

Course Description

Portuguese (European) Level 1

How long does the course last?

45 hours of tuition - 3 parts of 15 hours each

Part 1: 15 hours

Part 2: 16-30 hours

Part 3: 31-45 hours

The length of each part depends on the type of language course.

Evening Language Courses: Lessons take place once a week over 10 weeks and last 1.5 hours each.

Intensive Evening Language Courses: Lessons take place once a week over 5 weeks and last 3 hours each.

Saturday Language Courses & Evening Fast-track Language Courses: Lessons take place once a week over 5 weeks and last 3 hours each.

Summer Fast-track Language Courses: Lessons take place twice a week over 2.5 weeks and last 3 hours each.

Summer Intensive Language Courses: Lessons take place 5 times a week and last 3 hours each.

Who is the course for?

The course is aimed at a wide range of students with a general interest in Portuguese (European). No prior knowledge of Portuguese (European) is required as the course is for complete beginners.

What are the objectives of the course?

To acquire basic language skills and to achieve the equivalent of A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), entry level of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

By the end of the course you will:

- be able to communicate in very basic everyday-life situations, including greetings, daily activities, finding your way, telling the time and date, making simple purchases, ordering a meal, etc
- be able to understand very simple oral and written texts and ascertain specific information on simple topics
- have developed an insight into Portuguese-speaking life, culture and society

How is the course taught?

A communicative approach is used. All four skills (speaking, reading, listening and writing) are practised, with the main emphasis on speaking.

Students engage in interactive language activities, participating in group and pair work according to a syllabus based on systematic grammatical progression.

Students will also be offered guidance in self-study and set optional homework tasks.

Students will have access to KEATS, King's e-learning platform.

What variety of Portuguese do you teach?

Contemporary Portuguese comprises several dialects and sub-dialects, often very distinct, and two internationally recognized standards (European Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese). This class will teach European Portuguese (written and spoken).

What course can I do next?

After completing all three parts of this course, students should be ready to join a European Portuguese Level 2 course at the MLC.

Course outline

Part 1

Topics

Greetings and introductions
Alphabet and numbers
Portuguese (European)
Pronunciation
Countries and nationalities
Occupations and work places
Days of the week, months of the year and seasons
The family
Sports, hobbies and pastimes
Daily routine and weekends
Modes of transport
Food

Functions

Addressing people in formal and informal ways
Giving and asking for personal information
Talking about likes and dislikes
Expressing feelings
Asking for and telling the time
Talking about present actions
Talking about the family
Ordering food in a coffee shop

Grammar

Definite and indefinite articles
Subject pronouns, demonstrative and possessive pronouns, some interrogative pronouns
Nouns gender and number
Adjective position, gender and number (adjective agreement)
Idiomatic expressions
Prepositions and articles, some contractions (em+o=no, etc.)
Verbs: Simple present of ser, estar, ter, gostar and some other regular verbs
Contrastive use of ser and estar
Present continuous vs Simple Present
Near Future (ir + Infinitive)
Andar de/ em (with transport)
Adverbs of manner and frequency (sempre/ nunca/ às vezes/ muitas vezes/ frequentemente)
Quantifiers muito/ bastante
Até

Part 2

Topics

Food and drink; meals
People
Clothes and colours
Shopping
Numbers and money
Rooms in a house
Furniture items
Town and city

Functions

Describing people (Ficar bem, etc)
Describing home and places
Asking for and giving directions
Understanding and giving instructions
Asking for things in a shop, prices
Talking about past actions

Grammar

Reflexive and object pronouns, more interrogative pronouns
Adjectives comparative and superlative forms + (demais e demasiado)
Andar em
Andar + adjective (triste/ feliz, etc.)
Adverbs of frequency; adverbs of place and time
Prepositions of place and time (contractions)
The Simple Present (irregular verbs) and the Simple Past of regular and irregular verbs
Imperative affirmative/ regular verbs
Isto/ isso/ aquilo
Por/ para/ a/ desde/ há

Part 3

Topics

Telephone conversations
Offers
Holidays
Cardinal points
The weather
The body, ailments and remedies
The past (2)

Functions

Answering the phone
Accepting or refusing offers
Asking a friend out
Making plans and expressing intentions
Talking about travels
Making suggestions
Asking and expressing opinions
Asking and talking about health / describing aches and pains
Describing past actions (2)

Grammar

Relative pronouns

Common prepositions
The past tense of some irregular and regular verbs
Most frequent conjunctions and linking elements
Imperative of verbs
Achar que
Acabar de + Simple past indicative
Há = ter = possibility
Combinar de/ com
Ir ter com = encontrar-se com
Ter que/ de & precisar que/ de
Desde... até
Pelo (a) De/ no

Learning resources

Textbook and exercise book

- Português XXI Nível 1 - Livro do Aluno (Livro segundo o novo Acordo Ortográfico), Ana Tavares, LIDEL ISBN 978-972-757-807-8 (according to the new spelling agreement)
Português XXI Nível 1 – Caderno de Exercícios (Livro segundo o novo Acordo Ortográfico), Ana Tavares, LIDEL ISBN 978-972-757-808-5 (according to the new spelling agreement)

Students are expected to purchase their own textbook. An exercise book may also be recommended. The teacher will supply additional material, both tailor-made and taken from other sources (textbooks, newspapers and new media).

Recommended additional material

- Gramática Activa 1, by Isabel Coimbra Leite & Olga Mata Coimbra, LIDEL, (according to the new spelling agreement)
- Oxford Portuguese Dictionary

Online language learning resources

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/modern-language-centre/language-resources-centre.aspx#ad-image-0>

Independent study

Research indicates that successful language learners revise new material and review their progress on a regular basis. The Language Resources Centre (LRC), situated in room K-1.072 in level minus one of the Strand Building, houses a wide collection of learning material including text and grammar books, magazines and newspapers, CDs, DVDs, and self-access e-learning language programmes.

During term time the LRC facilitates free speaking practice sessions as well as a range of workshops on language learning. For a list of topics and all dates and times, including the opening hours of the LRC, please go to the website: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/modern-language-centre/language-resources-centre.aspx#ad-image-0>