Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan Undergraduate
My time at Bristol showed me that, with hard work, you can learn not only languages, but about how people from other cultures think, live, and express themselves. The staff at Bristol were inspirational.

Carmen
BA Hispanic Studies, 1994
Lecturer in Portuguese Studies, University of Sheffield

Why study Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan at Bristol?

After English, Spanish is the world’s most widely-spoken European language and the second language of the USA. Portuguese is the world’s seventh most widely spoken language, used in Portugal, Brazil, five African countries and parts of Asia. Since it is so important, yet so rarely studied, knowledge of Portuguese is a very marketable skill. Catalan is also taught in Bristol and is becoming increasingly important in Spanish culture and politics.

Our teaching programme builds on many aspects of the history, literature and culture of Iberia and Latin America, from medieval times to the present day.

The department enjoys a strong reputation for its teaching and research in Hispanic, Latin American, Portuguese and Catalan culture, and has a cosmopolitan and student-focused atmosphere. Staff research and teaching specialisms range from Spanish and Portuguese literature and history to the Colombian Wars of Independence and the cultures of the indigenous people of Latin America.

Regular Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin-American cultural events are organised by both staff and students, including an annual Luso-Hispanic Cultural Week.

Modern languages students at Bristol benefit from a state-of-the-art multimedia centre, which provides access to over 2,000 film titles, foreign satellite channels, magazines and newspapers as well as equipment for oral practice, presentations and projects.

95% of students are in work or further study six months after graduation
(Destinations of Leavers of Higher Education survey 2013/14, BA Spanish)

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study
What will I study?

**Single Honours courses**
- BA Hispanic Studies, four years  RR45
- BA Spanish, four years  R400

**Joint Honours courses**
- BA Czech and Spanish, four years  RR4V
- BA Film and Spanish, four years  L288
- BA French and Spanish, four years  RR14
- BA German and Spanish, four years  RR24
- BA History of Art and Spanish, four years  VR34
- BA Italian and Spanish, four years  RR34
- BA Philosophy and Spanish, four years  RV45
- BA Politics and Spanish, four years  RL42
- BA Spanish and Portuguese, four years  RR54
- BA Spanish and Russian, four years  RR47
- BA Theatre and Spanish, four years  4D8C
- BA Czech and Portuguese, four years  RR5V
- BA Film and Portuguese, four years  4PP8
- BA French and Portuguese, four years  RR15
- BA German and Portuguese, four years  RR25
- BA History of Art and Portuguese, four years  VR35
- BA Italian and Portuguese, four years  RR35
- BA Philosophy and Portuguese, four years  RV55
- BA Politics and Portuguese, four years  RL52
- BA Russian and Portuguese, four years  RR57
- BA Theatre and Portuguese, four years  R2D8

All of our Single and Joint Honours degrees are available to complete or near beginners, for whom a tailor-made intensive language course is offered in the first stages of the course. Hispanic Studies comprises Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan (from the second year). All courses are centred on the study of the relevant language(s), complemented by options in the history, literature and cultures of Iberia and Latin America. If you enter with an A-level you will follow your own advanced language course, plus additional cultural units to consolidate and extend your experience.

In the first year, you will receive an introduction to Hispanic and Latin American Studies and/or Portuguese and Lusophone Studies, taught through lectures by teams of specialist academic staff. These units also focus on the development of key skills for progression through the degree course. You will improve your language skills through reading modern representative texts and viewing films, while getting a taste of the cultural diversity of the relevant countries.

In years two and four you choose from a wide range of optional units covering the languages, literature, history, politics and culture of the Spanish- and/or Portuguese-speaking world.

These may include:
**Spanish units**
- From Frontiers to Football: Nations in Latin America; Republic, War and Dictatorship in Spain, 1931-1982
- Women’s Writing in Post-war Spain
- Re-making and Re-sexing Hispanic History
- Hispanic Sociolinguistics
- Arts of Unreason

**Portuguese units**
- Body/Image: Gender and Corporeality in the Lusophone World
- Transnational Narratives in Contemporary Brazilian Culture
- Audio-visual Translation.

You may also take interdisciplinary units in the School of Modern Languages: World Cinema; Translation as Professional Practice; Linguistics; The Radical Right; Communism in Europe. In the final year you may also choose to write a dissertation exploring a topic of your choice in detail.

Your timetable, teaching and modes of learning will vary according to the year of study, but typically you will experience a mixture of lectures, seminars and various types of language classes (written, oral/aural and grammar) throughout your course.

Independent study and preparation will occupy a considerable part of your timetable in addition to scheduled classes.

All courses last four years and include a period of residence abroad in an appropriate country during the third year. You may spend your year abroad working or volunteering, giving you valuable professional experience, or studying at one of our partner universities. We currently have exchange agreements with universities in Spain and Portugal and several universities in Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Colombia and elsewhere in Latin America. The Global Opportunities office will help you to arrange placements for the third year and with the associated administration.

If you study two languages, you will divide your year abroad equally between countries where they are spoken. Students on the Hispanic Studies course will spend part of the year in Catalonia in order to experience both Spanish and Catalan. Your year abroad will provide you with a highly attractive skill set for employers.

Units are assessed by a combination of coursework, examinations and seminar presentations. The ratio between each type of assessment depends upon which optional units are chosen.
Modern languages graduates develop employability skills in addition to linguistic aptitude. These include:

• communication, both written and oral;
• information gathering and analysis;
• time management;
• self-confidence and independence;
• international outlook and cultural awareness;
• presentation.

Many of our students use their languages after graduation and a high proportion find employment in which their languages are advantageous. Our graduates enter a wide variety of careers, including banking, marketing, the media, accountancy, tourism and the civil service.

Some go on to further study or training in programmes such as international relations and development, teaching and translation. Recent graduates now work for international institutions including the United Nations and the Organisation of American States.

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What are my career prospects?

Making your application

Admissions tutors are looking for evidence that you will be interested, motivated and able to begin exploring all aspects of Spanish, Catalan and/or Portuguese language and culture. When making your application, please consider the following:

• interest in and commitment to the language, history and culture;
• evidence of clear thinking and understanding, problem-solving and analytical skills;
• suitability of the course for you;
• genuine evidence of deep interest in and appreciation of Spanish, Catalan and/or Portuguese linguistic culture and determination to take every opportunity for direct contact with native speakers and cultural products;
• reading or research which goes beyond the AS and A2 syllabus;
• non-academic achievements, extracurricular interests and positions of responsibility;
• teamworking;
• response to challenges faced;
• standard of written English.

Typical offer for BA Hispanic Studies/ Spanish*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug17-spanish or bristol.ac.uk/ug17-portuguese for Joint Honours and other qualifications

A-levels ABB (contextual BBB†) including Spanish

IB Diploma 32 overall (contextual 31†) with 16 points at Higher Level including 5 in Higher Level Spanish

English Language Profile B††

GCSEs No specific subjects required

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements

Selection UCAS or Common Application

Part-time study Considered, but places are limited to ensure fairness to applicants applying the following year

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2016), however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Further information

Find out more about the Department of Hispanic, Latin American and Portuguese Studies: bristol.ac.uk/hispanic.
Contacts

Enquiries Team
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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

Undergraduate study website
bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

Photography: Liz Eve, fotohaus; Jon Jerrome; Dan Rowley;
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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2017. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2016). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website for the latest updates: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.