

# WHY LEARN SPANISH?

**ilep**  
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES  
EXCHANGES AND PATHWAYS

**uniservices+**  
IDEAS TO LIFE

  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

OVER 400 MILLION PEOPLE SPEAK SPANISH AS A NATIVE LANGUAGE • SPANISH IS THE WORLD'S SECOND MOST SPOKEN LANGUAGE • THERE ARE MORE FIRST LANGUAGE SPANISH SPEAKERS THAN FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH SPEAKERS • BETWEEN 480 AND 520 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD CAN SPEAK SPANISH • EXPERTS HAVE ESTIMATED THAT BY 2050 THERE WILL BE 550 MILLION SPEAKERS OF SPANISH • SPANISH IS THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE IN 21 COUNTRIES AND IS SPOKEN AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN OVER 22 COUNTRIES AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES • THE SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING SEGMENTS IN THE WORLD • SPANISH IS THE SECOND MOST COMMON LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THE UNITED STATES • SPANISH IS THE SECOND MOST STUDIED LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD • SPANISH IS THE THIRD MOST USED LANGUAGE ON THE INTERNET • KNOWLEDGE OF SPANISH GIVES ACCESS TO HISPANIC COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD • SPANISH IS THE SECOND MOST USED LANGUAGE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION • IT IS A POWERFUL COMMUNICATION TOOL THAT REACHES MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE AMERICAS, EUROPE, ASIA AND AFRICA • SPANISH IS RECOGNISED AS ONE OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, EUROPEAN UNION AND VARIOUS OTHER IMPORTANT ORGANISATIONS • KNOWING SPANISH WILL ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES • SPAIN AND MEXICO ARE LISTED IN THE TOP 10 TRAVEL DESTINATIONS BY THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION • KNOWING SPANISH OPENS UP FANTASTIC INTERNATIONAL STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES • SPANISH IS EASY TO LEARN FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS • SPANISH IS A FLEXIBLE, EXPRESSIVE AND FREELY SPOKEN LANGUAGE • DATA SHOWS THAT LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE RESULTS IN IMPROVED COGNITIVE SKILLS AND HIGHER TEST SCORES • LEARNING SPANISH WILL HELP TO INCREASE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR OWN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE • KNOWING ABOUT ANOTHER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE HELPS TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL CAPABILITIES • NEW ZEALAND HAS IMPORTANT TRADE PARTNERSHIPS WITH SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES •

GROWING LANGUAGE LEARNING IN NEW ZEALAND

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