact date TBA	10
Final written report	Week 5 of the project, exact date TBA	30
Final oral presentation	Week 5 of the project, exact date TBA	40

Examination Guidelines

Please refer to [Form & conduct of the examinations](#) [3].

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Links

[1] <mailto:asb49@cam.ac.uk>

[2] <http://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/content/part-ii-a-project-guide>

[3] <https://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/content/form-conduct-examinations>