

WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?

As our world becomes increasingly connected and interdependent, it has become necessary for students to learn the skills to effectively communicate with others around the world.

Learning a language benefits students in the following ways:

Academic and Intellectual Achievement

- Students have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics
- Students score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence
- Students are better in divergent thinking tasks and in memory ability and attention span

Post-Secondary Admission

- Language courses may be used to meet the Alberta High School Diploma requirements. Up to 25 credits of the 100 credits required for a high school diploma can be earned in one or more second language
- A 30-level language course is accepted for university entrance and is a requirement for some faculties and programs. It may also help students meet the requirements for the Rutherford scholarship
- Students can continue to study Spanish in many post-secondary institutions

Enhanced First Language Skills

- Students' first language skills are strengthened in areas of reading, vocabulary development, grammar and communication skills

Cultural Understanding

- Students display enhanced cultural sensitivity, gain cross-cultural skills, and are better able to adapt to varying cultural contexts

Greater Career Opportunities

- There is a growing need for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce

EDUCATOR SUPPORT

Alberta school authorities benefit from the expertise and assistance of a Special Language Advisor on Spanish language and culture through an agreement between **Alberta Education** and the **Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain**.

The Spanish Language Advisor:

- Supports schools in developing and maintaining Spanish language programs
- Provides information and resources for Spanish language teachers
- Leads workshops, courses and professional development sessions that promote intercultural and language teaching

For more information, please contact the Spanish Language Advisor at www.education.alberta.ca/spanish.



For more information about International Education in Alberta Education, please visit: www.intled.alberta.ca

Phone: 780-427-2035

Learn Spanish



DID YOU KNOW?



- Alberta has hosted over 150 visiting teachers from Spain since 2007
- Alberta Education and Spain collaborate to implement and support International Spanish Academies (ISA) in the province. An ISA is a special designation offered by Spain to schools abroad which meet certain standards in Spanish bilingual language programming
- Certain Alberta high schools have officially recognized school partnerships with schools in Spanish speaking countries
- Canadian School Guadalajara is the first school in Mexico to offer the Alberta curriculum

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

In Alberta, Spanish language programming includes:

- Bilingual programs, where in addition to Language Arts (Kindergarten to Grade 12), Spanish is used for instruction in other subjects up to a total of 50% of the school day, and
- Language and Culture courses, where Spanish is studied as a course to develop communication skills, intercultural and strategic competence and an appreciation of Spanish culture

For more information on programs of study for international languages, visit www.education.alberta.ca/programs-of-study.

WHERE CAN YOU LEARN SPANISH?

A number of school authorities offer Spanish programming. Contact your local school authority for more information at www.education.alberta.ca/alberta-education/school-authority-index.



STUDENT, EDUCATOR, AND SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Exchanges & Funding

- Alberta Education offers reciprocal student exchange programs with Spain and Mexico. Alberta students host their Spanish/Mexican counterparts during the first semester and then live and study in Spain/Mexico during the second semester. www.ieep.ca
- Alberta teachers and administrators can participate in summer courses and professional development opportunities in Spain through a Spanish Language Scholarship offered by the Ministry of Education in Spain and the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain in Ottawa
www.mecd.gob.es/eeuu/convocatorias-programas/convocatorias-eeuu/cursos-verano.html
- Various scholarships and bursaries are available
www.studentaid.alberta.ca

School Partnerships

- School twinnings or partnerships between Alberta schools and schools abroad bring an international experience into the classroom and enable students to interact with others from around the world
www.education.alberta.ca/international-education/school-partnerships/everyone/contact-international-education/



LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAM

Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language/ Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE)

- Students are tested on their ability to listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish
- Testing is based on internationally-recognized levels of competency that are aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
- Six levels of testing are available, ranging from beginners (A1) to mastery (C2) and specifically designed exams for young learners
- After successful completion of the exam, DELE diplomas are officially granted by the Instituto Cervantes on behalf of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport

For more information on the DELE, visit www.dele.org

PROGRAM RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Located in Edmonton and supporting the province of Alberta, the **Spanish Language Resource Centre** is sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain, Edmonton Public Schools and the University of Alberta. It is the third accredited Spanish Language Resource Centre in Canada.

www.mecd.gob.es/canada/oficinasycentros/centros-recursos/canada-edmonton/presentacion.html

