

UKC Programme Specifications

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the programme. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found [*either* by following the links provided *or* in the programme handbook]. The accuracy of the information contained in this specification is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

MA in Modern Spanish Studies

School of European Culture and Languages

1. Awarding Institutions/Bodies	University of Kent
2. Teaching Institutions	University of Kent at Canterbury
3. Teaching Sites	Canterbury Campus
4. Programme accredited by:	Not applicable
5. Final Award	MA
6. Programme	Spanish
7. UCAS code (or other code)	Not applicable
8. Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group/s	Languages and related studies
9. Date of production/revision	January 2003
10. Applicable cohort/s	2001 entry onwards

11. Educational Aims of the Programme

- To build on proficiencies in spoken and written Spanish
- To enable you to explore in depth areas of Modern Spanish Culture
- To develop a critical awareness of these areas
- To introduce various methodological approaches
- To provide teaching which is informed by current research and scholarship and which requires students to engage with aspects of work at the frontiers of knowledge
- To provide a means of access to intercultural awareness and understanding
- To provide opportunities for the development of personal, communication, research and other key skills appropriate for graduate employment both in industry and in the public sector.
- To develop general critical, analytical and problem solving skills which can be applied in a wide range of situations.
- To reinforce Spanish language skills

12. Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Teaching/learning and assessment Methods and strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. 20th Century Spanish Literature
2. 20th Century Spanish Art, Music and Popular Culture
3. Spanish avant-garde
4. Spanish Cinema
5. 20th Century Spanish History
6. Literature, Visual Arts and Identity in 20th Century Spanish America

Teaching/learning:

Points 1-6 are taught through a series of research seminars. Self-directed learning will be facilitated by course handbooks and the use of research based teaching materials and methods.

Assessment:

Each course will have a written work requirement of 2 Essays (2000-3000 words each). This may take the form of essays, surveys, reviews, reports etc. These and the dissertation may be written in either Spanish or English.

Skills and Other Attributes

B. Intellectual skills:

1. Develop the skills needed for academic study and enquiry
2. Evaluate information critically
3. Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of the subject
4. Utilise problem solving skills
5. Utilise communication skills for the coherent expression and transfer of knowledge
6. Analyse, evaluate and interpret a variety of types of evidence in a critical manner
7. Study and reach conclusions independently

Teaching/learning:

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined below. Each module involves the critical reflection of key themes, verbal discussion and the written analysis and interpretation of the relevant material.

Assessment:

Assessed through supervised projects requiring independent research and essay writing. These activities are develop and supported by oral presentations in seminars and supervised class discussions.

C. Subject-specific skills:

1. Develop reading speed in Spanish
2. Develop detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the various structures and registers of Spanish
3. Analyse critically a variety of texts and artistic products including literary texts, historical texts, art works and music.
4. Refine skills in these two related areas: **a)** reception (listening and reading), **b)** production (speaking and writing)
5. Communicate effectively in Spanish (optional)

Teaching/learning:

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the library and online resources. Comprehensive reading lists are provided for each module at the start of the academic year as are guidelines for the production of essays. Discussion of theoretical and conceptual issues are integrated into all modules.

Assessment:

See B above

D. Transferable skills:

1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means
2. Evaluate their own advanced academic performance
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations
4. Refine accurate and effective note-taking and summarising skills
5. Library and bibliographical research skills
6. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development
7. Manage time and prioritise workloads, think and perform under pressure
8. Leadership abilities
9. Work creatively and flexibly
10. Deploy a range of Information Technology skills effectively, such as word processing text with footnotes, basic formatting, using e-mail, searching databases and text-files, navigating the world wide web

Teaching/learning:

All courses require regular written work and regular feedback on work is given to the students to help develop their power of presentation, analysis and communication both in English and in Spanish. Time management is learned as students meet deadlines and plan projects. Information Technology skills are learnt through course work and developed through individual learning.

Assessment:

Assessed continuously. Regular feedback reflects progress in these areas.

For more information on which modules provide which skills, see the module mapping.

13. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and award

The programme offers graduates with a high level of Spanish a unique opportunity to develop further linguistic and culture skills. It can be taken either full-time over one year or part-time over two years.

14. Support for Students and Their Learning at Kent

- Personal academic tutor who will guide you throughout your studies.
- Related graduate research seminars
- Student-Staff Committee
- Learning resources, equipment/plant: Templeman Library, Computing Services, School Audio and Video Collection and Viewing Room, Computer Assisted Language Learning Laboratory
- Handbook containing detailed information on each module
- Academic support system providing advice on module choice and programme structure, academic difficulties, progression and individual progress
- Central support services, including a learning resources centre, a Students' Union (including its Advice and Information Service, Counselling Service and Disability Unit).

15. Entry Profile

Entry Route

For fuller information, please refer to the University prospectus.

The normal requirement is a 2:1 degree from a British university or its equivalent. Other applications will always be considered on merit. Students will be required to provide evidence of work and produce references. They will normally be interviewed.

What does this programme have to offer?

- An excellent opportunity to explore specific areas of contemporary Spanish and Spanish American culture (literature, film, art, music) and history
- The opportunity to study the principles of literary-critical and linguistic-analytical practice within a friendly and committed departmental atmosphere at Kent and progress to doctoral study
- The opportunity to study in Canterbury, a major center for European Studies within easy access of both Paris and London.
- A friendly campus at Kent with high student morale and dedicated lecturing staff of international standing.

Personal Profile

An applicant should have:

- A lively interest in the contemporary Spanish and Spanish American culture
- A commitment to take on the challenge of studying in Spanish at an advance level
- An openness to what is distinctive of and specific to Spanish and Spanish American language and culture
- A high level of linguistic ability in Spanish and a willingness to develop this through reading and writing, as well as through speaking
- A willingness to acquire the IT skills appropriate to literary and linguistic studies and to the creation of one's own texts
- A readiness to share discovery with a larger group and exchange ideas
- Flexibility of mind, the capacity for self-reflection and the desire to be intellectually independent and self-standing
- A readiness to place specialist study in a broad framework of complementary and contextual knowledge

16. Methods for evaluating and enhancing the quality and standards of teaching and learning Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards (Kent)

- Student questionnaires
- Annual monitoring reports
- External examiners' reports
- Periodic programme reviews
- Annual staff appraisal
- Active staff development programme
- Peer observation
- Quality Assurance subject review
- Continuous monitoring of student progress.
- Personal Academic Support System

Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards (Kent)

- Staff-Student liaison committee
- Departmental learning and teaching committee
- Faculty learning and teaching committee
- Board of Examiners (including external examiners)
- Departmental part-time studies Director
- Departmental quality assurance committee
- Departmental ethics committee
- Programme approval sub-committee of the University Learning and Teaching Board
- Programme teams

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience (Kent)

- Staff-student liaison committee
- Student course evaluations

- Informal meetings and social contact with students.
- Student representation at School Level
- Student representation at Faculty Level
- Exit questionnaire
- Discussions with tutors
- Discussions with Senior tutor
- Focus groups
- Suggestion Box or e-mail address

Staff development priorities (Kent) include:

- Research led teaching
- Links with other European Institutions
- Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Education requirement for all new appointments and new part-time teachers
- Regular formal and informal collaboration in programme development
- Staff appraisal scheme
- Staff development courses
- Study leave
- Research seminars
- Subject based Conference
- Interdisciplinary Conferences
- Institute of Learning and Teaching membership
- Attendance at relevant conferences
- PhD (or near completion of PhD) as minimum qualification for appointment to lecturing posts
- Strong evidence of research record required for appointment to lecturing posts
- Mentoring of new lecturers
- Self evaluation
- Professional body guidelines
- Membership of relevant academic bodies
- Dissemination of good practice on new learning and teaching methods

17. Indicators of quality and standards (Kent)

- Results of Research Assessment Exercise: 4 out of 5 in 2001 (Jointly with German and Italian, under European Studies)
- Internal subject reviews
- External examiners' reports
- Teaching and research culture recognised by the British Academy, the Generalitat de Catalunya and the Anglo-Catalan Society in the award of grants to staff for research
- Partnership and links with other higher education institutions abroad
- Alumnae feedback
- International recognition of members of staff research
- Invitations extended to members of staff from Spanish and other Foreign Universities

The following reference points were used in creating these specifications:

- Benchmarking statement/s for Spanish: to be applied
- The University Plan and Learning and Teaching Strategy (including the School Learning and Teaching Forum)
- Subject produced documents
- Staff and Graduate Student Research

Programme Specification Template

Annex 2

18 May 2001