

**Neuroscience in Salamanca Spain Study Abroad Program**  
**Advanced Scientific and Medical Spanish (3293)**  
**Spring 2023**

Semester & Location: Spring 2023. Universidad de Salamanca (USAL)  
Time and Place: May 22 – June 22, 2023  
Instituto de Neurociencias de Castilla y León (INCyL)  
Classroom to be determined

**Course goals and objectives**

The goal of this course is to help you to become a capable speaker of Spanish in a biomedical and scientific environment. We will engage in the practical use of the Spanish language to develop your competence in clinical and laboratory settings. Specifically, by the end of the course you will:

- Enhance your speaking and listening proficiency of scientific, medical, and technical Spanish
- Expand your vocabulary in scientific, medical, and technical Spanish language
- Become aware of the peculiarities of scientific and medical Spanish
- Translate a variety of non-fiction technical texts into Spanish
- Critically analyze the Spanish media coverage of technical topics

**Class format**

The activities of the course will be varied and attractive, and mostly interactive. While attention will be paid to Spanish grammar and technical vocabulary, the course is designed to promote the active participation of the students through daily group and general discussions. We will analyze and discuss timely scientific and biomedical issues, and most probably the conversations will be impregnated by hints of other matters, such as medical translations, the etymology of Spanish scientific language, and Spanish history and culture. Moreover, each student is expected to give two oral presentations about the life and achievements of highly recognized scientists or about particular diseases. The language of instruction will be Spanish.

**Faculty**

Instructor: Enrique Saldaña, MD, PhD

Office: Laboratory 6. Instituto de Neurociencias de Castilla y León. University of Salamanca

E-mail: [saldana@usal.es](mailto:saldana@usal.es) Phone: +34 923 294500, x1881

Dr. Enrique Saldaña is Full Professor of Histology in the Department of Cell Biology and Pathology (School of Medicine, University of Salamanca), and Director of the Neurohistology Laboratory of the Neuroscience Institute of Castilla y León (INCyL). In addition to his neuroscientific research, Dr. Saldaña has carried out an intense activity in the field of scientific language and communication. He has been teaching this course since 2009. He has also taught numerous courses on scientific writing. Moreover, he has experience as a medical translator.

## Textbooks

There is no mandatory textbook for this course. Required readings will be selected from technical and scientific books and journals and national newspapers. The material will include medical and scientific topics written for the general public, as well as those written for a technical audience. All required readings will be posted online or printed for students before class.

### *Examples of reading assignments used in a recent similar course:*

1. ¿Es posible vivir con medio cerebro? (El País, 2022/04/26).
2. ¿Realmente usamos solo un 10% de la capacidad de nuestro cerebro? (ABC 2022/06/06)
3. El beso, un truco evolutivo para elegir la mejor pareja. (Público 2022/10/09)
4. El cerebro humano sano se calienta más de lo que se pensaba: supera los 40 grados. (El Mundo, 2022/06/13).
5. El sexto dedo: Haz creer un bulo al cerebro y lo convertirá en una realidad. (El País 2022/03/03)
6. 'Resucitar' tejidos orgánicos para ganar tiempo de cara a los trasplantes. (El Mundo, 2022/08/03).

## Reference books

- Chase, Robert O; Medina de Chase, Clarisa B. “An Introduction to Spanish for Health Care Workers: Communication and Culture. Fifth Edition”. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. 2018.
- Claros Díaz, M Gonzalo. “Cómo Traducir y Redactar Textos Científicos en Español: Reglas, Ideas y Consejos”. Fundación Dr. Antonio Esteve, Barcelona. 2016. Available at <http://www.esteve.org/category/publicaciones/cuadernos/>.
- Giba, John. “Developing Skills in Scientific Writing”. Fundación Dr. Antonio Esteve, Barcelona. 2014. Available at <http://www.esteve.org/category/publicaciones/cuadernos/>.
- Jarvis, Ana C; Lebrede, Raquel. “Basic Spanish for Medical Personnel, Second Edition”. Heinle - Cengage Learning, Boston, MA. 2010.
- Jiménez Villa, J; Argimon Pallàs, JM; Martín Zurro, A; Vilardell Tarrés, M (Eds.). “Publicación Científica Biomédica: Cómo Escribir y Publicar un Artículo de Investigación”. Elsevier, Madrid. 2010.
- McEniry, Stacie. “Working Spanish for Medical Professionals”. Wiley, Hoboken, NY. 2007.
- Munson, Carol H (ed.). “Medical Spanish Made Incredibly Easy! Third Edition”. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA. 2009.
- Navarro, Fernando. “Diccionario Crítico de Dudas Inglés-Español de Medicina. Segunda Edición”. McGraw-Hill, Madrid. 2005.
- Real Academia Nacional de Medicina. “Diccionario de Términos Médicos”. Editorial Médica Panamericana, Madrid. 2012. Available at <https://dtme.ranm.es/index.aspx>.
- Ríos, Joanna; Fernández Torres, José; Ríos, Tamara Anahí. “Complete Medical Spanish: Practical Medical Spanish for Quick and Confident Communication, Fourth Edition”. McGraw-Hill, New York, NY. 2021.
- Serés, Elisabet; Rosich, Laia; Bosch, Félix (eds.). “Presentaciones Orales en Biomedicina: Aspectos a Tener en Cuenta para Mejorar la Comunicación”. Fundación Dr. Antonio Esteve, Barcelona. 2010. Available at <http://www.esteve.org/category/publicaciones/cuadernos/>.

## Evaluation and grading

Assignment	Percent
Engaged participation	30%
Oral presentation 1	15%
Written midterm	15%
Oral presentation 2	15%
Written final exam	25%

## Attendance policy

Attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences (e.g. medical documentation) will lower the student's final grade.

## Honor code

Any work turned in for a grade (including homework) must be your own individual work. Any sign of collaboration, plagiarism, or assistance will be regarded as cheating and may be turned to the Judicial Council for investigation. You may receive no help from tutors, friends, or web-based translators in preparing your compositions or other written work. The ideas and the language must all be your own.

**Plagiarism** is academic theft. It refers to the use of another's ideas or words without proper attribution or credit. An author's work, either published in the traditional manner or posted in the Internet, is his/her property and should be respected by documentation. Credit must be given:

1. for every direct quotation (even if you are translating it or changing a couple of words).
2. when a work is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in your own words.
3. for information that is not common knowledge.