

**Title:** Intensive Intermediate Spanish Language and Culture (Level B1-B2)

**Term:** Summer, 4 weeks

**Description:**

The full set of communicative, grammatical, lexical and cultural objectives is detailed below in the section titled "B1-B2 Índice de Contenidos 90 horas."

Among the many objectives, after completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Understand the main ideas in semi-complex Spanish debates,
- Justify an opinion in informal debates,
- Ask for specific information, complain, ask for an explanation...
- Give detailed instructions about how to do something,
- Summarise and answer questions in detail.
- Argue and communicate effectively in a speech,
- Explain his/her point of view about current issues arguing all of the points and counter-points,
- Use transitions to connect sentences fluently and effectively use various linking words to build coherent sentences.

**Language of Instruction:** Spanish

**Total hours:** 90 hours

**Credits:** 6 credits

**METHODOLOGY**

The language professors at Barcelona International College (BIC) are specialised in teaching Spanish as a foreign language, Certified by Instituto Cervantes and qualified by the CEELE (Certificado de Calidad de la Enseñanza del Español como Lengua Extranjera) –Certificate of Quality in teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language- Universidad de Alcalá-.

BIC puts together different methods from a communicative point of view in order to reach every type of student. The main aim is to teach the students all the skills and concepts needed to feel comfortable in a Hispanic atmosphere where different cultures of both sides of the Atlantic come together.

It leans on an education directed to develop the attitudes, knowledge, and skills needed to:

- be independent in thoughts and acts.
- participate with other people in any situation.
- improve communication in order to feel free and have a most direct contact with native speakers, which, at the same time, leads to a better understanding of the cultural elements.

As it always works from an intercultural point of view, one of its main aims is to encourage the student's identification and the development of his/her personality as a result of the enriching experience of living in a multilingual atmosphere.

Language is an instrument used by the human being to establish relationships, to take part in social exchanges, to communicate, for this reason the process is based in learning descriptive elements of the language and to use them in specific situations.

The goal is to make the student acquire a competent Communicative Ability, which embraces the knowledge and abilities to produce and understand all the messages in the appropriate contexts.

During the Spanish Language and Culture lessons the teachers will focus on theory and practice related to these important components: grammar, reading, writing, listening, speaking and vocabulary so that the students are encouraged to learn with deductive and inductive methodology inferences.

The students are also encouraged to develop intercultural competence with a combination of knowledge, skills, and attitudes, which enable individuals to communicate and interact across cultural boundaries.

The approach is intended to be as close as possible to real life situations in the Spanish-speaking world.

Barcelona International College offers this course aimed at a linguistic, methodological, didactic and sociocultural update for the students involved. It has been produced under the requirements of the MCER (Common European Frame of Reference), which provides a common base to develop language programmes, curricular guidance, exams, and manuals for all of Europe. It consists of an integrative study of what language students have to do in order to use the language to communicate, as well as the knowledge and skills they need to develop in order to interact efficiently and the cultural context in which the language is used. Thanks to this common base for the explicit description of objectives, content and methods, the *Frame of reference* favours the transparency of the courses, programmes and certificates, promoting the international cooperation in the field of modern languages.

We use the *Prisma* Method from Edinumen editorial, as it is based on this communicative method and it follows the directives of the European Frame of Common Reference (MCER).

This method consists of a student manual, workbook, C.D., and a teacher's manual. The teacher's manual includes supplementary photocopies of activities that will be provided for the students. Furthermore, if necessary the professor will supply extra material to reinforce the lessons.

**Classroom procedures:** The teacher's role in the classroom is to make the learning easier and to facilitate language acquisition. During the term, the teacher uses Spanish language as much as possible, facilitates small group work, gives instructions, monitors, corrects and explains. The student is the focus of all didactic considerations and all materials of own production and activities prepared by the teacher have been adapted to him/her. The teacher is a guide in the learning process of each student so the activities are done more efficiently. The teacher acts as an informant in the content presentation phase; he/she is the main source of information for the students and adapts both to the group level and its needs.

He/she has to be competent to determine the range of available possibilities and to set out the procedures that will allow the students a conscious selection. The teacher talks to the students to find out their interests and needs. The first day of the week the teacher decides the work contents for the group and for each individual. This way the activities developed in class will be more motivating for the student who will feel the need to interact constantly. Likewise, the teacher investigates and reviews the previous knowledge of the students and awakens their need to apply the learning and communication strategies. With this approach the student feels motivated, receptive, active and involved in class; the atmosphere in class is relaxed and open so that the communication is completely real.

### **Teaching staff**

Qualified teachers licensed in Hispanic Philology from different universities teach these courses; authors of didactic material, and all of them are experts in teaching Spanish as a foreign language.

### **Language groups**

The ideal is ten students maximum per class, in order to allow for the students to verbally communicate in pairs, small groups and class discussions under the professor's supervision. However, it depends on the number of students that will come and their level.

### **Levels**

The first week all of the students will take a test to measure their level of proficiency and be placed accordingly in a class. This language exam consists of a grammar section and an oral section, in order for the teacher to accurately evaluate the level of each student.

The students will know the same day that they take the test which class they are in, their teacher, and their manuals.

For each level *Prisma* Method has a different set of books. The levels are:

- A1 BEGINNERS
- A2 ELEMENTARY
- B1 INTERMEDIATE
- B2 ADVANCED
- C1 HIGHER ADVANCED
- C2 PROFICIENT

### **Evaluation**

Attendance is very important in language classes in order to properly understand all of the foreign language structures and vocabulary that will be taught. It is mandatory and will be strongly enforced.

The final grade consists of five different parts as reflected in the grade breakdown:

- 20% Class participation & attendance
- 20% Continuous evaluation (the daily effort for speaking Spanish in class, quizzes, and practicing the learned structures)

15% Homework  
15% Midterm exam  
30% Final exam

### **The Exams**

The exams consist of five parts: grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking. The exams will be weighted as follows:

30% Grammar  
10% Reading  
20% Writing  
10% Listening  
30% Speaking

The final exam will have the same format as the midterm exam. It is a cumulative exam, including material from throughout the entire course. The teacher will place more emphasis on the final exam because it is cumulative. Student improvement will also significantly affect the overall grade.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### **Manuals**

V.V.A.A., Metodo Prisma, Editorial Edinumen. Levels: B1. Student's book and workbook.