



Contact us

- @BristolUni
- bristoluniversity
- UniversityofBristol
- UniversityofBristol

Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

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

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Modern Languages



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BA Modern Languages

four years R101

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, for the latest updates.

Why study modern languages at Bristol?

Alongside Bristol's single and joint honours modern languages degrees, we offer a degree in three languages, BA Modern Languages. This allows 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.

In BA Modern Languages, 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 Francophone nations.

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 as a beginner. Please note that French cannot be studied from beginner's level.

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?

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. You will also study cultural or historical modules in some of your languages, as well as modules in linguistics, translating and interpreting, comparative literature or other related topics.

The following list gives you an idea of the optional units that have recently been available and demonstrates the wide variety of interests that can be pursued across the school:

- Francophone African Literature
- Current Topics in Modern Sociolinguistics
- Screening the Past: Representing History in Contemporary Italian Cinema
- Gender in 20th- and 21st-Century Russia
- Languages of the Iberian Peninsula

- Colombia: History and Culture since Independence
- Surrealism
- Migration and Movement: Cultural Exchange in the Lusophone World
- Divided Germany
- Dante's *Inferno*
- Life and Death with Stalin
- The Theatre of Lorca.

Please consult the leaflets available from the individual departments for further details.

The school also offers a series of optional units that 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:

- Cinema and Revolution
- Translating in a Professional Context
- Introduction to Linguistics
- Communism in Europe
- Liaison Interpreting.

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 at least one month (or 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 also depend on which optional units you choose. Language proficiency is assessed by written, oral and aural examinations.

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.



'I really feel a part of something - and it feels like people care. My personal tutor has been really useful and supportive, as well as my senior tutor.'

Emma (BA French and Spanish)

Careers and graduate destinations

In addition to linguistic aptitude, modern languages graduates develop many skills that are desirable to employers, including: written and oral communication; 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 2019 and are the second most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research, 2019).

'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)

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.



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-modlang for more information about our course.

Typical offer for BA Modern Languages*

A-levels AAA (contextual ABB) including AA (contextual AB) in two of the languages to be studied.

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

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

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.

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-modlang.

Application advice for BA Modern Languages

Admissions tutors are looking for evidence that you will be interested, motivated and able to begin exploring all aspects of your chosen languages and cultures.

When making your application, please consider the following:

- interest in and commitment to the languages, histories and cultures;
- 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 School of Modern Languages: bristol.ac.uk/sml.

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-modlang.



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

bristol.ac.uk/students