



SPANISH AB INITIO

Spanish ab initio is a language acquisition course for students having little or no experience with the Spanish language. Learning a language is more than simply acquiring vocabulary and understanding some grammatical rules. It enables learners to interact in a new cultural context and function in a society different from their own.

Course summary

The Spanish ab initio course develops students' functional literacy in the language as well as their appreciation for the cultural riches in Spanish-speaking societies. It aims to develop the four primary language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) to a similar level of communicative competence. While providing a solid framework in terms of grammar and vocabulary, the Spanish ab initio course is organised into a number of cultural and thematic topics in which grammatical structures and vocabulary can be practised. The topics provide the students with opportunities to practise and explore the language as well as to develop intercultural competence. Through the development of receptive, productive and interactive skills, students are enabled to communicate and interact appropriately in a range of everyday situations.

What is differences are there studying this course online?

Our online Spanish ab initio course covers the same content and prepares students for the same assessments as a traditional face-to-face course. However, the online environment presents students with some very unique learning opportunities such as: students learning at a time and place that suits them, learning collaboratively in a truly global classroom, and access to multimedia content and activities.

What specific online tools are used in delivery of the course, and in what ways?

Special digital tools are needed to ensure that students collaborate, interact and support each other in the virtual environment. Google docs is used for group writing tasks; Podcasts and YouTube clips will enable students to experience cultural events and celebrations. To satisfy the oral component of the course, group discussions will be carried out using a chat forum. Research projects will be assigned and new Web 2.0 tools such as Diigo will allow for effective exchanges and presentations of material to create a true environment of collaborative learning. All internal assessments, tests and tasks to prepare for the eventual IB examination will be saved in an e-portfolio which each student will maintain. The reflections which are integral to this and all IB courses can be kept in journal form or as a Blog, which is a preference expressed by so many young learners today.

Prerequisites

No prior study of Spanish is expected. The language ab initio courses are language learning courses for beginners, designed to be followed over two years by students who have no previous experience of learning the target language.

