

**WESTMINSTER**  
PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE

**BOOK LAUNCH “SMART WAYS FOR LEARNING SPANISH” BY MARÍA BLANCO**

**TALK: EDUCATING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT LANGUAGE LEARNING**

**BY ANA GRIÑÓN AND MARÍA BLANCO**

SMART  
Ways for Learning  
SPANISH



María Blanco MA, FHEA

Learning a foreign language up to a good level of proficiency requires many hours of independent learning but most students are not trained to become effective independent learners. As a result, the process of learning is slower and more stressful than it needs be. “**SMART Ways for Learning SPANISH**” addresses this gap in language learner education. Through inspirational stories, ideas, and simple steps, readers acquire tools for taking control and managing their independent language learning. They also learn about core principles for effective language learning; key strategies for vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar; and guidelines for selecting appropriate materials.

In the book launch, Ana Griñón and María Blanco discuss the overall structure and content of the book, the language learning challenges addressed in it, and students’ feedback.

**ANA GRIÑÓN** holds an MA in Applied Linguistics and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Alcalá de Henares (Madrid). Her work focuses on developing cognitive and metacognitive strategies in foreign language students. She has been teaching English for over 15 years, and since 2013 she has worked as a Head teacher for the ALCE programme in London, offering Spanish classes to Spanish nationals or descendants of Spanish nationals, based on a whole curriculum plan developed by the Spanish Ministry of Education. She is responsible for supporting, inspiring and leading the ALCE teachers in their career.



**MARÍA BLANCO** is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Westminster, where she has been coordinating the Spanish Open Language Programme and conducting research on language learning strategies since 2002. She is also the founder of “SMART-Learning for Spanish”. Her new book, “SMART Ways for Learning SPANISH”, is informed by more than 20 years of teaching experience of Spanish as a foreign language in UK Higher and Further Education institutions, and by research from the fields of applied linguistics and cognitive psychology.



**WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017**  
**6.30–8PM**

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UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER  
**ROOM UG04**  
309 REGENT STREET  
LONDON  
W1B 2HW