Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan
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 Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan at Bristol?

After English, Spanish is the world’s most widely-spoken European language and is 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 focuses 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.

Courses

Single Honours

BA Hispanic Studies four years RR45
BA Spanish four years R400

Joint Honours

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
LLB Law and Spanish four years MR13
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 R2DB
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.

What will you study?

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. Previous examples 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, such as: 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.

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.

**Year abroad**

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 or Portugal and several universities in Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Colombia and elsewhere in Latin America. The Global Opportunities team 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.

‘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
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. Some recent graduates now work for international institutions including the United Nations and the Organisation of American States.

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).

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.

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

Typical offer for BA Hispanic Studies/ Spanish*
Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-spanish or bristol.ac.uk/ug18-portuguese for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

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

IB Diploma 32 overall (contextual 29†) with 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14†) including 5 points at 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. We may interview mature applicants and applicants with non-standard qualifications.

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

‘Studying languages has proved indispensable to getting my first graduate job. I really couldn’t imagine applying for a job role where foreign languages aren’t utilised or considered an asset.’

Isabella (BA Russian 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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