



UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE
COUNTRY / EUSKAL HERRIKO
UNIBERTSITATEA

BASQUE LANGUAGE COURSE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (A0-A1)

Course programme

2026-2027 academic year

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1. INTRODUCTION

This programme is intended for international students who will study or undertake an academic stay at the University of the Basque Country (EHU/UPV). The aim of the course is to provide basic knowledge of Basque so that students can develop the ability to manage independently in the most common communicative situations, both at university and in everyday life.

The course will follow a communicative approach and will encourage the use of the language in real contexts. At the same time, students will learn about Basque culture and society in order to support their integration.

1.1 Student profile

This course is intended for international students who have not previously studied Basque or who have only a very basic knowledge of the language (A0-A1). Participants will generally be exchange students, researchers or members of the university community undertaking a temporary stay in the Basque Country.

By the end of the course, students are expected to have acquired basic resources for communicating in Basque in common everyday situations, both in the university context and in social interactions.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1.1. Teaching unit: First steps in the Basque Country

General objectives

- Develop initial communicative exchanges in Basque.
- Promote basic oral and written comprehension and production.
- Become familiar with initial features of the language and culture of the Basque Country.

Specific objectives

- Greet people and respond to greetings.
- Introduce oneself and other people.
- Give and request personal information.
- Use basic questions and answers.
- Use basic classroom language.

2.2. Teaching unit: On campus and in everyday life

General objectives

- Develop the ability to manage communicative situations on campus and in everyday life.
- Practise strategies for understanding and providing everyday information.

Specific objectives

- Identify the main areas on campus and in the city.
- Ask for and give directions.
- Talk about timetables and transport.
- Communicate in common service situations.
- Take part in guided everyday conversations.

2.3. Teaching unit: Everyday life and relationships

General objectives

- Strengthen the ability to communicate about personal relationships.
- Expand students' oral and written expression.

Specific objectives

- Describe family and friends.
- Explain everyday habits.
- Express likes and hobbies.
- Share personal information.
- Participate actively in simple conversations.

2.4. Teaching unit: Living in the Basque Country

General objectives

- Apply what has been learned in real everyday situations.
- Develop communicative competence in an integrated manner.

Specific objectives

- Go shopping and use basic services.
- Suggest and agree on plans.
- Talk about leisure and customs.
- Become familiar with basic elements of Basque culture.
- Use the communicative resources practised during the course independently.

3. METHODOLOGY

This course will be based on a communicative approach. Learning will be promoted through real communication situations so that students have opportunities to use Basque outside the classroom as well. Practical activities, oral interaction and tasks based on everyday situations will therefore be prioritised.

Students will be at the centre of the learning process, while the teacher will act as a guide and facilitator. Sessions will alternate individual, pair and group work in order to encourage active participation and collaboration.

The four language skills —listening, speaking, reading and writing— will be developed in an integrated way with the aim of building communicative competence. In addition, content related to Basque culture will be incorporated throughout the course, on the understanding that language and culture complement one another.

In addition to classroom materials, authentic resources such as signs, timetables, menus, websites, videos and everyday documents will be used to make learning as meaningful as possible.

4. RESPONDING TO STUDENT DIVERSITY

Students taking part in the course will have different backgrounds, languages and previous experiences. Teaching will therefore be flexible and inclusive and will be adapted to different learning needs and paces.

Activities will be graded, and additional support will be provided when necessary through oral explanations, examples or supplementary materials. Group work and collaboration will also be encouraged so that students can support one another.

The aim will be for all students to develop confidence in communicating in Basque, while respecting their starting point and pace of learning.

5. DIGITAL RESOURCES AND USE OF ICT

Digital technologies will be used as a complementary resource during the course to promote dynamic and participatory learning.

The following resources may be used:

- Digital presentations and audiovisual materials.
- Interactive quizzes such as Kahoot, Quizizz or similar tools.
- Collaborative digital boards such as Padlet or similar tools.
- Digital dictionaries and resources.
- Short audio and video clips to practise listening comprehension.

These tools will always serve a communicative purpose. They will not be the focus of learning but will be used to complement classroom activities.

6. TEACHING UNITS

6.1 FIRST STEPS IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Section	Content
Communicative objectives	• Greet people and respond to greetings. • Introduce oneself and other people. • Give and request personal information. • Complete simple forms. • Take part in basic classroom communication situations. • Identify and name objects.
Language content	• The verb <i>izan</i> in the present tense. • Questions with <i>NOR</i>. • Main question words: <i>nor</i>, <i>zer</i>, <i>non</i>, <i>nongo</i>... • Demonstratives. • The definite article. • Numbers from 0 to 100. • Basic pronunciation of the Basque alphabet.
Vocabulary	• Greetings and polite expressions. • Countries and languages. • Nationalities. • Occupations. • Classroom materials. • Personal details: first name, surname, address, telephone number, email address, etc.
Skills	Listening: understand short introductions and simple conversations. Reading: understand forms, cards and short texts. Speaking: introduce oneself and ask and answer simple questions. Writing: write short introductions and complete forms.
Example activities	• Give introductions in pairs. • Conduct guided conversations to collect classmates' details. • Complete a form. • Play "Who is who?". • Carry out activities to identify classroom objects. • Role-play: the first day at university.

Final task	Each student will introduce themselves orally and introduce a classmate. They will also complete a simple form with their personal details.
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Duration	16 hours
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6.2 ON CAMPUS AND IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Section	Content
Communicative objectives	• State days and times. • Talk about family and friends. • Describe people. • Express likes and hobbies. • Make simple plans. • Make, accept and decline invitations.
Language content	• <i>Basic use of the verbs izan and ukan.</i> • Adjectives. • <i>Nongo / nongoa.</i> • Structures for expressing times and dates. • Structures for expressing likes: gustatzen zait, ez zait gustatzen... • Simple questions and answers.
Vocabulary	• Days of the week. • Months. • Times. • Family and kinship. • Physical and personality traits. • Hobbies. • Studies and everyday university life.
Skills	Listening: understand short conversations about timetables, family, hobbies and plans, and identify the main information. Reading: understand timetables, simple diaries, invitations, short messages and descriptions of people. Speaking: describe family and friends, explain likes, make weekly plans and issue invitations. Writing: write short messages, invitations and simple diary entries or plans.
Example activities	• Explain a family tree in pairs. • Play the description game "What are they like?" • Agree on a weekend plan. • Complete a diary. • Role-play: invite a friend for coffee or

	arrange to study together.
Final task	Working in pairs or small groups, students will organise a weekend plan. They will agree on times, explain their preferences, make invitations and present the final plan orally.
Duration	16 hours

6.3 EVERYDAY LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Section	Content
Communicative objectives	• Talk about family and friends. • Describe people physically and in terms of personality. • Describe a home and its rooms. • Explain everyday routines. • Talk about food and habits. • Make simple purchases and ask about products.
Language content	• <i>Consolidation of the verbs izan and ukan.</i> • Adjectives and descriptive structures. • Basic locative structures: non, nora and nondik. • <i>The structures badago / daude.</i> • Adverbs of frequency: beti, askotan, batzuetan, inoiz ez... • Use of common present-tense verbs in everyday contexts.
Vocabulary	• Family and kinship. • Physical and personality traits. • Rooms, furniture and household objects. • Household chores and everyday routines. • Food and drinks. • Products found in supermarkets and shops.
Skills	Listening: understand short conversations about family, the home, everyday routines and shopping. Reading: understand housing advertisements, shopping lists, simple menus and short everyday texts. Speaking: describe family and friends, present a home, explain everyday routines and take part in simple shopping situations. Writing: write a short text about an everyday routine, a description of a home or a shopping list.
Example activities	• Explain one's own everyday routine. • Describe a floor plan or photograph of a home. • Prepare a shopping list for the whole week. • Design a healthy menu.

	• Role-play: shop in a supermarket or store.
Final task	Working in groups or pairs, students will prepare a short presentation entitled “My everyday life”. They will introduce their family or housemates, describe their home, explain their everyday routines and propose a simple weekly shopping list.
Duration	14 hours

6.4 LIVING IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Section	Content
Communicative objectives	• Talk about places and towns in the Basque Country. • Ask for and give directions. • Understand and use information about public transport. • Suggest and organise leisure plans. • Talk about the weather. • Become familiar with and share basic elements of Basque culture.
Language content	• Consolidation of adverbs and locative structures: hemen, han, bertan... Structures for giving directions. • Time expressions and near-future structures: joango naiz, ikusiko dugu... • Use of common verbs in communicative contexts. • Common questions and answers for requesting information.
Vocabulary	• Towns and cities. • Means of transport. • The street and places in the city. • The weather. • Leisure activities. • Basic vocabulary related to Basque culture and traditions.
Skills	Listening: understand short conversations about directions, transport, the weather and leisure plans. Reading: understand maps, timetables, signs, tourist leaflets and short information texts. Speaking: ask for and give directions, suggest leisure plans and present places of interest in the Basque Country. Writing: write a weekend plan, a short itinerary or a recommendation for a visit.
Example activities	• Give directions using a map. • Organise a weekend excursion. • Interpret public transport timetables. • Give a short weather forecast.

Final task	Working in groups, students will prepare a small project entitled “A weekend in the Basque Country”. They will choose a destination, explain how to get there, suggest activities and present the plan orally.
Duration	14 hours

7. ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (OUTINGS)

Four activities outside the classroom will be organised during the course. Their purpose is to enable students to use the language content practised in class in real contexts and to learn about Basque language and culture first-hand.

Outing	Álava Campus	Biscay Campus	Gipuzkoa Campus
1	Campus orientation activity and visit to the main faculties	Orientation activity on the Leioa campus	Orientation activity on the San Sebastián campus
2	Guided visit to the Old Town of Vitoria-Gasteiz	Guided visit to the Old Town of Bilbao	Guided visit to the Old Town of San Sebastián
3	Visit to a traditional fair or market	Visit to a traditional fair or market	Visit to a traditional fair or market
4	Visit to a museum or cultural venue, such as Artium	Visit to a museum or cultural venue: Guggenheim, Basque Museum, etc.	Visit to a museum or cultural venue: San Telmo, etc.

8. COURSE SCHEDULE

The course will run from 8 September to 17 December 2026. Face-to-face sessions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13:30 to 15:30; online sessions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 16:00 to 18:00. Each teaching unit will be developed progressively and will include the scheduled outings and assessment activities.

DATE	PROGRAMME
8 September - 17 December	TEACHING UNIT
8 September	Course opening and welcome. Initial introductions and diagnostic activity.
1 October	Outing 1
29 September - 22 October	TEACHING UNIT 2: On campus and in everyday life
15 October	Outing 2
22 October	Mid-course assessment
27 October - 19 November	TEACHING UNIT 3: Everyday life and relationships
12 November	Outing 3
24 November - 17 December	TEACHING UNIT 4: Living in the Basque Country
10 December	Final assessment, self-assessment and course closing.
17 December	Outing 4

9. ASSESSMENT

To be assessed through continuous assessment, students must attend at least 85% of classes and complete all continuous-assessment components set out in the programme, including examinations.

In accordance with EHU/UPV regulations, students who wish to opt out of continuous assessment must send an email to cursosidiomas@ehu.eus at least one month before the end of the course.

Students who do not attend 85% of classes or do not meet the required level of active participation must take a final examination covering all course content. In that case, the examination result will account for 100% of the final grade.

In both continuous and final assessment, students must pass every assessed component with a minimum grade of 5 before the corresponding percentages can be averaged.

Assessment will be continuous and will evaluate the learning process as a whole. The following aspects will be taken into account:

Assessment criterion	Weight
Attendance and active participation	20%
Classroom activities and tasks	30%
Oral communication: interaction and production	20%
Written activities	10%
Final task or integrated project	20%

Explanation of the assessment criteria

Attendance and participation (20%)

Given the practical nature of the course, regular attendance and active participation in activities will be essential.

Classroom activities (30%)

Oral and written activities completed throughout the course, both individually and in groups, will be assessed continuously.

Oral communication (20%)

Students' listening comprehension, interaction and oral expression will be assessed through the communicative situations covered during the course.

Written activities (10%)

Students' ability to write short texts, such as forms, brief messages and simple descriptions, will be assessed.

Final task (20%)

At the end of the course, students will complete an integrated task based on a real communicative situation. They will apply the language content and communicative skills developed throughout the course.

9.1. Student assessment

The learning process will be assessed continuously. The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Progress demonstrated in classroom activities.
- Oral and written production.
- Individual and group activities.
- The final task or project.
- Communicative competence demonstrated throughout the course.

9.2. Participation and attendance

Given the practical nature of the course, active participation and attendance will be essential.

To take part in continuous assessment, students must attend at least 85% of sessions and complete all continuous-assessment components set out in the programme, including examinations.

In accordance with EHU/UPV regulations, students who wish to opt out of continuous assessment must send an email to cursosidiomas@ehu.eus at least one month before the end of the course.

Students who do not attend 85% of classes or do not meet the required level of active participation must take a final examination covering all course content. In that case, the examination result will account for 100% of the final grade.

The following aspects will also be assessed:

- Participation in oral activities.
- Involvement in group work.
- Participation in activities outside the classroom.
- Submission of activities and assignments on time.
- Collaboration with classmates and a respectful attitude.

9.3. Self-assessment

Self-assessment activities will be carried out throughout the course so that students can reflect on their learning process and identify opportunities for improvement.

9.4. Course evaluation

At the end of the course, students will complete an anonymous questionnaire to evaluate the organisation, methodology, materials and teaching. The information collected will be used to improve future editions of the course.

10. RESOURCES AND TEACHING MATERIALS

The resources used during the course will be selected to promote a communicative and participatory approach. Materials will respond to students' real communication needs and will support integrated work on oral and written comprehension and production.

The following resources will be used:

- **Materials prepared by the teacher and adapted to the course objectives and content.**
- **Authentic materials such as signs, timetables, forms, maps, menus, web pages and simple university documents.**
- **Audiovisual resources —short videos, audio recordings and images— to develop listening comprehension and contextualised language use.**
- **Digital resources such as presentations, collaborative boards, interactive quizzes and online platforms.**
- **Communicative games and activities to encourage oral interaction in pairs and groups.**
- **The EHU/UPV campuses and surrounding areas, enabling students to use the language in real situations and carry out activities outside the classroom.**

All materials will be adapted to the students' level. When necessary, links between Basque and students' first languages will be used to support comprehension, while always directing communication towards the use of Basque.

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