**Dr Ana Maria Ducasse – Lecturer and Program Coordinator, Spanish Studies program**

**Ana Maria:** Hello, my name is Ana Maria Ducasse. I’m the Spanish program coordinator and lecturer of Spanish third year advanced.

The students who you filmed were very fortunate because to become teachers they wrote an assignment on a Spanish teacher methodology, and I thought instead of doing a Spanish language oral, why not transfer some of their newly-acquired skills and show their language proficiency by passing on some Spanish to others. So a volunteer group of students.

I think the important thing for them was to become conscious of how much preparation is involved really showed that they had learnt a lot more than just a Spanish grammar point to teach. Everything that’s involved in preparing and taking a class.

Not everybody wants to be a teacher, but those who study language often have that in the back of their mind – ‘Could I be a teacher? What would it be like?’ So a 20 minute trial is not bad.

The Spanish government has offered placements for English teaching assistants in Spain. It’s new this year and some of those students who got a little bit of teaching practice are going to apply – they’ll have a VISA and they’ll be in Spain for six months, but teaching English in a local primary or secondary school, so it’s really taken off.

Language learning requires a lot of motivation and a lot of time. It’s not something that you can just pick up. Even when you go travelling, you can’t just pick up the language. The reason why it’s easy when you’re travelling is that you need to order that coffee or that beer in the other language. So you need to try and keep some of that motivation in the classroom and think well, why am I here, what do I want to get out of it, and that way you’ll be successful.

You can’t really study a language without extrinsic and intrinsic motivation. You really need intense motivation. Next year with a new group of students we’ll be able to do it. It’s a one-off. Those students only had a two-hour block, they taught 20 minutes each, that was their oral. They wouldn’t be able to repeat it. So very popular reception from the staff at La Trobe and the students themselves really enjoyed doing it.