

2022

**The world learns**  
**Spanish**  
**UNITED KINGDOM**



# Introduction

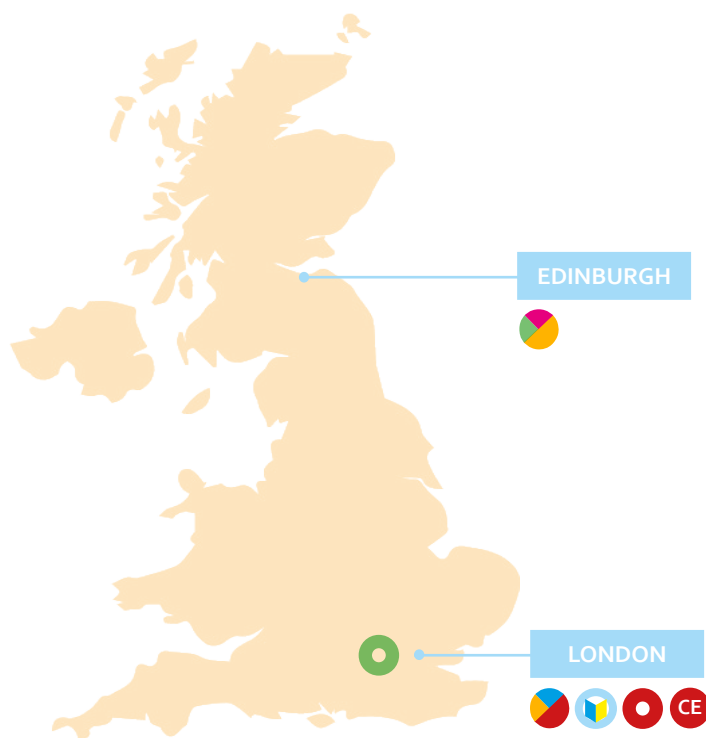
The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of Spain through the Spanish Embassy Education Office («Consejería de Educación») supports the teaching of Spanish in the British education system. This is achieved through cooperation activities with educational authorities, universities and other organisations; bilateral programmes, such as the Language Assistants and Visiting Teachers schemes; teacher training activities and language immersion days.


The Consejería de Educación also runs the Spanish school in London «Instituto Español Vicente Cañada Blanch», and the Spanish Language and Culture Programme (ALCE), which has more than two thousand students enrolled in the London area. These students receive extracurricular lessons to reinforce their cultural and linguistic competences in Spanish.


Among the most recent achievements in the promotion and dissemination of Spanish in the United Kingdom, we highlight the following:


## Headline findings


- A training programme for British teachers of Spanish: at a strategic time when Spanish —now the first foreign language choice for A Level exams— continues to grow in terms of the number of teachers, schools and teaching hours, the Consejería de Educación has extended its collaboration with local networks in the United Kingdom to provide an effective response to the demand for support in the teaching of Spanish. Thanks to the strengthening of this collaboration over the last two years, training activities aimed at British teachers have been considerably expanded and have been very successful.
- Adapted teaching materials and resources: a commitment to the development of materials and resources for the teaching of Spanish specifically focused on the British context which are extremely well received and reveal the scope of the effort of the Consejería de Educación to consolidate the position of Spanish in the United Kingdom.
- UCAS recognition: the ALCE Certificate in Spanish Language and Culture has been included in the international qualifications database of UCAS which will allow students who have graduated from any ALCE to use it as an additional merit when applying for a British university.



 Spanish Embassy Education Office

 Spanish Language and Culture Programme (ALCE)

 Education advisor

 Resource Centre

 Spanish school

 ALCE centre (25)

## Spanish in the United Kingdom

The introduction of a modern foreign language in primary education has been a great opportunity for Spanish. Its presence has gradually doubled in less than a decade: around 30% of British schools now teach Spanish at this stage.

At secondary level, the presence of Spanish has also increased and Spanish is offered in the vast majority of schools. Around 80% of public schools offer Spanish as L2 or L3, a percentage that rises to around 90% in the case of independent schools.

In contrast to the decline of French and German, Spanish has grown steadily over the last two decades. This equation has meant that it has been gaining ground at all levels of

education. Since 2019, it has been the first language choice for the A Level exams, and this situation is likely to be replicated in the GCSE exams in the coming years.

This growth can also be seen in the number of teachers. In England, the most recent statistics indicate that there are 11,788 teachers of French, 8,282 of Spanish and 3,304 of German in publicly funded schools. Over the last decade, the figures for French and German have followed the same downward trend as those quoted for national examinations, both in terms of the number of teachers (25% fewer for French and 40% fewer for German) and the number of hours they teach. The figures for Spanish, however, show its growth potential: the number of Spanish teaching staff has increased by 25% and the number of Spanish teaching hours has increased by 55% since 2010.

## Evolution of the three main foreign languages in the GCSE/National 5 exams

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
French	154,184	139,587	134,895	138,704	139,788	139,007
Spanish	97,098	95,529	100,017	107,364	115,408	120,221
German	52,296	45,548	46,394	44,596	44,060	39,695

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

## Evolution of the three main foreign languages in the A-level/Advanced Highers exams

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
French	10,369	10,242	9,351	8,958	8,837	8,974
Spanish	8,940	9,034	8,711	9,095	9,171	9,602
German	3,988	3,835	3,182	3,160	2,955	2,851

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

# Spanish International Education Programmes in the United Kingdom

In addition to managing and coordinating the educational programmes that the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has in the United Kingdom, the Consejería de Educación promotes and strengthens bilateral relations and provides advice and information on education matters. Furthermore, it organises and participates in teacher training, in addition to Spanish language promotion activities, and contributes to bringing Spanish language and culture closer to teachers, Hispanists and students, as well as, in general, to all those interested in Spain and the Hispanic world in general.

In order to achieve these objectives, close collaboration with British authorities, organisations and institutions is essential. This network of collaborators includes long-standing partners, as well as new partners who have joined in order to extend the scope of the training, promotion and dissemination of Spanish in the United Kingdom. It also collaborates with national and local authorities, local organisations and agencies responsible for teacher training, British universities, teachers' associations, etc.

## Education Offices

Consejería de Educación (Spanish Embassy Education Office)

## Programmes

Resource Centre in London

Spanish school in London «Instituto Español Vicente Cañada Blanch»

Spanish Language and Culture Programme (ALCE) (25 centres)

6 Visiting teachers

123 Language assistants

4 Education advisers (London and Edinburgh)

## Evolution of the Instituto Español Vicente Cañada Blanch (London)

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Students	478	477	478	426	401	392
Teaching staff	49	50	50	54	52	56

## Evolution of the Spanish Culture and Language Programme (ALCE) in the United Kingdom

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Students	2,073	2,106	2,192	2,199	2,217	2,071
Teaching staff	13	14	15	16	16	17

## Evolution of the Visiting Teachers Programme in the United Kingdom

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Teaching staff	17	31	25	16	6

## Evolution of the Language Assistants Programme in the United Kingdom

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Language assistants	212	154	156	127	128	123

## Evolution of Education Advisers in the United Kingdom

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Education advisers	5	5	5	5	4

## Teacher training initiatives in the United Kingdom and Ireland

Teacher training events and number of participants				
	Number of activities		Number of participants	
	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
British teachers	29	27	1874	722
Teachers of Spanish Programmes	10	7	134	80



Teacher training event in Coventry