



Universidad  
de Alcalá

# GUÍA DOCENTE

TRADUCCIÓN ESPECIALIZADA  
(CIENTÍFICO-TÉCNICA) //  
SPECIALISED TRANSLATION  
(SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL)

**Grado en Lenguas Modernas y  
Traducción**

**Universidad de Alcalá**

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**Curso Académico 2022/2023**

**Curso 3º – Cuatrimestre 1º**

## GUÍA DOCENTE

Nombre de la asignatura:	Traducción Especializada (Científico-Técnica) / Specialized Translation (Scientific-Technical)
Código:	791005/440022
Titulación en la que se imparte:	<b>Grado en Lenguas Modernas y Traducción</b>
Departamento y Área de Conocimiento:	<b>Departamento de Filología Moderna. Área de Traducción e Interpretación</b>
Carácter:	<b>Obligatorio</b>
Créditos ECTS:	<b>8</b>
Curso y cuatrimestre:	<b>3<sup>er</sup> curso, 1<sup>er</sup> cuatrimestre</b>
Profesorado:	<b>Isabel Castellanos Ruiz (LMT Alcalá) Elena Alcalde Peñalver (LMT Alcalá) María del Mar Sanz Alonso (LMT Alcalá) Beatriz Sánchez Palomo (LMT Guadalajara)</b>
Horario de Tutoría:	Por determinar
Idioma en el que se imparte:	Inglés-español

## COURSE SUMMARY

Specialized Translation (Scientific-Technical) is a compulsory 8 ECTS course included in the first semester - third year of the Degree of Modern Languages and Translation. The aim of this course is to introduce students to scientific and technical translation from a theoretical, terminological and documented approach.

The main features of scientific and technical language will be presented, and different text typologies will be analysed and translated. Students will learn the main characteristics of scientific and technical language and texts and will understand the different translation stages and processes, as well as learn to identify and manage sources of information.

### 1. PRESENTACIÓN / COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to introduce students to scientific and technical translation from a theoretical, terminological and documented approach. The main features of scientific and technical language will be presented and different text typologies will be analysed and translated.

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## Prerrequisitos y Recomendaciones (si es pertinente) / Prerequisites and recommendations

Students are expected to have a B2.2 level of English and Spanish (Common European Framework) when they start the course. They are required to have a C1.1 level (Common European Framework) by the end of the 3rd year and this will be taken into account in their final mark.

## 2. COMPETENCIAS / COMPETENCES

### Competencias genéricas / Generic Competences:

1. To develop students' autonomy as learners
2. To improve students' abilities to communicate and work in groups
3. To develop and articulate independent and critical thinking based on supporting evidence
4. To use bibliographic and specialized sources efficiently and correctly
5. To demonstrate the ability to understand and express oneself, correctly and clearly, in English at the B2.2 level of the European Framework for Languages
6. To be able to translate complex texts from English into Spanish
7. To develop the capacities for self-assessment, self-improvement and teamwork

### Competencias específicas / Specific Competences:

1. To be able to identify and analyze different text typologies and their features related to scientific and technical translation
2. To be able to identify translation problems and find solutions
3. To be able to understand complex technical and scientific texts in English
4. To be able to write accurately technical and scientific texts in Spanish
5. To search for and analyze specialized parallel texts in English and Spanish
6. To understand, identify and handle tools and documentation sources to solve common translation problems
7. To become familiar with the basic specialized terminology and style of a selection of scientific and technical texts in English and Spanish
8. To acquire the capacity to use appropriate tools and techniques in order to deal effectively with scientific and technical translations
9. To reflect on translation issues and be able to justify their own translations.

## 3. CONTENIDOS / CONTENTS

Syllabus	Workload
1. Introduction to specialized translation (scientific-technical)	• 3 hours
2. Scientific translation: language and discourse, translation problems, solutions, techniques and resources	• 21 hours

3. Technical translation: language and discourse, translation problems, solutions, techniques and resources

- 21 hours

The workload is approximate and may vary based on the academic calendar and the needs of the class. The order of the syllabus may be altered but contents will remain the same.

#### **4. METODOLOGÍAS DE ENSEÑANZA-APRENDIZAJE.-ACTIVIDADES FORMATIVAS / METHODOLOGY**

##### **4.1. Distribución de créditos (especificar en horas) / Student workload**

Lectures	45 hours (15 whole group sessions, 30 reduced group sessions) 2 hours workshop, 2 hours final exam
Autonomous student learning	151 hours (preparation of activities and tasks, readings and study time)
Total horas	200

##### **4.2. Estrategias metodológicas, materiales y recursos didácticos / Learning activities, materials and resources**

Whole group sessions (theory) 1 hour/week	Introduction of the main principles and concepts in technical and scientific translation.
Reduced group sessions (practical) 2 hours/week	Students will be able to put theoretical issues into practice by translating different texts and discussing the translation process and its main problems.  Students will be expected to translate ahead of each reduced-group session, where they will share and discuss their individual translations with the rest of the group.
Workshop	Students will work in small groups on the documentation process and translation of a highly-specialised scientific or technical text.  In the workshop, they will give an oral presentation explaining the process followed, the selection of sources and the difficulties encountered.

## 5. EVALUACIÓN / ASSESSMENT: Procedimientos, criterios de evaluación y de calificación

### Assessment criteria:

Students must prove that they have acquired the main concepts and competences related to this module. Thus, by the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key issues and concepts of each unit
- Identify main features of scientific and technical texts
- Offer solutions to different translation problems
- Use different documentation resources
- Produce a quality translation of a selection of scientific and technical texts, justify their own translations and discuss other possibilities

Taking all this into consideration, students will be graded as follows:

### SOBRESALIENTE (A):

- Student fully identifies and analyzes the main features of scientific and technical texts and transfers the major points of the source text
- Student does not have significant errors of decoding / encoding and has a very good use of English and Spanish
- Student shows the ability to critically evaluate their own and other students' translation in a clear way, demonstrating independent ideas and opinions

### NOTABLE (B)

- Student well identifies and analyzes the main features of scientific and technical texts and transfers the major points of the SL text
- Student has up to one important error and has a good use of English and Spanish
- Student shows the ability to critically evaluate their own and other students' translation in a clear way, demonstrating some independent ideas and opinions

### APROBADO (C- Pass)

- Student has some important errors in identifying and analyzing the main features of scientific and technical texts and in transferring the major points of the SL text, but a minimum is achieved
- Student has some encoding problems (choice of vocabulary, idioms and register) and / or significant grammatical errors
- Student shows the ability to critically evaluate their own and other students' translation, but in a very general way, and they have few critical opinions

### SUSPENSO (F- Fail)

- Student has severe problems in identifying and analyzing the main features of scientific and technical texts and in transferring the major points of the SL text
- Student shows persistent serious grammatical inaccuracy and inappropriate choices of vocabulary, idiom and register
- Student is not able to critically evaluate their own and other students' translation and does not show any independent thinking

### Assessment procedures:

All students will be graded following a process of continuous assessment. Different aspects of the course will be evaluated separately throughout the semester in order to obtain an

overall continuous and formative final mark for the course mark. It will be compulsory to prepare and submit all the activities requested on the date and in the way established by the lecturer as it will be explained at the beginning of the course. All the students will have to participate actively and effectively in classes as well as in all the group activities. In this form of assessment, it is compulsory for students to attend a minimum of 85% of the theoretical and practical classes, to attend the workshop, and to submit all the activities requested. Failure to submit a number of activities may result in a final mark of “fail”. Assignments in which an excessive use of machine translation (Google Translate, DeepL) has been observed will not be graded. Students must demonstrate the required competences in the final exam in order to have their average mark calculated with the rest of assignments.

The assessment components are the following:

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b>
- Exam(s) (40%)	Students are required to demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding of the main principles and concepts, apply theoretical knowledge and methods of analysis to solve practical cases and, most importantly, show satisfactory translation skills and a good expression in the target language.
- Translation tasks, weekly deliveries, participation (40%)	Students will work individually and/or in groups and submit different translation activities throughout the course, including the creation of glossaries; a translatology analysis may also be requested. They will be evaluated in terms of resources and documentation used in the translation process, clarity when explaining their translation activities, and mainly final product quality.
- Workshop (20%)	It includes the following main tasks: translation of a given text, creation of a glossary and a reflection report/oral presentation. The workshop will be assessed and marked, but assessment will also take into account oral

	presentation skills, organisational skills and teamwork.
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Points will be deducted for grammar and spelling mistakes, especially in Spanish.

Exceptionally, those students who have officially applied for final assessment and have been recognized as eligible, in accordance with the terms in article 10 of the “NORMATIVA REGULADORA DE LOS PROCESOS DE EVALUACIÓN DE LOS APRENDIZAJES” (passed on 24-03-2011), may sit for a final exam, which will include questions on the topics covered in class and translation activities, as well as submit a translation assignment. Final assessment students must pass both the final exam and the assignment.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Those students who plagiarize in any of the activities will be awarded 0 marks in the corresponding activity and may fail the entire subject. This is in accordance with art. 34.3 of the *Normativa de evaluación de los aprendizajes*:

Se entiende por plagio la copia de textos sin citar su procedencia y dándolos como de elaboración propia y conllevará automáticamente la calificación de suspenso (0) en los trabajos o pruebas en los que se hubiera detectado.

\*In case students do not get the required mark to pass the course or do not fulfill the requirements related to continuous assessment as explained above, they will be entitled to sit for an extraordinary examination in June, which will include questions on all the topics covered in the syllabus as well as practical translation activities. A translation assignment may be requested as well, in which case students should pass both the exam and the assignment.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAFÍA / REFERENCES

- Alcina Alcaudet, A. & Gamero Pérez, S. (eds.). 2002. *La traducción científico-técnica y la terminología en la sociedad de la información*. Castellón de la Plana: Universitat Jaume I.
- Byrne, J. 2012. *Scientific and technical translation explained*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
- Edo Marzá, N. & Ordóñez López, P. 2010. *El lenguaje de la ciencia y la tecnología*. Castellón de la Plana: Servicio de Publicaciones de la Universitat Jaume I.
- Gamero Pérez, S. 2001. *La traducción de textos técnicos*. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Gotti, M. & Sarcevic, S. 2006. *Insights into Specialized Translation*. Bern: Peter Lang.
- Grego, K. 2010. *Specialized translation. Theoretical issues, operational perspectives*. Monza, Italy: Polimetrica
- Jiménez Serrano, O. 2002. *La traducción técnica inglés-español. Didáctica y mundo profesional*. Granada: Comares.
- Martínez López, A. 2010. *La traducción de textos médicos especializados para el ámbito editorial*. Granada: Editorial Comares.

- Montalt i Resurrecció, V. 2005. *Manual de traducció científicotècnica*. Vic: Eumo.
- Montalt, V. & González Davies, M. 2007. *Medical Translation Step by Step*. Manchester: St Jerome Publishing
- Navarro, F. 2005. *Diccionario crítico de dudas inglés-español de medicina*. Madrid: McGraw- Hill Interamericana.



## 7. ADDITIONAL PROVISION

La Universidad de Alcalá garantiza a sus estudiantes que, si por exigencias sanitarias las autoridades competentes impidieran la presencialidad total o parcial de la actividad docente, los planes docentes alcanzarían sus objetivos a través de una metodología de enseñanza aprendizaje y evaluación en formato online, que retornaría a la modalidad presencial en cuanto cesaran dichos impedimentos.

The University of Alcalá guarantees that, if due to health requirements, the public authorities prevent teaching activity from taking place on the University's premises, the teaching plans' objectives will be met through an online teaching and evaluation methodology. The UAH commits to return to face-to-face teaching as soon as said impediments cease.