

New Student Orientation Program

Fall 2023

Spanish Language Placement Exams Information for New Students

Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University

Welcome to Columbia! You can take our **online** Spanish language placement examinations any time from [this webpage](#). You must take a placement exam before registering for a course or before placing your name on a waiting list. You can take Columbia and Barnard Spanish language courses.

Please review [our website](#) for important information about placement and registration.

Which placement exam should I take? If you have been exposed to Spanish to some (even to a very small) extent at home or in your community from an early age, please take the Spanish as a Heritage Language Placement Exam described below. All other students, please take the Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam described below.

Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam

Part I: [The Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam](#) consists of multiple-choice questions about vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension. There are **no** speaking, listening, or writing components on the exam. When you finish the exam, you will immediately receive your score and the Spanish language course to take. Additional information is available on our [website](#).

Part II: If you score **above 625** on Part I, you qualify for a possible exemption from the language requirement. The second exam, which has the **same format as Part I**, will be offered in-person in Columbia's [Language Resource Center](#) located in Room 352 of the International Affairs Building during the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP). Please complete [this online form](#) to register for Part II using your Columbia email address and authenticating with [Columbia's Duo Multifactor authentication \(MFA\)](#) , preferably by Wednesday, August 23rd.

Spanish as a Heritage Language Placement Exam

Please take this exam if you have been exposed to Spanish to some (even to a very small) extent at home or in your community from an early age; otherwise please take the Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam described above.

Part I: [The Spanish as a Heritage Language Placement Exam](#) consists of writing as well as multiple choice and fill-in the blank items about your exposure to the language, grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. There is a short listening/dictation section but there is no speaking section. [Dr. Francisca Aguiló-Mora](#) will contact you with your score, level, course, or notify you if you qualify for possible exemption by competing Part II, described below.

Part II: If your score on Part I of the heritage exam qualifies you for a possible exemption, [Dr. Lee B. Abraham](#) will contact you to schedule Part II, which consists of writing and an oral component.

The two Spanish as a Heritage Language courses are as follows*:

- 1) [Spanish UN 1108 - Elementary Spanish for Heritage Speakers](#)
- 2) [Spanish UN 2108 - Intermediate Spanish for Heritage Speakers](#)

*You can take Columbia and Barnard Spanish language courses.

Questions? If you have any questions about Part I or Part II of the Spanish as a Second Language Placement Exam or the Spanish as a Heritage Language Placement Exam, please contact [Lee B. Abraham](#) and/or please feel free to schedule a meeting from [this webpage](#) before or while you are on campus.