

Language sessions to learn or improve Basque at the ULMA Group

For many years the ULMA Group has been offering courses to learn and improve Basque. Several employees who taught or attended the 2018-2019 course describe their experience.



MARIJO ALTUBE.
of academia Koma has been giving courses for ten years at ULMA Group

“Normally, the classes I give at ULMA are group classes with students from different businesses. Some groups have an hour and a half class twice a week, while others have a three-hour class once a week; we call this last one the bazkaltegia mode. During the first part of the class we’re usually in class and the rest of the time we’ll go out to eat. At the beginning of the course we establish the objectives and methodology and then we try to carry everything out. Our classes are very communicative in nature; we talk a lot, but we also dedicate a lot of time to theory and exercises in the sessions lasting from October to June.”



LARRAITZ MADINABEITIA.
A member of EMUN Kooperatiba, she has given brief courses at ULMA

“The objective is to increase the use of the Basque language. To achieve this, it is essential that those who do not know Basque take steps to learn it and for Basque speakers to improve their communication capabilities. With that objective we have offered these courses. On the one hand, there are courses aimed at learning Basque: a beginners module (A1) and a module for those with a bit more knowledge (A2); We also offer training sessions to improve Writing and for communicating in public in a manner that is comfortable and proper. The greatest achievement for beginners is their first contact with the Basque language and we try to generate interest so that they continue working to understand the language. Regarding the people in the training groups, they learn different resources to communicate more correctly. One of the pillars of our methodology is to “learn by using”.



What do you think of ULMA offering classes to learn Basque? What would you say?



EDU GONZALEZ
ULMA Piping

“I think it’s a very good initiative that ULMA offers the possibility to learn Basque. It reflects the cooperative’s commitment to Basque. During this course I have participated in the improvement sessions (8h). The teacher taught us resources for correcting errors related to daily tasks and to understand expressions and how to improve them. The session exercises were very adequate to internalize everything that was taught. So, I think the courses make are a good way to improve the current level of Basque of the employees”



MARIO PEREZ
ULMA Handling Systems

“Between January and February I took the beginning level module (A2). Although it wasn’t a lot, I was able to remember some of what I already knew: verbs, grammar, and such. I learned Basque in school, but since then I have not had the opportunity to use it. Now, since my workmates are in the habit of speaking in Basque, I feel the need to learn it. I still don’t feel that I am able to speak it but I understand more and more. I appreciate having the opportunity to learn Basque at the company”.



MARIAN GOMEZ
ULMA Architectural Solutions

“Since September I have been in the intermediate level group (B1) at ULMA Construction. Seven employees from different business units meet twice a week from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. We have a nice group, quite homogeneous with respect to the level. These classes have also given me the opportunity to meet people from other businesses, which is also positive. In addition to the classes, we go on outings together and the teacher encourages us to take exams. This also motivates you to practice at home, which enables us to increase the pace of the classes.”



ANA REMEDIOS
ULMA Packaging

“I participate in the bazkaltegi format at ULMA Packaging; in the beginner level (A2). We have three-hour sessions once a week: during the first half class we do exercises and work and during the second half we practice speaking while we eat. ULMA has totally succeeded with this program. It makes it possible for everybody to participate. For people like me, who did not learn Basque at home, it offers us the possibility of communicating in Basque. It is a very enriching experience.”



IBAN LIZARRALDE
ULMA Construction

“I participated in the course ‘Comfortable and Correct Public Speaking’. It is a course that goes beyond language. It’s enriching and interesting. As for the teacher, I thought it was a high level course. And the students worked enthusiastically. The course was 10 hours long but we requested to extend it an additional 6 hours. During the course we worked on theory and practiced developing different techniques for efficient verbal communication. Courses of this type should be more common, as they are good for both work and personal life.”