



# THE WORLD LEARNS **SPANISH**

**NEW ZEALAND**

**2020**





## Introduction

New Zealand and Spain share more links that one can think of, among them is the fact that New Zealand is the antipodes of Spain, which was reflected in the project by the NZ Ministry of Education *El Pueblo. A Spanish Village*. In it, students from NZ in the 80s and 90s were able to learn about how life was in rural antipodes through a set of activities and short videos filmed in the South of Spain, in Andalucía.

Spanish is one of the languages which is steadily growing in New Zealand schools, thanks to the relationship between New Zealand and the Spanish speaking world. The awareness of the importance of this connection lead to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between New Zealand and Spain in 2010 and the creation of Latin American CAPE in 2017. Spain collaborates with this institution as well as universities, Future Learning Solution - Centre for Languages and the teachers of Spanish association STANZA in the promotion of Spanish and the diverse culture of the Spanish speaking world.

## The Teaching of Spanish in New Zealand

The teaching of Spanish has become fully consolidated in New Zealand and has maintained its numbers over the years, with slight increases. The growth of the number of Spanish speakers in the world, trade with Latin America, the increasing importance in foreign language teaching across New Zealand, and the popularity of Spanish among students are some of the various factors that explain the increasing interest in our language.

Spanish is taught in schools in most New Zealand regions. However, the bulk of students is concentrated in Auckland. Although the learning of Spanish and other languages is generally scarce in rural areas, there are virtual learning institutions that cater for its teaching in isolated areas.

There are no specific requirements to be a teacher of Spanish, or of any other language, other than the general prerequisites to become a teacher. It is a school's decision which language to teach, frequently depending on the staff's language skills. This implies that teachers' language competences can be variable and unequal, and that their linguistic training needs are sometimes noticeable.



Teachers STANZA Immersion Day, Auckland

There are no statistics on the exact number of Spanish teachers, which fluctuates year to year. Many of them also teach other subjects, and often, several foreign languages. About half the Spanish teachers are New Zealand born, which does not mean that the other half are of Spanish-speaking origin, as there are many Spanish teachers from other countries, mostly British and Americans. Likewise, there are increasing numbers of teachers of Spanish who have previously been English language assistants in Spain, or who decide to participate in the programme at some point of their career.

In 2011 a new NZ curriculum for Learning Languages was implemented; in it, objectives and its structure are shared by all languages, with an emphasis on communication and student entered learning. Furthermore, the MoE promotes the communicative model, with the support of technology.

Spanish is part of NCEA Exams, which would be the equivalent of the Spanish university entrance exams. However, the academic weight of foreign language outcomes for university entrance purposes is much less than that of other subjects such as Mathematics, English, or Biology.

## Early Childhood Education

It is worth mentioning some local initiatives in Auckland and Wellington regions in which Spanish-speaking families with children between the ages of 0-5 organize meetings to facilitate their children's contact with the Spanish language at least once a week.

## Primary and Secondary Education

Spanish is currently the third most studied language in primary and intermediate education. The teaching of Chinese has increased due largely to the high number of Chinese-speaking immigrants and the funding coming from China, which sends an increasing number of Mandarin language assistants to NZ schools every school year.

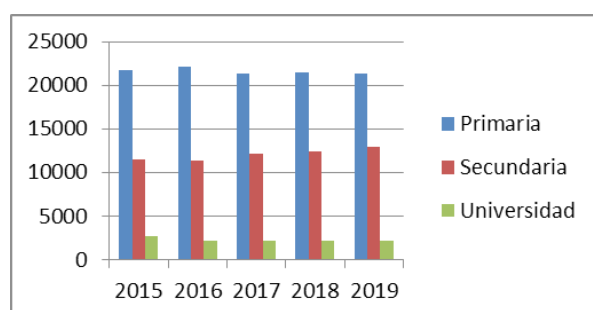
## University Education

Learning Languages in NZ it is not compulsory at university level. Seven of the eight New Zealand universities have some form of a Spanish programme. Following the general trend for language departments in the country, they rely on students who choose Spanish to supplement their studies, without specializing in the language, and as time goes on, there have been more universities offering postgraduate Spanish programmes. The University of Auckland, where the Prince of Asturias chair is hosted, and Victoria University of Wellington have the biggest Spanish programmes. Massey University in Palmerston North has an important distance- learning programme.

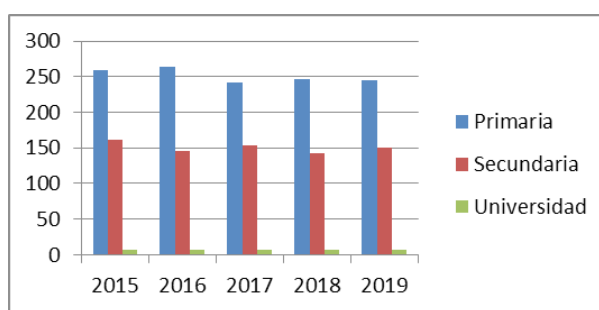
In the following table, the data shows a generally stable trend, with slight variations in all the educational levels in the country:

Students of Spanish and schools										
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools
<b>Primary</b>	21.672	260	22.152	264	21.331	242	21.451*	246*	21.362*	245*
<b>Secondary</b>	11.464	161	11.296	145	12.124	153	12.417	143	12.913	151*
<b>University</b>	2.747	7	2.146	7	2.129	7	2.193*	7	2.098*	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.883</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>35.594</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>35.584</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>36.061</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>36.373</b>	<b>403</b>

\*Data not officially confirmed.



Students



Schools

Source: Education Counts and our data

# Spanish International Education Programmes in New Zealand

Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MEFP) programmes that assist and promote the teaching and learning of Spanish are implemented in New Zealand by its Education Office based in the Embassy of Spain in Wellington. It is managed by an adviser, who is also a part of the broader Education Office in Canberra, directed by the Counsellor for Education in Australia and New Zealand.

The Education Office works in collaboration with Future Learning Solutions, the agency set up by Auckland UniServices (Auckland University) on behalf of the Ministry of Education, to support New Zealand schools and teachers in accomplishing a successful Learning Languages curriculum knowledge in compulsory education.

One of the most popular programmes coordinated by the Education Office is the Language Assistant Programme, which brings Spanish assistants to New Zealand and New Zealanders to Spain. The former began in 2001 when the first three Spanish assistants were employed by New Zealand schools. The programme has gradually grown and in recent years it has provided around six assistants each school year, being placed mainly in Auckland schools, but also in Wellington and Christchurch.



Spanish Language Assistants, Auckland

The MEFP also runs a parallel program, the English Language Assistant Programme for New Zealanders in Spain. This programme has been having a very powerful progression in the last few years. It has increased from 4 or 5 candidates per year in the first decade of the century to receiving over one hundred applications annually and providing around 70-80 English language assistants annually. Proportionally, in relation to its total population, New Zealand is the country with the most English language assistants in the programme, beating Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Since 2017 Fiji is one of the countries that sends Language assistants to Spain.

The Education Office also carries out, in collaboration with Future Learning Solutions, an educational plan for Spanish teachers that includes activities and workshops delivered throughout the country. One of the outstanding teachers' training events has been the Spanish Immersion Programme at the University of Salamanca, which offers 10-11 teachers of Spanish the opportunity to improve their Spanish language and cultural understanding with a two-week immersion trip to Salamanca in July.

Through the Education Office of Spain and Future Learning Solutions, institutions, educators, and teachers have access to an extensive library that includes books and multimedia resources; it is based in the headquarters of Future Learning Solutions in Auckland, which also offers a shipping service. In 2017 the Education Office also made available to teachers the services of MEFP's eLeo Virtual Library.

The Education Office collaborates with the seven New Zealand universities that teach Spanish, organizing promotional and teachers' training activities as well as events. In 2017 a Spanish lecturer funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation joined the University of Canterbury College of Arts. The Education Office has also an on-going collaboration with STANZA, the Spanish Teachers' Association of New Zealand Aotearoa, participating in its immersion and training events for teachers, and in the various activities STANZA organizes for students, such as its National Debating Competition in Spanish.

There is also a tight collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes in Sydney, Australia, assisting in the promotion of the DELE exam, and extra support, should be needed.

In general, it can be confirmed that the programmes carried out in New Zealand, and the relationships with various New Zealand educational agents (the Ministry, universities, associations, etc.) are in very good health.

Spanish International Education Programmes in New Zealand					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Spanish Language Assistants</b>	9	9	6	6	6
<b>New Zealand Language Assistants</b>	87	76	64	75*	73*
<b>Summer immersion courses USAL</b>	10	10	10	10	10

\*Fiji language assistants included