

# French



Undergraduate study

# Courses

## Single Honours

### **BA French**

four years R100

## Joint Honours

### **BA Czech and French**

four years RR1V

### **BA Film and French**

four years 2LK6

### **BA French and German**

four years RR12

### **BA French and Italian**

four years RR13

### **BA French and Portuguese**

four years RR15

### **BA French and Russian**

four years RR17

### **BA French and Spanish**

four years RR14

### **BA History of Art and French**

four years VR31

### **LLB Law and French**

four years MR11

### **BA Music and French**

four years WR31

### **BA Philosophy and French**

four years RV15

### **BA Politics and French**

four years RL12

### **BA Theatre and French**

four years W43F

# Why study French 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.

French is a global language spoken in Europe, North and West Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, Polynesia, Canada and Asia. A French degree from Bristol provides you with excellent spoken and written French while also enabling you to discover the society, culture, literature and linguistic history of these fascinating places. Studying French at university is an enriching experience, offering exciting intellectual challenges to the lively mind.

The Department of French encourages strong synergy between research and teaching, resulting in the creation and development of a vibrant learning environment, as staff respond in their teaching to new research. Current research specialisms include visual culture; Francophone cultures in Africa; French colonialism; relationships between art,

music and literature; modern French society and politics; contemporary film and cultural studies; medieval, renaissance and early modern literature; and 19th-century politics and culture.

The department's broad coverage reflects the range of contributions which French culture has made and the key role that France continues to play in Europe and the wider world.

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.

'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

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.

## What will you study?

Our degree courses give you a command of modern spoken and written French to a high level of fluency and accuracy, alongside the opportunity to study aspects of French society and literature. This provides a thorough understanding of the rich diversity of French and Francophone culture.

Units on visual culture or on the writings of French intellectuals provide detailed analytical insight into French civilisation from a variety of approaches. You will attend a mixture of lectures, language classes, seminars and individual tutorials. Some lectures are given in French and you will have regular spoken French classes with native French speakers. At all stages we aim to provide opportunities for you to develop your own ideas in interaction with other students and a tutor. We emphasise seminar discussions and presentations, which will help you to develop the key transferable skill of presenting your ideas in front of others.

The ultimate value of your learning experience depends on your own private study, preparation and follow-up for seminars and lectures. Independent learning is one of the key objectives in French, as it is with all courses in the Faculty of Arts.

First-year foundation units provide an introduction to French social history and identity and to French visual and literary culture from the medieval to the contemporary. Thereafter, alongside constant language study, options are available in a range of diverse topics. Previous options have included Race in France; France and Europe; *Les Misérables* – Readings and Receptions; French for Business; The Crusades and their Representation in French Literature; Paris 1857-1897; Challenging the Republic (France 1929-2009).

You may also study interdisciplinary units in the School of Modern Languages, for example: World Cinema; Translation as Professional Practice; Linguistics; Theatre and Performance; The Radical Right; and Communism in Europe.

We use a variety of assessment methods including coursework essays, commentaries, presentations and examinations. Language work is monitored through non-assessed exercises (translations, essays, comprehension, grammar exercises, oral presentations and aural comprehension) and examinations (translation, essay, oral and aural).

### Year abroad

All French courses last four years and include a period of residence in a French-speaking country during the third year. You may wish to spend your time in France or in more exotic locations, such as Senegal. This period provides the kind of linguistic and cultural immersion that can be experienced only in a host community where French is the first language, whether in the familiar manifestations across the Channel or farther afield.

You may spend your year abroad working, allowing you to gain valuable professional experience, or studying at one of our French-speaking partner universities, including Paris, Bordeaux, Aix-Marseille and Geneva. If you study two languages, you divide the year equally between countries where they are spoken.



‘The sheer breadth of module choice not only enabled me to pick units that I have a keen interest in, but also those which provide a more tangible benefit in terms of my career. My year abroad really put into perspective how much I learned.’

Alex (BA French and German)



## Careers and graduate destinations

Many language graduates want the opportunity to use their language after graduation and a high proportion find jobs where their languages are advantageous. Your year abroad will provide you with a highly attractive skill set for employers. Increasing opportunities exist with international organisations, where fluency in French and a good knowledge of French institutions and culture are a fundamental qualification. Employers value an international outlook and excellent organisational skills. Relevant areas include finance, law, consultancy, publishing, civil service, journalism, the media, marketing, travel and tourism.

Language graduates may undertake specialised postgraduate training to become teachers, translators or interpreters. Many continue in academic work taking postgraduate research degrees at 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 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top graduate employers in the UK (High Fliers Research, 2018).

**‘Although it seems the norm while at university when you’re surrounded by linguists 24/7, it’s good to remember that it is a rare skill to be fluent in one or two foreign languages, and one that many employers find attractive.’**

Samara (BA French and Italian), Barrister

## Making your application

### Typical offer for BA French\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-french](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-french) for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

**A-levels** AAB (contextual BBB<sup>†</sup>) including B in French.

**IB Diploma** 34 overall (contextual 31<sup>†</sup>) with 17 points at Higher Level (contextual 15<sup>†</sup>), including 5 at Higher Level in French.

**English Language profile** B<sup>††</sup>

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

<sup>†</sup>For information on contextual offers, visit [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

<sup>††</sup>For details of English language profiles, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements).

**Selection** UCAS or Common Application.

\*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 2018); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

### Further information

Find out more about the Department of French: [bristol.ac.uk/french](http://bristol.ac.uk/french).



# Contact us

## 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.

## Accommodation Office

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## Disability Services

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University guide to the city of Bristol

**bristol.ac.uk/citybristol**

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