



University  
of Exeter



# Evening language programme 2025/26

## Course title: Introduction to Catalan

### Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of this course is to bring together a wide variety of people, who are interested in learning Catalan, and to gain an understanding about the culture of Catalan-speakers. Participants will be introduced to the words, sounds, sentences, and meanings of the target language that will lead to an increased awareness of the idioms and nuances of spoken and written Catalan.

The course offers an introduction to the basics of Catalan for communication purposes. Therefore, by the end of the course participants will be able to:

1. Understand very simple messages, for example notices, leaflets and place names, etc.
2. Understand simple phrases about themselves or people they know.
3. Conduct very short dialogues in a range of everyday situations and talk about themselves and people they know
4. Write very short simple notes and fill in registration forms with personal details

Participants will develop some basic reading, listening, speaking and writing skills through a series of task-oriented sessions and will be provided with informal formative feedback during contact hours. In

seminars, participants will have to engage in practical exercises and group interaction, in order to develop relevant language-specific learning strategies. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide useful tools and encourage participants to become independent learners and basic users of the language, too.

### Language-specific information:

Catalan is a Romance language spoken by over 9 million people, mainly in the eastern and northeastern Iberian Peninsula. It is co-official in Catalonia, the Valencian Community (where it is known as Valencian), and the Balearic Islands.

Outside Spain, Catalan is the official language of Andorra, and is also spoken in parts of southern France (notably Roussillon, or Northern Catalonia) and in Alghero, a city on the Italian island of Sardinia, where a local Catalan variety is still used.

Altogether, around 10 million people understand Catalan, with several hundred thousand speakers beyond Spain, including in France, Italy, and diaspora communities worldwide.

Catalan has a rich literary tradition and is used in education, media, and public administration in the regions where it has official status. Its standardization is overseen by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans and the Acadèmia Valenciana de la Llengua.

**Prerequisite:**

This non-credit bearing weekly course is intended for complete beginners who wish to explore Catalan for the first time.

**Technical requirements:**

- PC, laptop or tablet with camera and microphone
- Stable internet connection

Delivery will be via Zoom or Microsoft Teams  
Once the course is confirmed, your teacher will send you an invitation for the first online session.  
You can expect to receive this invitation one day before the first session.

**Coursebook and/or learning resources:**

To be confirmed by the teacher.