

Spanish language

STUDY GUIDE – AUTUMN 2023

Changes may occur

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Dates and Deadlines

Changes may occur

Week	Dates	Activities, exams and deadline Papers
1	24 July – 21 August	Spanish: Do the self study assignments
2		
3		
4		
1	22 -25 August	Diagnostic test Spanish (22 August, 9:30) All three subjects of Spanish begin: Spanish Language, Development of Written Expression & Tasks & Projects
2	28 Augut-01 Sept	29, August Spanish lectures begin 06-09 Non mandatory tutoring classes begin
3	04-08 September	
4	11-15 September	
5	18-22 September	
6	25-29 September	Task and Projects: Cultural visit.
7	02-06 October	
8	09-16 October	Reading week (without attendance to classes) and non mandatory tutoring classes
9	17--20 October	Meeting with UNSAM local students First project for Task and Projects
10	23-27 October	First Oral exams Development of Written Expression mid- term exam
11	30 Oct- 03 November	Task and Projects: Cultural visit
12	06- 10 November	
13	13- 17 November	Task and Projects cultural visit. Meeting with UNSAM local students
14	21-24 November	Second Oral Exams End of Spanish Lectures and Development of Written Expression classes
15	27 Nov- 01 December	Final project for Tasks and Projects Developing Writing Skills final paper End of Spanish Seminars and tutoring classes
16	04 – 07 December	04 December- Spanish: Final Written Exam 07 December Feedback Exam

1. Introduction

This Study Guide is a supplement to the Course Description. It will give information about the course and advice on how best to study and carry out the different tasks.

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2. Course Content

This section provides information about the three Spanish subjects taught: Spanish Language, Development of Written Expression and Tasks and Projects. Each of these courses are taught in three levels of Spanish, that is why the first week of classes students should take a Spanish diagnostic test to be placed in the right level of Spanish.

SPANISH SUBJECTS CHARACTERISTICS:

SPANISH: depending on your level, the Spanish subjects are divided into:

Introductory Spanish; Use of Spanish-Level 1 and Spanish Grammar-Level 2.

This subject has seminar classes, where you are going to practice everyday language altogether with grammar; and lectures, where Grammar is going to be taught.

DEVELOPMENT OF WRITTEN EXPRESSION: this subject is also divided into three levels: introductory, level 1 and level 2. The aim here is to help you develop the writing skills in Spanish.

TASKS AND PROJECTS: this subject is also divided into three levels: introductory, level 1 and level 2. Here you are going to deal with tasks you will have to carry out using the Spanish language. This practice will allow you to plan projects and make them come true.

Part 1 – Self-Study Period

Your self-study assignments may be downloaded from your [personal Kulturstudier page](#).

Most of the teaching will take place in Buenos Aires, but the learning should start before that, and the program starts with four weeks of self-studies. It is vital that you use these weeks well in order to follow the progression of the program once the classes start in Argentina. It is expected that you make yourself well acquainted with the curriculum during this period. You will get more out of the lectures and seminars if you have looked at the material beforehand, and a slow start to the semester will make the stay unnecessary overloaded with work.

Self-studies can be a challenge. It requires discipline to spend enough time reading and reflecting, but it will also help you develop an individual understanding of your curriculum. If you have questions, lecturers will be available to answer them during these five weeks.

Self-study Introductory Spanish, Development of Written Expression-Introductory Level & Tasks and Projects-Introductory Level (Spanish 0)

Study the material you will receive for the self-study period well! In Spanish the verb has different endings depending on the person (I, you, he/she/it, we, they) the verb relates to. Many students need a bit of time to understand this concept, and we want you to study this before you come to Argentina, so you will be able to follow and understand the lectures more easily. You can find a good explanation of the present tense in Spanish here;

<http://www.studyspanish.com/verbs/lessons/pireg.htm>.

You should work with the three different categories of Spanish verbs on this page, as well as do the exercises until you know it by heart. You should know how to use the verbs before you arrive in Argentina. In addition to this, you should study attentively the material you will receive when the self-study period starts. The material can be downloaded from kulturstudier.org when the self-study period starts on JULY 24th.

In addition, we advise you to use www.duolingo.com to practice your Spanish.

Self-study Use of Spanish (Spanish 1), Development of Written Expression- 1 & Task and Projects- Level 1

You should already have a basic understanding of Spanish when you start *these three subjects*. Whether you have had Spanish at school, you have taken a pre-course or have learned it another way, it is important that you repeat what you have learned before. You should make sure that you know well how to conjugate the verbs in the present tense, regular and irregular. Also verbs as *ser, estar, haber, tener*. The inverted structure of verbs such as *gustar*, and the objective pronouns, and regular verbs in the Pretérito Indefinido (Pretérito Perfecto Simple). Here is a page that can be of help;

<http://www.studyspanish.com/grammar>

You should work with the three different categories of Spanish verbs on this page, as well as do the exercises until you know it by heart. In Argentina. The present tense is one of the things we expect you to know well before you arrive in Buenos Aires. In addition, we advice you to use www.duolingo.com to practice your Spanish.

Spanish Grammar (Spanish –Level 2), Development of Written Expression -Level 2 & Task and Projects- Advanced Spanish

Considering you know Spanish already, the first phase in Buenos Aires will not be as critical for you as for the beginners. Study material will be provided to you at the start of the self-study period, and you should study that material carefully. It is expected that you handle the Indicative Mood well: Simple Present, Simple Future, Present Continuous, the Preterits. Though this course will begin with a revision of the pasts and mainly the contrast Imperfect Past and Preterit Indefinite.

Part 2 - Studies in Argentina

The largest advantage of studying Spanish in Buenos Aires is that you study and live in the area where the language is spoken. We have the possibility to gain a positive influence from the social arena. The contact with your neighbours will become easier the more Spanish you learn. In addition, your lecturers will be available throughout the program, something that will give you a closer academic follow-up. You will also be a part of a small student body that can make the learning easier and create a common involvement.

When studying Spanish with Kulturstudier you will experience that we have an academic approach to the studies. This will by no means say it is not a practical course, on the contrary, we wish to develop your language skills so you can use the language in different settings. What it means is that by completion of the course you should be able to talk, read,

write and understand the language satisfactory. Spanish grammar students will go deeper into the structure of the language to gain teaching skills.

How to study a language?

Those of us who have not learned Spanish from childhood have to take the longer way and work actively to learn and understand the language. There are no set answers on how to do this the best way, but regardless it will take a lot of effort from you. In Kulturstudier we think we have laid a good foundation for your learning by giving you guidance and instructions in the language at the same time as you live in a country where it is the mother tongue. Nevertheless it is just a starting point, and it is your responsibility to participate actively in classes and discussions. However, we do have some useful tips on how you can get the most out of your studies:

1. Work actively from day 1

When you are learning a language there is no good in postponing the reading till the last few weeks, something that is more doable with typical reading subjects. What you learn will build on what you have learned previously, and if you do not have control on the key themes you will quickly reach a point where you do not understand what is being explained. In the beginning there will inevitably be a lot of reading, but if you put in some well-spent time here it won't be long until you can cruise the town practicing your Spanish.

2. Practice what you have learned immediately

The best way to remember what you have studied is to use it immediately. If you are learning the different verbs, make sentences where you get use of the things you have learned.

3. Find a study buddy

When you are learning a new language you can always talk to the wall, however, far more interesting (and educational!) is it to find someone to study with. Get together two or three, listen to each other and make conversation in Spanish. Get involved with the locals.

4. Talk to the other students

It is never natural for people with the same mother tongue (i.e. Norwegian, German, English) to talk together in a different language. But: it is very useful. Arrange with some of your fellow students to only speak Spanish certain times of the day. For instance, start by only speaking Spanish during breakfast, and then maybe expand to lunch after a while. It takes a bit of discipline, but it works!

5. Look for situations where you can use the language

You are in Argentina – a Spanish speaking country. Argentineans are easy to get in contact with, but if you only hang around your fellow foreign friends, it is hard for the locals to get in contact with you. Find activities and go to places where you can meet the locals. Make sure you do not let one person in your student group always take the word in Spanish. That person will learn a lot, but you should be practicing your Spanish too! Try to avoid going to places where you mainly will find tourists, and if you find foreigners who want to speak to you, speak Spanish to them too!

6. Visit to Argentinean organisations

All students are attending different visits to Argentinean organisations. The students will work in groups in preparations for the visits and each student will have a presentation of maximum ten minutes explaining the visit.

Part 3 - Exams in Argentina

There will be written and oral exams for all levels.

Development of Written Expression exams- all levels

- Mid term exam: 26 October
- Home final exam : 28 November

Spanish language exam-all levels

Spanish written exam in Buenos Aires

Date: 04 December

- Individual written exam
- 4 hours

Spanish language exam

Two Spanish oral exams in Buenos Aires – all levels

Date: First Oral Exam: 23 October

Second Oral Exam: 21 November

- Oral exam
- 15–20 minutes

Task and Projects-Introductory-Intermediate-Advanced

First Project in Buenos Aires-all levels

Date: 18 October

Final project in Buenos Aires – all levels

Date: 02 December

- home exam (for each project)

UNSAM uses the following grading for all the subjects

Grading Scale

Description	Percentage
10 (A) Excellent	100-95
9 (A-) Very Good	94-89
8 (B) Good	88-83
7 (B-) Above Average	82-77
6 (C) Average	76-71
5 (C) Below Average	70-65
4 (D) Lowest Passing Grade	64-60
F Failure	59-0
W Officially withdrawn	Academic Advisor's approval
I Incomplete	Only with Academic Advisor's approval

3. Reading Lists

Please refer to www.kulturstudier.org for updated readings lists.

Internet resources

In addition to preparing for the studies in Argentina we suggest that you become familiar with the country and the continent before you travel. There are many good internet pages that will give you good introductions to what the country has to offer. Some of the pages are:

Facts on Argentina (more or less non-political):

Public site: <http://www.argentina.gov.ar/argentina/portal/paginas.dhtml?pagina=356>

Newspapers:

An overview of different newspapers with their own website:

<http://www.prensaescrita.com/america/argentina.php>

Latin America groups (in Norwegian):

<http://www.latin-amerikagruppene.no/Medieklipp/index.html>

The Economist (Political magazine with focus on economic news, there is a section of news about Latin America): <http://www.economist.com/world/la/>

Tourist websites:

Official website side: <http://www.turismo.gov.ar/>

Private website: <http://www.enargentinaturismo.com.ar/>

Lonely Planet: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/argentina/>

We have also gathered some websites that can be useful for the Spanish studies before and during the program in Argentina:

Dictionaries:

Tritrans (Norwegian-Spanish-English): <http://www.tritrans.net/>

Word reference (English-Spanish): www.wordreference.com

Lexin (Norwegian-English): <http://decentius.hit.uib.no/lexin.html>

Jergas de habla hispana (local slang from the different Spanish speaking countries, check out the site for Argentina): <http://www.jergasdehablahispana.org>

Grammatical exercises:

Spanish home (has everything regarding grammatical exercises and explanations): <http://www.spanishhome.com/>

Spanish Language and Culture: <http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/index.php>

GREI – grammatical interactive game: <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/grei/>

Others:

University of Buenos Aires; <http://www.uba.ar>