Languages and Cultures

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GET IN TOUCH
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CONNECT WITH US
@DeCLANCaster
DeLC at Lancaster
DeLC at Lancaster University
The Department of Languages and Cultures (DeLC) has pioneered a distinctive approach to languages in the context of their related global cultures. The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 ranks us in the top three nationally for French, German and Spanish. We continue to be a flagship department for developing a range of transferable skills for graduate employability, and are ranked in the top ten nationally for the quality of our graduate destinations (1st for French, 2nd for German, 9th for Spanish, Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018).

Here at Lancaster we offer very flexible programmes, both within our department and in collaboration with 14 other subjects across the University. You can study a wide range of degree schemes in and with French, German and Spanish, from both beginners and advanced levels; and Chinese and Italian from beginners level. This variety provides a lively and dynamic environment for study. Our 94% student satisfaction scores (National Student Survey, 2017) tell us that students find studying with us an enriching and enjoyable experience.

Our relative size means we are small enough to offer close, productive contact between students and staff. This environment encourages good working relationships which continue beyond our students’ undergraduate degrees into their professional lives. This in turn supports our engagement with local schools and companies and also with a wide variety of creative practitioners that we regularly invite to the Department.

Our approach to our teaching and internationally recognised research is an exciting and intellectually challenging synthesis of both high-level language skills and wide-ranging cultural studies which are both comparative and transnational. Our degrees are also popular with visiting students from across the world, enhancing the international flavour of life in the Department.

I am proud of our department and the work we do. We look forward to discussing with you how the degree scheme you are interested in will foster your own personal ambitions, language learning and cross cultural understanding.

Olga Gomez-Cash
Head of Department
Whatever you study with us, your course will be international in scope. Our teaching programme considers the global dimensions of the languages and cultures that we teach.

Our degrees offer flexibility with your year abroad; enabling you to study at a partner institution, conduct a work placement, teach with the British Council, or a combination of these.

If you choose the beginners/post-GCSE option, our intensive language courses will quickly bring you up to full degree standard in our major languages.

Students on our major languages degrees (French, German and Spanish) graduate with near-native competency in their relevant language or languages thanks to the support they receive throughout their degree.

If you choose the beginners/post-GCSE option, our intensive language courses will quickly bring you up to full degree standard in our major languages.

French, German and Spanish may all be studied from advanced and beginner level; you could also choose to take beginners/post-GCSE Italian and Chinese.

Students on our major languages degrees (French, German and Spanish) graduate with near-native competency in their relevant language or languages thanks to the support they receive throughout their degree.

We have a proven record in supporting students who are learning a language for the first time, meaning many of our students can add a new language to their degree beyond those already studied at A level.

Italian and Chinese, as minor languages, take students to a very advanced level (B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference).

We rank highly for graduate employability with the Times Good University Guide 2018 placing us 1st for French, 2nd for German and 9th for Spanish.

We have over 50 language degree combinations for you to choose from.

### Degrees and Entry Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single honours language degrees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BA(Hons) French Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<td>BA(Hons) German Studies</td>
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<td><strong>Joint language degrees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BA(Hons) French Studies and German Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>RR12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA(Hons) French Studies and Spanish Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>RR14</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Triple language degree</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Three languages chosen from French, German, Italian, Spanish and Chinese</td>
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<td><strong>Integrated BA/MA degree</strong></td>
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<td>MLang Modern Languages and Cultures</td>
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[Times Good University Guide 2018](lancaster.ac.uk/languages-and-cultures)
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<td>BA (Hons) Environmental Sustainability in Contemporary China</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Religious Studies with Chinese</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>1C19</td>
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</table>

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**TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT**

**Your studies**
Whilst maintaining a strong focus on intensive language learning, you will also study the cultures of the geographic areas where your language is spoken and their relationship with the wider world, either exclusively or in combination with another subject.

**Learning in the Department**
You will learn through a combination of interactive lectures, workshops, language lab sessions, seminars and independent study conducted either individually or in groups. Because language is taught exclusively in small classes, staff and students get to know each other well. We support new language learners by providing additional contact hours during your first 2 years.

Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible score in the UK government’s 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ratings. Our TEF Gold rating is based on high quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities and the good careers our graduates go into.

**Guest lecturers**
We regularly invite guest lecturers to teach on your degree programme. Recently the award-winning German author and performance poet, Ulrike Almut Sandig, ran a masterclass in performance poetry with first and second year students. Such events really bring literary texts to life so that they literally leap off the page.

We engage with language professionals to bring real-world experience into the academic environment. In 2018 we hosted Roman Ehrlich, a young German contemporary writer to listen to our students’ translation of his work. Michael Krüger, a German publisher shared with students his life in literary publishing. Benoît Peeters, Visiting Professor in Graphic Fiction and Comic Art worked with our second- and final-year students on translating comics and Canan Marasligil, multilingual translator and poet of Turkish origin, offered comics and video translation workshops to our students between French, Spanish, and English.

**Assessment**
As a guide, most of our degrees have a 40% coursework, 60% exam assessment pattern. Tutors in the Department return written work promptly, with constructive comments, and with individual attention normally within three weeks of submission for non-language work and within two weeks for language coursework.

**Facilities**
Our Language Resource Centre provides a space to read the news, watch international TV and borrow foreign language films as a way to improve your language learning and immerse yourself in the language and culture of other countries. We also provide students with the use of language labs, self-access materials, virtual learning environments and online resources so as to develop their own autonomous learning strategies.
DEGREE STRUCTURE

YEAR 1

Language studies (advanced or beginners) + Flexible subject option + Flexible subject option

Enriches linguistic proficiency in a variety of styles and uses through written, grammar and oral work. An integral language in context course explores how key moments in history have shaped contemporary society, through the study of film, plays, novels, and other types of text.

YEAR 2

Language studies + Language-specific culture modules + Comparative culture modules + Flexible subject option + Preparation for Year Abroad

Continue your language studies in the advanced or beginners class.

YEAR 3

Year abroad: intercultural and academic reflection

The Year Abroad is worth 30 credits, rather than the usual 120 credits for a normal year of your degree. The focus is on embracing and expanding language proficiency and cultural understanding in preparation for your final year.

You can study at a partner university, conduct a work placement, teach with the British Council, or a combination of these. Assessment is by means of partner university marks, a project gathering observations on a contemporary aspect of the country you have lived in and/or a report on the placement you undertook.

YEAR 4

Language studies + Comparative culture modules + Specialist culture modules + Dissertation (Compulsory for single major students)

Consolidate your language proficiency in oral and written language classes. Former beginner and advanced level students come together in Year 4.

Select modules that compare aspects of language, culture, and society across different countries as well as in aspects of Europe as a whole.

Work in-depth with specialist researchers in the cultures of China, Austria, Germany, France, and the French-speaking world, Spain, and South America.

This 10,000 word dissertation enables you to specialise in a subject of your choice and develop skills in research and extended analysis.

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Returning to Lancaster for your third year, you will join final year Bachelor degree students in core language classes, elective comparative and specialist culture modules and write your dissertation (a dissertation is compulsory for single and combined language MLang students).

**MLang Dissertation Research Skills for Modern Linguists**

**Optional modules**

- Reading Theoretically
- Academic and Practical Methods in Translation
- Introduction to Liaison Interpreting
- Independent Study Unit

Or another appropriate Masters module within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Language-specific culture modules (core)**

- **French**
  - Shaping Contemporary France: Culture, Politics and the Legacy of History
- **German**
  - Becoming German: Post-War German-language Culture and Identities
- **Spanish**
  - Power and Resistance in Spain and Spanish America: From the Spanish Empire to the 21st Century

**Comparative culture modules (elective)**

- Understanding Culture
- Society on Screen: The Language of Film
- Cross-cultural Encounters in World Literatures
- Economic and Social Change in France, Germany and Spain since 1945
- Language and Identity in France, Germany and Spain
- Professional Contexts for Modern Languages (work placement module)

**Year 4**

You will write a 20,000 word dissertation on a topic of your choice, with guidance from a supervisor in the Department. You will consult a range of primary and secondary sources and demonstrate critical evaluation of primary sources and their secondary literature.

**Comparative culture modules (elective)**

- Autocrats, Caudillos and Big Men: Understanding Dictatorship in its Cultural Representation in the Twentieth Century
- Contemporary Cities in Literature and Film
- Imagining Modern Europe: Post-Revolutionary Utopias and Ideologies in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century
- Mirrors across the Media
- Translation as a Cultural Practice
- Witchcraft, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Prosecution of ‘Otherness’ in Europe (14th-17th c)
Spending your third year abroad is an integral and assessed part of all our major language degrees. We offer flexibility to split your time abroad between different activities.

**Studying abroad**

You can choose to study any courses taught in your target language at one of our partner universities. Lancaster University’s current European partner institutions for languages degrees are:

- Bordeaux
- Lyon 3 (Université Jean Moulin)
- Rennes 2 - Haute-Bretagne
- Poitiers
- Ecole de Traduction et d’Interprétation (ETI), Geneva
- Dauphine Université, Paris - for Management and French Studies students only
- Université de Lausanne - for French Studies and Geography students only
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
- Universität Siegen
- Universität Trier
- Karl-Franzens Universität Graz
- Universidad de Córdoba
- Universidad de Deusto (Bilbao)
- Universidad de Deusto - Comercial - for Management and Spanish Studies students only
- Universidad de Granada
- Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (Barcelona)

All of these are Erasmus+ partners, except the Université de Lausanne which is part of a similar scheme called SEMP (Swiss European Mobility Programme).

The University also currently partners with the following institutions outside of Europe:

- Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla - Mexico
- HEC Montreal - for Management and French Studies students only
- Students studying a minor in Chinese have the opportunity to undertake short study stays in China through the Confucius Institute, British Council or others. These opportunities are additional to your degree and do not form part of the assessed Year Abroad.

**Work with the British Council**

You may choose to spend your year abroad working as a Language Assistant with the British Council. This involves supporting the teaching of English in a school or university, planning activities and producing resources to help students improve their English as well as introducing UK contemporary culture through classroom and extra-curricular activities. You may also support the running of international projects and activities.

**Work placements**

Alternatively to working with the British Council, you can choose to conduct a work placement at another organisation. This adds invaluable work experience to your academic skills. We will support you in identifying opportunities and securing internships as part of the second year ‘Preparation for Year Abroad’ module. Here are some examples of where our students have undertaken placements previously:

**French**
- Administrative and Commercial Assistant
- JCM Consul Immobilier, Papeete, Tahiti
- Website Coordinator and Client Liaison
- Room24, Paris
- Event Coordinator
- Cinema Festival – MJ. Annonay, Annonay, France
- Administrative Assistant and Driver
- Mid locations, Antibes, France

**German**
- Transport Logistics Coordinator
- LKW Witter, Vienna
- Market Research Assistant
- GfK, Erlangen
- Project Management Trainee
- IFH Performance Solutions, Frankfurt
- Translator and Media Intern
- Siemens Nixdorf, Paderborn
- Marketing Assistant
- Bricofo, Wuppertal

**Spanish**
- Intern, Travel Agency
- Montevideo, Uruguay
- Teaching Assistant
- SEK Galcia, Spain
- Content Manager Intern
- Arroba Network SL, Madrid, Spain
- Marketing Intern
- TUI, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
- Public Relations Intern
- Marco de Comunicación, Madrid, Spain

For students studying two languages, we do not have set rules about your choice of countries. Students taking these languages are required to spend their year abroad in at least two language-specific environments. Beginners level students will normally spend some or all of their year in the country of their beginners level language.

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Michael Aspinall, French Studies and German Studies, 2017

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On my year abroad I split my time between studying in Lyon, France and working in Munich, Germany. In Munich, I worked for a sports translation agency called mmc sport. This job involved me translating websites and social media for a number of high-profile Bundesliga football clubs. It was mainly an in-office job, however, now and again there was the possibility to go and watch live games while working, which got me an all-expenses paid trip to the Allianz Arena!
Here are some of the academics who would support your language studies at Lancaster.

**Professor Rebecca Braun**

Rebecca researches issues of authorship and celebrity, the relationship between the media and the culture industry, and questions surrounding the transmission and reception of culture in the contemporary world. These feed into the second year comparative module Cross-cultural Encounters in World Literatures and her specialist module Literature and Fame in Contemporary Germany. Her active interest in translation informs her final year module Translation as a Cultural Practice. Rebecca is a prime mover in the development of a department policy of working directly with literary professionals such as writers, translators, editors, publishers, reviewers, and prize jurists. Rebecca contributes to Lancaster University’s research Hubs ‘Authors and the World’ as Director and ‘Institute for Social Futures’ as Co-Director.

**Dr Charlotte Baker**

Charlotte’s interests include literary representations of marginalised and stigmatised groups in sub-Saharan Africa and both Anglophone and Francophone literature from sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular focus on the West African dictator novel. Her research informs the comparative modules Understanding Culture, and Autocrats, Caudillos and Big Men: Understanding Dictatorship and its Cultural Representation in the 20th Century and her specialist module Francophone Voices: Literature and Film from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Canada. Charlotte is Co-Director of Lancaster’s Centre for Transcultural Writing. Charlotte is working with people with albinism, albinism associations, civil society and NGOs, scientists, medical doctors, education professionals, social scientists, and humanities and arts scholars on a variety of projects: academic research and publications, an international conference in Cameroon, an Albinism in Africa website, social media, and an information pack for teachers. They are currently working towards the drafting of a UN Resolution against witchcraft.
My time as a language student studying Spanish Studies with a minor in Linguistics at Lancaster University was incredibly rewarding and enjoyable. I particularly enjoyed the range of modules available within a language degree course; studying film, literature and history made the language really come alive! My year abroad as an English Language Assistant in Spain was incredible and led me to decide on a career in teaching back in the UK. I am now Head of Modern Languages and we run a Spanish Exchange every year with the school I worked at during my year abroad. Nothing but fond memories of my time in DeLC.

Vicky Hilton, Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Bridgewater School

BA (Hons) Spanish Studies 2000-2004

My language degree gave me my first insight into deadline management. I work in a very fast paced environment where deadlines are fundamental to my role. It also taught me basic project management. Various tasks and coursework assignments that required different stages set me up well for my current role. I also developed my presentation skills through doing a language degree. I was so used to focusing on presenting in a foreign language that it actually alleviated a lot of the presentation nerves pressure. This has really helped in my current job.

Kate Neil, Sales Executive, Dyson

BA (Hons) French Studies and Spanish Studies 2009-2013