

University of León

**Spanish Embassy
Education Office**

Ministry of Education and Sport

**Spanish Language and Culture: Professional Development
Course for Teachers of Spanish from the USA and Canada**

9th – 27th July 2018

COURSE SYLLABUS

TITLE OF COURSE: Spanish Language and Culture. Professional Development Course for Teachers of Spanish from the USA and Canada.

UNIVERSITY: University of León

DIRECTOR: Dr. Roberto Baelo Álvarez

OTHER PRESENTERS: Natividad Urdiales Ferreras
Javier Álvarez del Río
Emilio Campomanes
Peter Such
Francisco Flecha Andrés

DATES: 9th – 27th July 2018

PRE-REQUISITES: Course participants must have an advanced or plus level of Spanish (B2 according to the CEFR or Intermediate High according to the ACTFL proficiency guidelines).

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3 semester / 5 quarter credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers participants the chance to perfect their command of both written and oral Spanish, as well as to reflect on classroom strategies and methodology. In addition, classroom materials and other resources will be analysed and adapted by participants for use in their own classrooms. Particular attention is given to Spanish culture and civilization through a wide range of activities, both in and out of the classroom. It is organized in the following main sections:

- **Advanced Grammar** (15 contact hours)
Analysis and practice of specific aspects of the Spanish grammar and vocabulary.
- **Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills** (15 contact hours)
Workshops to develop a practical understanding and integrated knowledge of the four main skills in Spanish.
- **Spanish culture and civilization** (15 contact hours)
Review and presentation of main landmarks in the history of Spain against its historical and socio-economic background.

- **Short courses on special subjects (15 contact hours)**
 - *Family, politics and education in Spain today (5 hours)*
 - *Roman heritage in Spanish culture today (5 hours)*
 - *Spain, North and South. A tale of two cultures? (5 hours)*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Spanish Grammar

- To review specific grammatical structures of Spanish
- To practice and discuss finer points in the use of Spanish
- To be able to make fine distinctions in the use of the language and to adapt your linguistic abilities to the language context

Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills

- To reflect on the main approaches to Spanish language teaching
- To produce classroom materials
- To better understand how language skills are integrated
- To analyse Spanish text books and other classroom materials
- To familiarise teachers with the resources available
- To discuss good and bad classroom practice

Spanish culture and civilization

- To better understand Spanish society today
- To acquire a good background knowledge of Spanish history
- To avoid cultural misunderstandings and clichés
- To be able to compare and appreciate cultural differences between Spain and the USA & Canada

CONTENT/TOPIC AND OUTLINE FOR EACH SESSION

WEEK 1: 9th – 15th JULY

DAY 1

09:00 - 10:00	Presentation of course. Course materials handouts
10:00 - 11:00	Advanced grammar
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Family, politics and education in Spain today (I)</i>

DAY 2

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>

11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Family, politics and education in Spain today</i> (II)

DAY 3

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Family, politics and education in Spain today</i> (III)

DAY 4

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Family, politics and education in Spain today</i> (IV)

DAY 5

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Family, politics and education in Spain today</i> (V)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – WEEK 1:

- *Guided tour of León*
- *Visit to San Isidoro*
- *Visit to the Cathedral*
- *Excursion to Valporquero Caves*
- *Excursion to Galicia (optional; cost to be paid by participant)*
- *Spanish film course*

WEEK 2: 16th – 22th JULY

DAY 6

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Roman heritage in Spanish culture today</i> (I)

DAY 7

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Roman heritage in Spanish culture today</i> (II)

DAY 8

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Roman heritage in Spanish culture today</i> (III)

DAY 9

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Roman heritage in Spanish culture today</i> (IV)

DAY 10

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Roman heritage in Spanish culture today</i> (V)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – WEEK 2:

- Visit to San Marcos & MUSAC
- Excursion to Leon monasteries
- Excursion to Salamanca (*optional*; cost to be paid by participant)
- Spanish film course

WEEK 3: 23th – 27th JULY

DAY 11

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Spain, North and South. A tale of two cultures?</i> (I)

DAY 12

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Spain, North and South. A tale of two cultures?</i> (II)

DAY 13

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills

11:00- 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Spain, North and South. A tale of two cultures?</i> (III)

DAY 14

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Spain, North and South. A tale of two cultures?</i> (IV)

DAY 15

09:00 - 10:00	Advanced grammar
10:00 - 11:00	Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills
11:00- 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:30	Spanish culture and civilization
12:30 -13:30	Course on special subject: <i>Spain, North and South. A tale of two cultures?</i> (V)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – WEEK 3:

- Visit to Leon Museum
- Excursion to Valencia de Don Juan - Winery
- Summer course closing ceremony (special event)

(* PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER CHANGES IF CIRCUMSTANCES SO DICTATE.

GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Advanced Grammar

30% attendance and participation

70% examination

- Classroom strategies and resources / Language skills

30% attendance and participation

70% four-page essay on one of the topics of the course

- Spanish culture and civilization

30% attendance and participation

70% four-page essay on one of the topics of the course

- Short courses on special subjects

30% attendance and participation

70% four-page essay on one of the topics of the three courses

DUE DATES OF MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS, PROJECTS AND EXAMINATIONS

- Advanced Grammar: examination on 28 July (material covered by the course)
- All assignments to be handed in during the last week of the course (24 - 28 July)

PLANS FOR TRANSFERRING SKILLS INTO THE WORK SETTING

It is important for the success of the course that all participants exchange opinions, ideas and experiences. The idea is that the lectures and talks are enriched by the input of those attending the course. In parts of the course dedicated to language proficiency, teachers are expected to participate actively in providing explanations and cooperate with the lecturer. As regards the *Classroom strategies and resources* section, every session will consist of a brief theoretical component followed by practical tasks carried out by the participants whenever possible.

RESUMÉS OF DIRECTOR AND INSTRUCTORS

- ROBERTO BAELO ÁLVAREZ

	Office 144. Faculty of Education. University of León. 24071 León (Spain) E-mail: roberto.baelo@unileon.es
	EDUCATION
2008	Ph.D. in Psychology and Education. University of León. Spain.
2001	Psychopedagogy Degree. Faculty of Education, University of León. Spain.
1999	Teacher Degree. Faculty of Education, University of León. Spain.
	CURRENT PROFESSIONAL SITUATION
2016 May - present	Pro Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs, University of León (Spain)
2014- 2016 May	Deputy Head of Department at the Department of General Teaching, Specifics and Theory of Education, Faculty of Education, University of León (Spain)
2011- present	Associate Professor at the Department of General Teaching, Specifics and Theory of Education, Faculty of Education, University of León (Spain)
2009- 2016 September	Tutor in the Master Program in Teaching Training. Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia – UNED (National University for Distance Learning, Spain)
	RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH EXTERNAL FUNDING
2014-2017	Estudio del impacto de las erubricas federada en evaluación de las competencias en el practicum (Study of impact of federated e-rubrics in competencies assessment at the Practicum). Funding: Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación

	(Ministry of Science and Innovation). Grant: 25.531 €
2011-2013	Prevención de actitudes intolerantes en las competencias deportivas escolares. Construcción y difusión de un código de conducta (Intolerant attitudes prevention in school sports competitions. Construction and dissemination of a code of conduct). Funding: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte (Ministry of Education, Cultures and Sports). Grant: 39.000 €
2010-2012	Detección y evaluación de necesidades formativas de los profesores y educativas de la infancia en barrios desfavorecidos de Lima: Diseño de propuestas de intervención e inicio de las mismas (Detection and assessment of training needs of teachers and educational needs of children in disadvantaged neighborhoods of Lima, Peru: Design of proposals for intervention and initiation of the project). Funding: Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo – AECID (National Cooperation Agency). Grant: 40.000 €
2008-2010	Análisis de la situación educativa de la población inmigrante en la provincia de León (Analysis of the educational situation of the immigrant population in the region of León, Spain). Funding: Diputación Provincial de León (County Council of León). Grant: 8.000 €
2008-2010	Como desarrollar las competencias básicas de relaciones interpersonales y culturales en a educación obligatoria en contextos multiculturales (How to develop basic skills in interpersonal and cultural relationships in compulsory education). Funding: Junta de Castilla y León (Regional Government of Castilla y León, Spain). Grant: 7.900 €
2008-2009	Integración de las Tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación en la Educación Superior (Integration of Information and Communication Technologies in Higher Education). Funding: Junta de Castilla y León (Regional Government of Castilla y León, Spain). Grant: 10.200 €
2007-2009	Fomento del empleo e integración social para trabajadores emigrantes y retornados en Castilla y León (Promoting employment and social integration of migrant workers and returnees in Castilla y León, Spain). Funding: Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo – AECID (National Cooperation Agency). Grant: 18.000 €
2007-2009	Comunicación, Calidad, Interculturalidad y Prospectiva en Educación (Communication, Quality, Interculturality and Prospective Education). Funding: Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo – AECID (National Cooperation Agency). Grant: 32.000 €
2007-2008	Diseño de guías metodológicas y de evaluación en el modelo ECTS (Design and evaluation of methodology guidelines in the ECTS model). Funding: Junta de Castilla y León (Regional Government of Castilla y León, Spain). Grant: 7.200 €
2007	Mujer y medios de comunicación (Women and communication media). Funding: Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales (Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, Spain). Grant: 2.000 €
2006-2008	Bases para la mejora de la educación universitaria: evaluación de los procesos de calidad (Bases for the improvement of higher education: evaluation of quality processes). Funding: Ministerio de Educación, Política Social y Deporte (Ministry of Education, Social Policies and Sports, Spain). Grant: 9.400 €
2006-2007	Implantación de los ECTS en las Titulaciones de la Facultad de Educación, Área de Didáctica y Organización Escolar (Implementation of ECTS in the Degrees of the Faculty of Education, Area of Didactics and School Organization). Funding: Ministerio de Educación, Política Social y Deporte (Ministry of

	Education, Social Policies and Sports, Spain). Grant: 3.675 €
2005	El espacio en los centros educativos: desigual distribución en función del género (The space in schools: unequal gender distribution). Funding: Instituto de la Mujer. Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales (Woman Institute. Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, Spain). Grant: 900 €
2005-2006	Aplicación de proyectos piloto de adaptación de las asignaturas actuales a las nuevas demandas de implantación de créditos ECTS (Implementation of preliminary projects on the adaptation of existing courses to the new demands of ECTS implementation). Funding: Junta de Castilla y León (Regional Government of Castilla y León, Spain). Grant: 1.980 €
2003-2006	Los planes de mejora institucionales: liderazgo de calidad en los centros no universitarios de Castilla y León (Institutional improvement plans: quality leadership in non-university centers of Castilla y León). Funding: Junta de Castilla y León (Regional Government of Castilla y León, Spain). Grant: 9.550 €
2003-2005	Propuesta de diseño curricular de la titulación de psicopedagogía (Proposed curriculum of Psychology degree). Funding: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte (Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, Spain). Grant: 2.200 €
	PUBLICATIONS
	PAPERS IN REFEREED JOURNALS/ INDEXED JOURNALS
	Baelo, R. & Valle, R.E. (2016). Mobile applications for concept maps: Analysis and proposed criteria for its use in education . <i>eLearning and Software for Education</i> , (1) 180, 17-23. ISSN. 2066-026X. doi: 10.12753/2066-026X-16-002
	Pena, M., Suárez, J.M. & Baelo Álvarez, R. (2016). Curricular adaptations for deaf and hard of hearing students at UNED university . <i>Bordón</i> , 63 (3), 91-106. ISSN. 0210-5934. doi:10.13042/Bordon.2016.68401
	Svensson, M. & Baelo Álvarez, R. (2015). Teacher students' perceptions of their digital competence . <i>Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences</i> , 180, 1527-1534. ISSN. 1877-0428. doi:10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.02.302
	Cantón Mayo, I., Cañón Rodríguez, R., Arias Gago, A. & Baelo Álvarez, R. (2015). Expectativas de los futuros profesores de educación secundaria (Expectations of the future secondary education teachers). <i>Enseñanza & Teaching</i> , 33 (1), 105-120. ISSN 2386-3927. doi:10.14201/et2015331105120
	Baelo Álvarez, R. (2011). Satisfacción del profesorado universitario con la integración de las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación (TIC) . (University Faculty satisfaction with the integration of information and communication technologies (ICT)). <i>Etic@net</i> , 9 (11), 253-276. ISSN-e 1695-324X.
	Cantón Mayo I. & Baelo Álvarez, R. (2011). El profesorado universitario y las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación (TIC): disponibilidad y formación . (University teachers and information and communication technology (ICT): availability and training). <i>Educatio Siglo XXI</i> , 29 (1), 263-301. ISSN 1699-2105.
	Baelo Álvarez, R. & Arias-Gago, A.R. (2011). La formación de maestros en España, de la teoría a la práctica . (Teacher training in Spain, of the theory to the practice). <i>Tendencias pedagógicas</i> , (18), 105-131. ISSN 1133-2654.
	Baelo Álvarez, R. & Cantón Mayo, I. (2010). Utilización de las tecnologías de la información y la

<p>comunicación (TIC) en las universidades de Castilla y León. (Using information and communication technology (ICT) at the universities of Castilla and León, Spain). <i>Comunicar: Revista científica iberoamericana de comunicación y educación</i>, 35, 159-166. ISSN 1134-3478.</p>	
<p>Baelo Álvarez, R. (2009). Cambios necesarios en la dirección escolar. (Changes needed at the school leadership). <i>Padres y Maestros</i>, 322, 5-9. ISSN 0210-4679.</p>	
<p>Baelo Álvarez, R. (2009). El e-learning, una respuesta educativa a las demandas de las sociedades del siglo XXI. (E-learning, an educational response to the demands of the XXI century). <i>Pixel-Bit: Revista de medios y educación</i>, 35, 87-96. ISSN 1133-8482.</p>	
<p>Baelo Álvarez, R. y Cantón Mayo, I. (2009). Las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación en la educación superior. Estudio descriptivo y de revisión. (The information and communication technology in higher education. Descriptive study and review). <i>RIE, Revista Iberoamericana de Educación</i>, 50/7. ISSN-e 1681-5653</p>	
<p>Baelo Álvarez, R. y Cantón Mayo, I. (2009). Las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación en la educación superior española. (The information and communication technologies in Spanish higher education). <i>Pedagogia e Vita</i>, 5-6 (67), 37-54. ISSN 0031-3777.</p>	
<p>AUTHORED BOOKS</p>	
<p>Valle, R. E., Baelo, R., Arias, A.R., Cañón, R., Grande, M., Castañeda, J.M. y Madrid, V. (2012). Guía multimedia de recursos para la educación intercultural. (Multimedia resource guide for intercultural education). León: Secretariado de Publicaciones y Medios Audiovisuales. ISBN: 978-84-9773-616-9.</p>	
<p>Baelo Álvarez, R. (2011). Integración de las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación (TIC) en los centros de educación superior de Castilla y León. (Integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in higher education centers of Castilla y León, Spain). León: Secretariado de Publicaciones, Universidad de León. ISBN: 978-84-9773-581-0</p>	
<p>Cantón Mayo, I., Baelo Álvarez, R. y Cañón Rodríguez, R. (2009). Guía del retorno a Castilla y León. (Returning Guide to Castilla y León, Spain). León: Universidad de León - Centro Unesco de Castilla y León.</p>	
<p>REFEREE</p>	
2015- present	Referee at <i>Revista Iberoamericana de Evaluación Educativa (Iberoamerican Journal of Educational Evaluation)</i> . Journal from the Iberoamerican network research about change and school effectiveness (RINACE). Indexed journal.
2012- present	Referee at <i>Revista de Educación (Educational Journal)</i> . Journal from the Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte. Indexed journal.
2012- present	Referee at the journal EducacionXXI . Indexed journal.
2012- present	Referee at the Journal of the World Universities Forum . Indexed journal
2011- present	Referee at <i>Ánfora. Revista científica de la Universidad Autónoma de Manizales, Colombia. (Ánfora. Scientific Autonomous University of Manizales, Colombia)</i> . Indexed journal.
2010- present	Referee at <i>Pixel-Bit. Revista de Medios y Educación (Pixel-Bit. Media and Education Magazine)</i> . Indexed journal.
2010- present	Referee at <i>Aula Abierta (Open Classroom)</i> . Indexed journal.
2009- present	Referee at <i>Revista Española de Orientación y Psicopedagogía (Spanish Journal of Counseling and Psychopedagogy)</i> . Indexed journal.

- **PETER SUCH**

Education and Employment

1964-1971	Secondary education at King Edward VII Grammar School, King's Lynn, Norfolk, UK.
1971	A Level examinations; winner Queen's Gold Medal for academic achievement.
1971-1974	Degree in Modern and Medieval Languages (French and Spanish) at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. First Class Honours, winner of prizes for top First in Modern Languages Tripos and in Gonville and Caius College.
1974-1975	León: Escuela Universitaria de Magisterio, <i>Auxiliar de conversación inglesa</i> .
1975-1978	Doctorate at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge (1976-1977 spent researching in Madrid). Doctorate awarded in 1979 ("The Origins and Uses of School Rhetoric in the <i>Libro de Alexandre</i> ").
1977-1979	Teaching of undergraduate students (medieval and Golden Age literature) for a number of Cambridge colleges. This included a series of university language classes and a programme of lectures on thirteenth-century Castilian literature.
1979-1980	St Felix School, Southwold, Suffolk: Assistant Teacher of French and Spanish.
1980-1983	Sherborne School, Dorset: Assistant Teacher of French and Spanish.
1983-2005	Sherborne School, Dorset: Head of Modern Languages.
2005-2011	Sherborne School and Sherborne School for Girls, Dorset: Director of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

- In 1993 he founded the Independent Schools Modern Languages Association, of which I was secretary for the next four years.
- From 2001 to 2009 he was Chief Examiner in Spanish and Modern Languages Coordinator for the Independent School Examinations Board.
- During his teaching career he accompanied numerous school groups to Spain, notably to Madrid, León and Barcelona, and also organized a community project in Ecuador.
- At Sherborne he was involved in a wide range of Hispanic cultural activities including the direction of plays such as *Bodas de sangre*, *La vida es sueño*, *El burlador de Sevilla*, *El médico de su honra* and *Bajarse al moro*.
- In Spain he continues to teach part-time, working voluntarily in the Instituto de Educación Secundaria Fernando III el Santo (Priego de Córdoba).

Principal publications

(with John Hodgkinson) *The Poem of My Cid (Poema de Mio Cid)* 1987

(with Richard Rabone) *Book of Alexander (Libro de Alexandre)* 2009

(with Richard Rabone) *The Poem of Fernán González (Poema de Fernán González)* 2015

All three are parallel text editions with an introduction and extensive commentary, published in the Aris and Phillips Hispanic Classics series.

- **JAVIER ÁLVAREZ DEL RÍO**

Holds a Bachelor's degree in the History of Art awarded by the University of Leon in 1999. Is currently preparing a doctoral thesis on *Tratados de arquitectura del siglo XVI*. [Sixteenth-century Treatises on Architecture]

Art History guide for the exhibitions in the “Edades del Hombre” [Ages of Man] series in 2000 (in Astorga) and 2001 (in Leon).

History and Art History guide and Tutor in Art History on the Spanish Language and Culture Courses for Foreigners given by the University of Leon from July 2001 to date.

Tutor on courses on tourism and heritage organized by the Castile and Leon Regional Government and the University of Leon on behalf of the Spanish Department of Employment between 2002 and 2004.

Has participated in a number of courses on the history of art, heritage, history, tourism, and museums. Has collaborated in publications on the Pilgrims' Way to Santiago de Compostela.

- **NATIVIDAD URDIALES FERRERAS**

Ms Urdiales has a degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of Deusto (1991), where she also obtained a Diploma specialising in Text Editing and Publishing (1992-1994), along with doctoral courses in the field of Language and Linguistics (1994-1996). She began her career as a teacher of Spanish as a foreign language at this same university while at the same time undertaking research projects and coordinating programmes within the Department of International Relations.

She has been a teacher of Spanish as a foreign language at the Language Centre of the University of León since 2001, from which date she has delivered, on numerous occasions, ‘Teaching and methodology of Spanish as a foreign language’ to teachers, both from abroad (teachers from Britain through the British Council’s *Comenius* programme, teachers from the United States and Canada, teachers from the EU as well as from Gabon) and from Spain. In addition, and to similar groups, she has delivered ‘The development of linguistic skills’, ‘Linguistic and methodological updating: a workshop’, whose intention is to analyse and discuss the main difficulties the Spanish language presents to foreign students, and how to deal with these in the classroom.

In recent years Ms Urdiales has been working on new materials and perspectives in the field of literature in general and the short story in particular. ‘Story production’, grammar and fantasy, creativity and syntax, fiction and vocabulary, spelling and imagination: all these go hand in hand with the teaching of language and literature in such a way as to arouse the interest of the Spanish language student, motivating learning

and promoting creativity. In a similar vein, ‘Literature in short’ is a case study delivered to groups of students and teachers of an advanced level.

In 2014 and 2015, Ms Urdiales participated in the Seminars on the teaching of Spanish in the master’s degree programme in Linguistics and Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language with ‘Language through culture’ and ‘Culture and literature in the Spanish language classroom’. She forms part of the University of León’s Educational Innovation in Linguistic Accuracy, Spanish Teaching and New Technology Group (CORLETIC), and is an experienced DELE (Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language) examiner, certified for all its levels.