Modern Languages
Undergraduate study
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.

Why study modern languages at Bristol?

Alongside Bristol’s Single and Joint honours degrees, we offer courses in three languages, allowing the most talented linguists to achieve mastery in the languages concerned, while engaging with several aspects of the culture, social history and literature of the countries where these languages are used.

For the BA Modern Languages you will require two languages at A-level and will pick up a third from scratch. You will have access to a broad range of modules in contemporary and historical aspects of the culture, politics and societies of relevant countries, as well as in linguistics, literature, medieval studies, cinema and other disciplines.

Although you will take fewer of these modules than students studying one or two languages, there are no restrictions in access to the full range of imaginative and stimulating modules offered by the School of Modern Languages at Bristol. You will encounter the main streams of civilisation and thought from Europe and from the wider world through our extensive expertise in Latin America, Russia and Francophonie.

Your third year abroad, during which you will spend time in all three countries relevant to your course, will provide you with a cosmopolitan outlook and an attractive skill set for employers.

We currently offer the following language combinations:
- French, Spanish and Portuguese
- French, Spanish and Italian
- French, Spanish and German
- French, German and Italian
- French, German and Russian
- French, German and Czech
- German, Russian and Czech

For each of these combinations, applicants will need A-level or equivalent in the first two named languages, while the third can be studied from beginner’s level. Additionally, our BA Hispanic Studies (RR45) enables study of Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan.

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.

Courses

Single Honours
BA Modern Languages
four years RR01

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?

About two thirds of your time in the first year will be devoted to gaining a thorough grounding in the languages you are studying while the remaining third is spent on cultural or historical modules in your post A-level languages. In the second and fourth years, language study makes up half of the course and you will study cultural or historical modules in some of your languages and modules in linguistics, translating and interpreting, comparative literature or other related topics.

The following list gives you an idea of the optional units that were available in academic year 2016/17 and demonstrates the wide variety of interests that can be pursued across the school:

• Race in France: Colonial and Post-Colonial Perspectives;
• Current Topics in Modern Sociolinguistics;
• Screening the Past: Representing History in Contemporary Italian Cinema;
• Chekhov on the World Stage;
• The Masks of Don Juan: The Legendary Figure in Spain 1630-1930;
• Colombia: History and Culture since Independence;
• Around Cubism;
• Body/Image: Gender and Corporeality in the Lusophone World;
• Divided Germany;
• Dante’s Inferno;
• Post-Soviet Russian Prose Fiction;
• Czech Gender Relations.

Please consult the leaflets available from the individual departments for further details. The school also offers a series of optional units which allow students to study topics outside the culture of the countries whose language they study. Students may choose from a range of units such as:

• World Cinema;
• Translation as Professional Practice;
• Linguistics;
• Communism in Europe.

Year abroad

You will be required to undertake a work or study placement of at least four months in the countries where two of your languages (including your beginner’s language) are spoken, and a shorter stay of a minimum of one month (longer if possible) in a country where your third language is spoken.

We also encourage students to take advantage of the time before and after the September to June period of the academic year to maximise their time in all three countries. You may study at one of our partner universities, work in a foreign company, or work as an English language assistant in a school. Areas of the world where our students can study or work include Europe, Latin America and Francophone or Lusophone Africa.

Assessment

In most cases, assessment is by a combination of coursework and examination, but the precise ratio varies from department to department and will depend also on which optional units you choose. Language proficiency is assessed by written, oral and aural examinations.
In addition to linguistic aptitude, modern languages graduates develop many skills that are desirable to employers, including: communication, both written and oral; information-gathering and analysis; time management; self-confidence and independence; an international outlook and cultural awareness.

Bristol’s high academic standards make our modern languages graduates very attractive to employers. Graduates in three languages will be particularly well suited to specialist careers as linguists, interpreters or translators, but our graduates pursue a wide variety of careers embracing teaching, industry, the media, banking and finance, national and international civil services, travel and tourism. A number have taken up opportunities to work abroad. Many continue with academic study in Bristol or elsewhere.

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.

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).

Careers and graduate destinations

Making your application

Typical offer for BA Modern Languages*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-modlang for other qualifications.

A-levels AAB (contextual ABC†) including grade A (contextual AB†) in two of the languages to be studied. For degree combinations involving French, A-level French is required.

IB Diploma 34 overall (contextual 31†) with 17 points at Higher Level (contextual 15†) including 6 at Higher Level in two of the languages to be studied.

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.

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.¹

Professor Susan Harrow, Head of the School of Modern Languages

¹For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

²For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Admissions tutors are looking for evidence that you will be interested, motivated and able to begin exploring all aspects of the relevant languages and cultures. 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 a deep interest in and appreciation of the relevant 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;
• evidence of teamwork;
• response to challenges faced;
• standard of written English.

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 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.
Contact us

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

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.

Accommodation Office
Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640
Email accom-office@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services
Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444
Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

Student Funding Office
Tel +44 (0)117 331 7972
Email student-funding@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding

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

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format please contact
Student Marketing:
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573
Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

Photography
Patrick Metcalfe, Nick Smith
© University of Bristol