



University  
of Exeter



# Evening language programme 2024/25

## 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 within the Indo-European family, predominantly spoken in eastern and northeastern Spain, specifically in Catalonia, Valencia (where it is called Valencian), and the Balearic Islands. It is also spoken in the Roussillon region of France, in Andorra (where it is the only official language), and in the city of Alghero in Sardinia, Italy. In total, approximately 9 million people speak Catalan in Spain, with an additional 200,000 speakers outside Spain. While Catalan shares similarities with Spanish, it also has distinct phonetic and grammatical differences.

*Britannica. (2024). Catalan language. In Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved July 29, 2024, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Catalan-language>*

## **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.