German
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours
BA German
four years R200

Joint Honours
BA Czech and German four years RR2V
BA Film and German four years 4F29
BA French and German four years RR12
BA German and Italian four years RR23
BA German and Portuguese four years RR25
BA German and Russian four years RR27
BA German and Spanish four years RR24
BA History of Art and German four years VR32
LLB Law and German four years MR12
BA Music and German four years WR32
BA Philosophy and German four years RV25
BA Politics and German four years RL22
BA Theatre and German four years 21C7

Why study German at Bristol?

Expertise in modern languages has never been more important as the United Kingdom forges a new relationship with its European partners and seeks to develop its trading and cultural ties throughout the world.

Germany is the largest national economy in Europe and the fourth largest globally. It remains central to the world’s political and economic order, guaranteeing a high demand for the rare commodity of advanced fluency in the German language and familiarity with the diverse culture, history, politics and lifestyles of the German-speaking world. Germany is currently the UK’s biggest European trading partner and British political and cultural history is closely intertwined with that of Germany.

Studying German at Bristol combines thorough language training with broad coverage of the culture and history of the German-speaking world. Alongside the core structured language learning programme (for beginners as well as A-level entrants), you will have opportunities to study literature, history, culture, philosophy, politics and linguistics. Current research strengths include modern German and Austrian history, post-war and contemporary literature, and 18th- and 20th-century studies.

The flexible course allows you in the second and final years to follow options geared to your personal interests, both in German and with a broader comparative context in the School of Modern Languages.

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.

Become an arts student at Bristol and you will be joining a diverse group of staff, students and subjects united by a fascination in exploring how humans express their experiences. From 2018 we are offering you even greater opportunities to explore subjects beyond your core studies and an average of ten or more contact hours per week. Through our innovative curriculum we ensure you develop the key skills and attributes employers seek while receiving a first-class education.

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2018. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2017). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.
What will you study?

You can study German as Single Honours, offering the widest coverage of German studies, or in a Joint Honours degree with another language or subject. All courses last four years and include a period of residence in a German-speaking country during the third year. You can study German from beginner’s level in joint degrees, beginning with an intensive language course.

We aim to bring our graduates up to native or near-native level, providing training and practice in all key language skills. The department has four native-speaker German language teachers and the year abroad, an integral part of the course, is excellent for improving oral and aural skills.

The first year introduces you to a broad range of the disciplines covered in the department. While language teaching remains core in all years, second- and final-year students determine the rest of their course from a range of options.

Second-year options have recently included:
- Divided Germany
- Business German
- Young Goethe
- Literature and Politics 1800-1870
- Kafka
- Germany and Austria, 1918-34
- Spotlights on Anglo-German Relations: Literature, Media, Film.

Final-year options have recently included:
- German Humour
- Culture of Classical Weimar
- Socialism and the Left
- Exiles and Migrants in German Literature
- Goethe’s Faust
- Representing the Holocaust
- After the Wall: Remembering the GDR
- The German Sonnet
- Christa Wolf.

Not only will you have access to the superbly equipped Multimedia Centre, but you will also be taught through a variety of methods. Language classes are taught in small groups which allow tutors to work closely with every student. In cultural units there are discussion groups or seminars, supported in the first year by larger lectures. Students can arrange individual consultations to discuss essays and other work with their tutors. You will also spend much of your time studying independently, reading around a topic, preparing assignments, developing your own ideas and learning to express them in English and in German.

Year abroad
You may spend your year abroad working in a German-speaking environment, which will allow you to gain valuable professional experience. Approximately one third of our third-year students work in approved employment in a wide range of organisations, including multinational companies, translation agencies, theatres, and management consultancies. Some students become assistant English teachers in German or Austrian schools.

Alternatively, you can spend your year abroad studying at German or Austrian universities. We have Erasmus links with Augsburg, Berlin Humboldt, Hannover, Heidelberg, Kiel, Leipzig, and Graz universities. The University of Bristol's Global Opportunities office will help you to arrange study and work placements and will assist with associated administration.

If you study German with another language, you divide your third year equally between a German-speaking country and a country where your other language is spoken. Many students find that studying two languages enables them to become stronger linguists. Your year abroad will provide you with a highly attractive skill set for employers.

‘Now more than ever, the UK needs to reach out and listen to the wider world. An in-depth knowledge of modern languages, their cultures and societies, is essential for success in a global context. At Bristol we offer our students a wide range of language combinations taught by expert teachers and world-leading researchers.’

Professor Susan Harrow, Head of the School of Modern Languages

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study
Many German graduates want to use their language skills after graduation and find jobs where their languages are advantageous. Some return to Germany to live and work. In a globalised world, mastery of a foreign language is an asset in most graduate jobs. It is especially helpful in fields as diverse as finance, law, consultancy, publishing, the civil service, marketing, travel and tourism.

Beyond their language skills, our students develop a deep understanding of other cultures, an international outlook, adaptability and independence. The relatively few language graduates who become professional linguists (translators or interpreters) require two foreign languages and undertake specialised postgraduate training. Some graduates who want to use their language as a core of their job choose teaching and some who want the opportunity to live abroad teach English as a foreign language. Others enter professions including media, law and accountancy, or undertake postgraduate study.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

Careers and graduate destinations

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Making your application

Typical offer for BA German*
Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-german for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC†) including B in German.

IB Diploma 32 overall (contextual 29†) with 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14†) including 5 at Higher Level in German.

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. We may interview mature applicants or applicants with non-standard qualifications.

Deferred entry Considered, but places are limited to ensure fairness to applicants applying the following year.

‘Having a degree from Bristol has certainly helped me to secure work, while the value of a languages degree is, in my opinion and from my experience, higher than ever in today’s competitive job market.’

Daniel (BA German and Spanish 2015)
Contact us

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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

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Photography
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