



# *Teach English, Learn Spanish in Vigo, Spain*



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# ABOUT US

The *Centro de Linguas* at the University of Vigo is an **organization** that **specializes** in **foreign language instruction** and is an accredited examination center. One of its primary strengths is its **team of highly qualified teaching staff**.

The *Centro de Linguas* offers an **international atmosphere** within the academic environment of a Spanish University. Students have access to University services including computer centers, **free Wi-Fi**, libraries, cafés and cafeterias.

The *Centro de Linguas* is in **Vigo**, which is the **largest city** in Galicia, Spain. Located on the Atlantic coast with Santiago de Compostela to the North and Portugal to the South, it lies on the southern shore of the *Ria de Vigo* and is surrounded by truly **breath-taking countryside**. With its mild climate and nearby **sandy beaches**, the city has become one of the main tourist attractions in the region. It is a modern city with a vibrant **university atmosphere**. A wide **variety of cultural activities** are always on offer and it boasts a lively and **colorful nightlife**.



The wide range of subjects offered by the *Centro de Linguas* allows students to create a study program designed to their individual needs. The courses which students may choose from include not only general language courses but also practical courses and subjects designed specifically for professors.

On the first day of class, students are offered an academic **orientation session** in which they will be introduced to the basic elements of the course, including a schedule of activities, the syllabus, and criteria for evaluation. Students will also participate in a University orientation session in which they will be shown where to find basic

services such as the various University offices, libraries, cafes, canteens, and professors' offices. Finally, students will be introduced to the city of Vigo through a guided tour of its main points of interest.



At the end of a program, the students who have successfully completed the courses receive a **certificate**.

**In order to qualify for this certificate class attendance is compulsory.** The student must attend at least **85% of the official contact hours**, including theory and culture classes, teacher-training classes, practical classes and other activities organized during the week. Participation in weekend trips is optional.

The **certificate** includes the title and dates of the program, the total number of course hours, and the equivalence in ECTS credits. Also, a **transcript of records** will be issued specifying the title and dates of the course, the number of class hours that the student attended (both of the language and culture module as well as the pedagogy module), the number of hours of teaching practicum, the grades achieved in the program evaluation, and the equivalence in terms of ECTS credits. A description of the program will also be attached.

The student's level of Spanish and his/her needs will be determined before the beginning of the course. Each student will receive a **placement test** by email designed to establish her/his level of Spanish. If a more precise determination should be necessary, this will be followed either by an oral interview on Skype or on the first day of class. This practice ensures that each student participates in a class that matches her/his level of knowledge.



Students will live in the homes of **Spanish families**, with whom they will be able to enjoy linguistic and cultural immersion. These families will offer the students lodging (including linens and towels), meals (breakfast, snack lunch and dinner or breakfast, lunch and snack dinner), laundry service, and a ride to the host family home upon arrival to the city. Most importantly, this housing arrangement provides linguistic immersion, a warm family environment, and support for the student's immersion into the culture. Only one student will be assigned to each family, with exceptions being made only on rare occasions.

Students wishing to participate in this program **are required to have taken** at least two semesters of university level Spanish or three years of high school level Spanish.

## Course

The 6 week program consists of:

- 56 hours of general Spanish language classes
- 36 hours of English teaching practicum
- 18 hours of introduction to pedagogy
- 5 academic visits (consisting of around 15 hours of Spanish language practice)

Course **objectives**:

- Provide pedagogical theory instruction to future foreign language professors.
- Enable students to access a wide variety of educational resources that will help them complete their practicum.
- Improve the teaching skills of course participants.
- Help students develop new teaching strategies.
- Help students learn Spanish and familiarize themselves with Spanish culture.
- Introduce students to Galician geography, culture, and folklore.

Students who have completed attendance and participation requirements will receive the equivalent of 12 ECTS credits.

### INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING

The **Introduction to Teaching** course, taught in English, is designed both for students interested in a professional career as a foreign language teacher as well as for would-be teachers who are trained in other disciplines but are also interested in teaching foreign languages.

The objective of the course is to help familiarize students with various techniques for foreign language teaching. The students will be shown how to design and structure a course and how to manage resources for teaching English as a foreign language.



## TEACHING PRACTICUM

The **teaching practicum** will take place in a primary and secondary education center and in a language center, and will consist of teaching English classes and putting into practice the skills, ideas, and strategies that the student has learned in the Introduction to Teaching course.

Students will be expected to do the following tasks during the practicum:

- Receive, guide, and assist students.
- Learn to design and write a study plan.
- Develop and lead language learning activities.
- Develop and lead cultural activities.
- Apply new methodologies and strategies learned in the Introduction to Teaching course.
- Apply new technologies in the classroom.

Each student will have an **academic tutor** to help her/him make the most of her/his practicum. This tutor will meet periodically with the student during the practicum in order to help her/him in the following ways:

- Assist the student with course planning.
- Assist the student with class development
- Help the student evaluate the outcomes of lessons.
- Provide weekly performance evaluations.
- Provide a final report of the student's overall performance

The program has been carefully designed so that the student will be able to attend the teacher training, Spanish classes, and carry out a practicum without any scheduling conflicts. Students will be allotted time necessary to commute to the education center where she/he is teaching. These education centers have been carefully chosen based on their proximity to the University.

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSES

The **language and culture courses** offer Spanish language training in all the competences needed to fully strengthen and complete a curriculum in a world where the number of Spanish speakers – as a first or second language – is increasing exponentially.



The Spanish as a foreign language curriculum at the Centro de Linguas is governed by the **European Common Framework of Reference for Languages**. This includes guides for learning, teaching and evaluation of Spanish by the Instituto Cervantes (2006). The Centro de Linguas offers basic (A2), intermediate (B1) and advanced (B2/C1) levels.


Our **methodology** is **communicative** and adapts linguistic complexity to the level of each group in all four language skills. The program has several components: **practical and theoretical classes** that work on linguistic contents by using communicative tasks; field trips to emblematic places where tasks are set such as interviewing, information checking and talking to locals; and workshops given by experts that will help to give more in-depth knowledge of the area's idiosyncrasies.

By taking part in **classes, educational trips and workshops**, students will come into contact with authentic cultural and linguistic material. They will be receiving oral and written input. **Evaluation** will be periodical, and will be achieved by using several assessment methods and a final exam




## Six-week schedule<sup>1/2</sup>

### Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 9.30 11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Student reception</li> <li>· Presentation of materials provided</li> <li>· Academic guidance</li> </ul>	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes
11.30-12.00	Break				
Morning 12.00 14.00	Academic guidance continued	Introduction to teaching	Introduction to teaching	Introduction to teaching	Introduction to teaching
Lunch					
Afternoon			Sightseeing and cultural visit around the city of Vigo 		

### Week 2


	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 9.30 11.30	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes
11.30-12.00	Break				
Morning 12.00 14.00	Introduction to teaching	Introduction to teaching	Introduction to teaching	Introduction to teaching	Introduction to teaching
Lunch					
Afternoon		Visit to the Galician Museum of the Sea <sup>3</sup> 			

<sup>1</sup> Activities and trips are subject to availability and weather conditions.

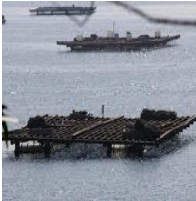
<sup>2</sup> The schedules for weeks 3-6 are given as a guide and may vary according to the timetables in the practice centers and the distance between the Spanish classrooms and the centers.

<sup>3</sup> This visit is optional.




**Week 3**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 9.30 11.30	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes
11.30-12.00	Break				
Morning 12.00 14.00	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum
Lunch					
Afternoon			Educational visit to a winery making <i>Albariño</i> , with Designation of Origin from the <i>Rías Baixas</i> 		



**Week 4**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 9.30 11.30	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes
11.30-12.00	Break				
Morning 12.00 14.00	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum	Teaching Practicum
Lunch					
Afternoon			Boat trip to the <i>Ría de Arousa</i> mussel cultivation rafts 		

### Week 5

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Morning 9.30 11.30	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Trip to Cies Islands (Atlantic Islands National Park)  Route to the Monte Faro lighthouse  Lunch on the beach 	
11.30-12.00	Break					
Morning 12.00 14.00	Teaching practicum with adults	Teaching practicum with adults	Teaching practicum with adults	Teaching practicum with adults		
Lunch						
Afternoon		Visit to the Roman Villa of Toralla <sup>4</sup> 		Trip to Baiona <sup>5</sup> 		

### Week 6

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 9.30 11.30	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Language and culture classes	Review class
11.30-12.00	Break				
Morning 12.00 14.00	Introduction to teaching and teaching practicum with adults	Introduction to teaching and teaching practicum with adults	Introduction to teaching and teaching practicum with adults	Introduction to teaching and teaching practicum with adults	<b>SPANISH EXAM</b>
Lunch					
Afternoon		Typical Food Gastronomic workshop 		Farewell dinner for the course 	

#### · Academic visits

<sup>4</sup> This visit is optional.

<sup>5</sup> This trip is optional.

- Tourist and cultural visit of the city of Vigo, including a historical explanation of Vigo's prehistory and of the city from the Middle Ages to modernity. The visit will end with a fun gymkhana which entails a competition in which students will have to supply data about the city by interviewing citizens. This will help them practise informal oral expression and begin to integrate into the host society from the very first moment.



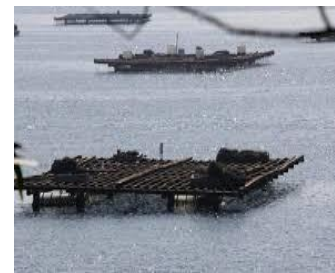
- Visit to a winery making Albariño, which has Rías Baixas designation of origin. This designation is named after the area in which the winery is located: the most southerly Galician estuaries, or *rías*. The visit includes a tour around a winery and its vineyards to discover the harvesting and winemaking processes and will end with a small wine-tasting.



- Gastronomic workshop and guided visit to the Vigo Sea Museum. This workshop provides a chance to enhance course contents such as vocabulary dealing with the area's typical gastronomy (fish and seafood), and cultural questions (designation of origin, typical gastronomy from different Spanish regions), recipes and tasting.



- Boat trip to the *Ría de Arousa* mussel cultivation rafts, including mussel tasting on board, accompanied by a guide who will provide an explanation about the construction of mussel cultivation rafts and of mussel harvesting. The trip includes seabed observation.



- Trip to the Cíes Islands (Atlantic Islands National Park). This includes a catamaran boat trip from the Port of Vigo to the Cíes Islands (around 90 minute round trip) and a walk around the islands. The view from the boat will give a new perspective of the city and the bay, and once on the island there will be walk to Monte Faro. This is the longest and best-known path up the popular and emblematic route to the Cíes Lighthouse. On the way there are views of the dunes of Rodas beach, the *los niños* lagoon, the beach, and the *Nosa Señora* picnic site.

The best beach in the world!<sup>6</sup>

theguardian



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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2007/feb/16/beach.top10>

<sup>2</sup> Photos from Wikicommons