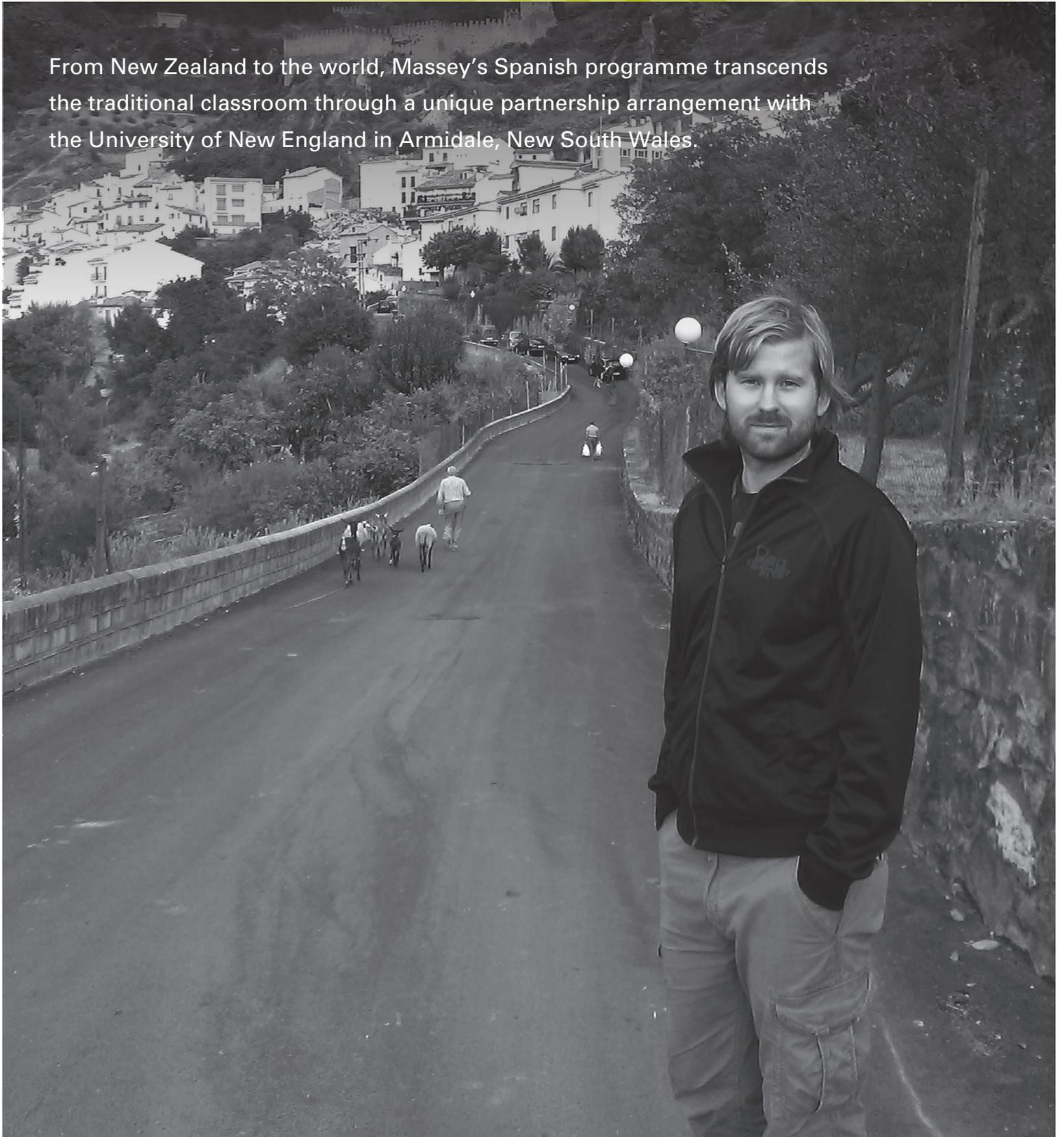


# INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE LEARNING ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE

From New Zealand to the world, Massey's Spanish programme transcends the traditional classroom through a unique partnership arrangement with the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales.



Established in 2011, the partnership offers 14 Spanish papers that are taught to undergraduate and postgraduate UNE distance students living across Australia and the world.

Paddy Quinn, who was born and raised in a small Australian town called Bodalla, has just completed his Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Spanish and Linguistics through the Massey University/University of New England programme.

Landing himself in Spain, with no knowledge of the language and unable to talk to anyone properly, Paddy enrolled in the Spanish programme and never looked back. Throughout his studies he met his now wife and shifted to Colombia.

"I can honestly say that the Spanish faculty is the best I've ever experienced. They were always flexible, interested in helping us learn, and the quality of the education was great," he says.

Being immersed in many different cultures as part of everyday life, Paddy was naturally drawn to the cultural and methodological teaching of Spanish, and found the programme to be a perfect fit.

"They took a very contemporary approach to teaching and learning. There was less emphasis on traditional aspects of language learning like grammar, and more emphasis on culture and learning the language through music, art, literature and cinema."

Paddy is now working as an English teacher and planning his PhD. He hopes to take an interdisciplinary approach and explore regional dialects through a Spanish and linguistics lens.

Massey Spanish senior lecturer Dr Leonel Alvarado says working alongside UNE allows the strengths of both institutions to combine.

"UNE has a similar profile to Massey, and they too are leaders in online education. We provide and design the content and they deal with the delivery. The support they offer is extraordinary and they are very hands on," says Dr Alvarado from the School of Humanities.

UNE School of Arts head Professor Alan Davidson also feels that the partnership has exceeded expectations.

"The partnership with Massey to offer Spanish to UNE students has been an exemplary model for cooperation between institutions. The Massey team has provided enormous skill and enthusiasm, and combined with UNE's long-standing experience in distance delivery, the programme has been a great success and it's been a pleasure to see it grow," he says.

Staff members from Massey's Spanish programme are currently exploring further opportunities to deliver their papers offshore and build their profile in Australasian markets.

"The Australian Government's focus on language learning means it is a highly valued aspect of tertiary education. We have something unique to offer and feel that the model we've developed can be replicated and offered to others as well," says Dr Alvarado.

*Dr Leonel Alvarado is a Senior Lecturer of Spanish in the School of Humanities. His research interests include Latin American literature and popular culture, travel writing, and Central American literature. He is also a published poet and is based on the Massey University Manawatu campus.*

