

Modern Languages



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BA Modern Languages

four years RR01

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 of 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 cultural 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.

You will have the opportunity to study any three of the following languages offered by the School of Modern Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German, Russian and Czech.

An A-level is required in two of your chosen languages, while the third is studied from beginners' level. Please note that French cannot be studied as a beginners' language.

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, 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 and 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 you to study topics outside the culture of the countries whose language you are studying. You 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 you to take advantage of the time before and after the September to June period of the academic year to maximise your time in all three countries. You may study at one of our partner universities, work in a company overseas, 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 between departments and will depend also on which optional units you choose. Language proficiency is assessed by written, oral and aural examinations.



'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

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; cultural awareness and flexibility.

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 including teaching, law, industry, the media, banking and finance, national and international civil services, publishing, 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 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research, 2018).

'The lecturers are incredible; they've been warm and welcoming and are incredibly keen on their subjects. Language degrees are very highly regarded and can be that extra edge in any job application.'

Harley (BA German and Spanish)



Making your application

Typical offer for BA Modern Languages*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-modlang for other qualifications.

A-levels AAA (contextual AAB[†]) including AA in two of the languages to be studied (contextual AB[†] in two of the languages to be studied).

IB Diploma 36 overall (contextual 32[†]) with 18 points at Higher Level (contextual 16[†]), including 6, 6 (contextual 6, 5[†]) at Higher Level in two of the languages to be studied.

English Language profile B^{††}

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

For degree combinations including French, A-level French is required.

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

^{††}For details of English language profiles, visit 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.

Further information

Find out more about the School of Modern Languages: bristol.ac.uk/sml.

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.

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

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Photography

Charlotte Keats, Dan Rowley
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