This Handbook is for all students of Spanish (as a Minor/Major, Single/Joint degree). It should be seen as a supplement to the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures Handbook (available on the School webpages: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/mllc/informationforcurrentstudents/handbooks.aspx), which provides all general information about the SMLLC and which should be read carefully at the start of the year.

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Welcome to Hispanic Studies!

Welcome to Hispanic Studies, one of the four language areas comprising the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Royal Holloway.

This section is designed to give an overview of degree programmes in Hispanic Studies. You should also consult the Academic Skills for Students of Modern Languages Handbook, for invaluable information on how to make the most of your time at University. Finally, a wealth of other information and material can be found on the School's web pages and the Moodle webpages; these are updated regularly, so be sure to have a look at them soon and then to check them again every so often.

Students of Hispanic Studies organize and run a Hispanic Society, and the College's closeness to central London means students of Spanish have easy access to the University's central London facilities – both pastoral and academic –, the Instituto Cervantes and Canning House, both of which organize and publicize social and cultural events, and to the capital's many Spanish and Latin American venues and festivals.

Aims of Hispanic Studies degree programmes

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in Hispanic Studies are:

- to provide students with knowledge of the Spanish language, and of Spanish and Latin American literature, history and visual culture, to enable them to engage with a European context in which Spain has an important role and also with Spanish-speaking communities across the world;
- to encourage an outlook which understands, respects and recognizes the differences between cultures and lifestyles both in Europe and in the rest of the world;
- to stimulate students to read widely in Spanish, and to encourage them to develop and express their opinions cogently, whether orally or in writing;
- to encourage students to situate elements of Hispanic culture in their socio-historical context by relating them to a wider cultural spectrum encompassing art, literature, film, history, politics, and a range of other social, religious and philosophical influences;
- to equip students with a range of transferable skills which they will find useful during their university careers and in subsequent professional life, and to
enable them to make valuable links between their university studies and events outside the university;

- to encourage students to continue their education, and where appropriate, to prepare them for higher degrees in Hispanic Studies and related fields.

**List of Hispanic Studies courses running in 2016-17**

**PLEASE NOTE:** A list of Hispanic Studies courses running in 2016-17, linked in each case to the relevant Course Unit Specification, is available for consultation on-line via the School website under ‘Course Units’ at

https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/mllc/prospectivestudents/spanish/courseunits/hispanicstudies.aspx

**Structure of Degree Programmes Involving Hispanic Studies**

**PLEASE NOTE:** All full-time students of the College must take courses to a total value of 4 whole units per year on campus.

**Single Honours Spanish**
This programme is a four-year degree with a year spent abroad. Students take at least three units from Hispanic Studies in each of the three years on campus. At least one of these is a language course, and the others are chosen from the range of cultural courses we offer.

**Major Honours Spanish**
The major Spanish programme is a four-year degree with a year spent abroad. Degree programme titles are ‘Spanish with X.’ Students do no more than three units from Hispanic Studies in each of the three years on campus. At least one of these is a language course, and the others are chosen from the range of cultural courses we offer. Each year one course unit is from the minor subject field.

**Spanish within a Joint Degree programme**
Joint degrees including Spanish are four-year degrees with a year spent abroad. Degree programme titles use the word and to connect the two subjects. Students do two units from Hispanic Studies in each of the three years on campus. At least one of these is a language course and the other is chosen from the range of cultural courses we offer.

**Spanish within Multilingual Studies**
This is a four-year degree with the third year spent abroad. The Spanish language element is compulsory at one unit per year on campus and up to one further unit may be chosen freely from the cultural courses offered by Hispanic Studies.
Spanish within Comparative Literature and Culture (CLC)
This is a three-year degree without a compulsory language element. Students can choose from a range of course units in Hispanic Studies in which texts are available in translation or in the case of films, with subtitles.

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Spanish within European Studies
This is a four-year degree with the third year spent in a European country which can be Spain. Students who take Spanish as their main language in the European Studies programme do between 1 and 2 units of Spanish in each of their three years on campus. At least one of these is a language unit.

Spanish can normally also be taken as an optional field of study within the European Studies degree, subject to places being available. In this case, only one unit of Spanish, usually a language unit, is taken in one or two of the three years of study. European Studies students hoping to take beginners’ Spanish as an optional field of study should be aware that places are very limited. Beginners’ German or Italian will be offered to those who cannot be accepted on this course.

Students should contact Ms Laura Law in European Studies for details of the pathways open to them on this programme.

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Minor Honours Spanish
Students taking Spanish in this way complete just one unit of Spanish language each year. Degree programme titles are ‘X with Spanish.’ If the major field of study is not a language, there is no year abroad.

PLEASE NOTE: From September 2015 we accept minor students onto the Spanish for the beginners’ pathway.

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Spanish as an elective unit
Strictly subject to availability, post A-level Spanish course units can be taken by students for whom Spanish is not a named part of their degree, in which case the standard pre-requisite (B in Spanish at A level or equivalent) for entry normally applies.

NB. Elective students MUST register with the convenor of the course they wish to take during induction and have their choice of elective approved by their home department.

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Spanish Language Courses

Beginners' pathway
[now available to students taking Spanish as a minor subject]
Those with little or no prior knowledge of Spanish take Intensive Spanish (SN1010) in the first year, followed by Intensive Spanish II (SN2010) in the second year and Spanish III (SN3001) in the final year.

**Post-A level pathway**
[available on all programmes including Spanish and as an elective]
Those who already have A-Level Spanish (or equivalent) take Spanish I (SN1001) in year one, followed by Spanish II (SN2001) in the second year and Spanish III (SN3001) in the final year. Optional language courses in Translation are available in the first and second years; those who have a special interest in language matters can propose a linguistic topic for a final-year research project or dissertation.

**Native speakers’ pathway**
[available on all programmes including Spanish]
Those whose first language is Spanish take Spanish II (SN2001) in year one, followed by both halves of Principles and Practice of Translation (SN2011 and 2012) in the second year and Spanish III (SN3001) in the final year. Classification as a native speaker is at the sole discretion of Hispanic Studies, based on interview and if necessary, the production of written work.

If you are unsure of which pathway is the right one for you, be sure to discuss the matter with your Personal Adviser during the Induction Week. If after a few weeks (2-4) you feel you have been assigned to an inappropriate pathway, again, make sure you see your Personal Adviser about it in his or her office hours.

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**Hispanic Studies progression and Award Requirements**

**Single, Major, and Joint Honours Spanish: Beginners’ pathway**

**Compulsory language units:**

For all students a pass in SN1010 Intensive Spanish I is a prerequisite for progression to the second year, and SN2010 Intensive Spanish II is a prerequisite for progression to the year abroad (except for minor students who do not go on the year abroad and progress straight to SN3001). Satisfactory completion of the year abroad is a prerequisite for entry into the final-year SN3001 Spanish III (excluding minor and electives), subject to the decisions of the Sub-Board of Examiners, and all students must pass Core PR SN3001 in order to be awarded a degree with Hispanic Studies in the title.

**Single, Major, Joint, and Minor Honours Spanish: post-A level pathway**

**Compulsory language units:**
For all students a pass in SN1001 Spanish I is a prerequisite for progression to the second year, and SN2001 Spanish II is a prerequisite for progression to the year abroad (if applicable, or to the final year, for those minor honours students not taking a year abroad). Satisfactory completion of the year abroad for those taking one is a prerequisite for entry into the final-year SN3001 Spanish III, subject to the decisions of the Sub-Board of Examiners and students must pass Core PR SN3001 in order to be awarded a degree with Hispanic Studies in the title.

**Single, Major, Joint, and Minor Honours Spanish: Native Speakers' pathway**

**Compulsory language units:**

Students on this pathway must pass SN2001 Spanish II in their first year in order to progress to their second year; they must pass SN2011 and 2012 Principles and Practice of Translation in order to progress to the year abroad. Satisfactory completion of the year abroad is a prerequisite for entry into the final-year SN3001 Spanish III, subject to the decisions of the Sub-Board of Examiners, and students must pass Core PR SN3001 in order to be awarded a degree with Hispanic Studies in the title.

For further details of progression and award requirements, see also UG students Handbook 7.14.

**The Year Abroad (YA)**

Full details are to be found in the on-line Year Abroad Handbook on the School's web-pages at

https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/mllc/informationforcurrentstudents/handbooks.aspx

**Preparations** for the Year Abroad begin in the first term of the Second Year.

The year abroad is assessed and formally accredited to the London University degree, counting as two course units. Full information on this will be given at the year abroad briefings and is contained in the Year Abroad Handbook, which all second-year students will receive, but in essence there is one course unit based on your results at university (or a portfolio of work you produce, if you are working abroad) and one course unit for an oral examination taken at Royal Holloway when you return. If your year abroad is divided between two language areas, each of these units will be split into two halves.
Spanish Resources

The following list is by no means comprehensive, but among the journals held by Founders Library are those in the list below, which may be particularly useful to Hispanic Studies students. Please note that these journals, and many more, are also available in electronic format and may be accessed from the Library’s webpage. You are strongly advised to attend a Library induction session to familiarise yourself with all the online journals, databases and e-books you are able to access through its subscriptions.

Bulletin of Hispanic Studies (Liverpool)
Bulletin of Spanish Studies (Glasgow)
Journal of Romance Studies
Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies
Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies
Hispanic Research Journal
Forum for Modern Language Studies
Modern Language Review
Modern Language Notes
Paragraph
PMLA (Publications of the Modern Languages Association)
Neophilologus

BUYING BOOKS

Spanish texts can be difficult to obtain; ordinary high-street bookshops do not stock them and tend to be very slow when they try to order them. Good bookshops are: Grant & Cutler, Waterstones in Gower Street and The European Bookshop. Agapea (http://uk.agapea.com/) and Amazon, amongst other web-based sellers, are generally efficient but you must know exactly what you need; beware, for example, of buying a translation or an abridged edition by mistake. For second-hand items, you can try www.abebooks.co.uk. Some Spanish bookshops operate efficient mail-order services. You may like to try Llibreria Laie in Barcelona (http://www.laie.es).

The real secret of success is twofold:
1) PLAN AHEAD! Never start trying to obtain a book the same week as you need to read it. Look about six weeks to two months ahead.
2) MAKE FRIENDS and CREATE NETWORKS! Be aware of who in your group has a copy of what and arrange to share; be willing to lend and others will let you borrow. Look after other people’s books and give them back when you promised you would; then they will go on lending to you for the duration of your time here.

CANNING HOUSE, the INSTITUTO CERVANTES, and the SPANISH EMBASSY

Situated in central London, these institutions offer Spanish cultural events throughout the year. The Instituto Cervantes has a database with information on language and cultural courses in Spain (schools and universities).

https://www.canninghouse.org/
http://londres.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm
http://www.exteriores.gob.es/embajadas/londres/es/Paginas/inicio.aspx