



## Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

### Photography

Dan Rowley, Finetime Photography

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# French



Undergraduate study



# Courses

## Single Honours

### **BA French**

four years R100

## Joint Honours

### **BA Czech and French**

four years RR1V

### **BA English and French**

four years QR31

### **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 and French**

four years VR11

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

four years VR31

### **BA International Business Management and French\***

four years NR11

### **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

\* This course is subject to approval.

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). 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.

# 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 expertise reflects the range of contributions that 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, graduates equipped with linguistic skills, intercultural understanding, and the ability to think outside the box are in high demand. At Bristol, through a broad, interdisciplinary range of language and culture units taught by world-class researchers, we prepare our students to become creative leaders, capable of responding to local and global challenges'

Professor Andreas Schonle, Head of the School of Modern Languages

## 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. Recent options have included: Burning Books: Radicalism Before the Revolution; Introduction to French African Literature; French Drama; Propaganda, Politics, and the Islamic Other: Literary Responses to the Crusades; Paris 1857-1897; Introduction to French Cinema; Occupation and Resistance, 1040-44; and Intellectuals and the Media in France.

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 wide variety of assessment methods. These include traditional academic writing (essays, commentaries and examinations) and also innovative new tasks such as podcasts, censorship reports, video presentations and scripted court trials. 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 settings 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 in locations including Paris, Bordeaux, Aix-Marseille and Geneva. If you study two languages, you divide the year equally between countries where they are spoken.

Modern languages students can access our state-of-the-art Multimedia Centre, which includes a student cinema suite, an audio recording and editing studio, and a library of foreign films, books and magazines.



'The range of units available is astounding. 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. A growing number of job opportunities exist with international organisations, where fluency in French and a good knowledge of French institutions and culture are fundamental qualifications. Employers value an international outlook and excellent organisational skills. Relevant fields 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 2019 and are the second most targeted university by top graduate employers in the UK (High Fliers Research, 2019).

**‘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

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Data is for students of all modern languages courses. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired](http://bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired).



**Graduate employers**  
British Council  
EY  
Focus PR  
Éléphant groupe  
Merbis-Kirk Translations



**Career destinations**  
Auxiliaire de Conversation  
Accountancy Associate  
Team Assistant  
Freelance Researcher  
Translator

## Making your application

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-french](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-french) for more information about our courses, including joint honours.

### Typical offer for BA French

**A-levels** AAB (contextual BBB) including B in French.

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

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

**Selection process** UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-french](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-french).

### Application advice for French courses

Admissions tutors are looking for evidence that you will be interested, motivated and able to begin exploring all aspects of French 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, and problem-solving and analytical skills;
- suitability of the course for you;

- reading or research which goes beyond the A-level syllabus;
- non-academic achievements, extracurricular interests and positions of responsibility;
- evidence of teamwork;
- response to challenges faced;
- standard of written English.

### Further information

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

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-french](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-french).



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

[bristol.ac.uk/students](http://bristol.ac.uk/students)