Contents

04 Welcome
06 Everything you want from your Language degree
08 Degrees and entry requirements
12 Teaching and assessment
14 Degree structure
18 Your international placement year
20 Meet our staff
21 Your life at Lancaster
22 Your future career

Get in touch
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www.lancaster.ac.uk/languages-and-cultures
Speak to a student: www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat

Connect with us
@DeLCLANCaster
DeLC at Lancaster

Get in touch
The Confucius Institute, County Main and Lancaster Square
Illustration in the ligne claire style by PhD student Andi Setiawan
The world is yours to discover

Dr Derek Hird
Head of Department

The Department of Languages and Cultures (DeLC) has pioneered a distinctive approach to languages in the context of their related global cultures. We are ranked in the top ten nationally for French, German and Spanish*. We also continue to be a flagship department for developing a range of transferable skills and are ranked 1st in the UK for graduate prospects for French and Spanish*. 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 Chinese, French, German, and Spanish from beginners and advanced levels, and Italian from beginners level. This variety provides a lively and dynamic environment for study. During their time with us, our students enjoy a unique and enriching 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.

*Complete University Guide 2021
Global outlook
Whatever you study with us, your degree will be international in scope. Our teaching programme considers the global dimensions of the languages and cultures that we teach.

Flexibility
Our degrees offer flexibility with your International Placement Year enabling you to study at a partner institution, conduct a work placement, teach with the British Council, or a combination of these.

Supportive language learning
We have a proven record in supporting students who are studying a language at both ab initio and advanced levels. By the end of their degree, our graduates have developed near-native language skills and made rapid progress in the understanding of the target culture of the language they are studying.

Great for careers
We rank highly for graduate employability with The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020 placing us 1st for French, 1st for Spanish and 5th for German graduate prospects.

Everything you want from your Language degree

#7
for French Studies

#9
for Spanish Studies

#9
for German Studies

The Complete University Guide 2021

International Placement Year photo competition entry 2019

'Cordoba, Spain'
Emma Kayley
BA (Hons) French Studies and Spanish Studies

www.lancaster.ac.uk/languages-and-cultures
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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single honours language degrees</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) French Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>R120</td>
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<tr>
<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) Chinese Studies and French Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>R1T1</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Chinese Studies and German Studies</td>
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<td>RR12</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) French Studies and Spanish Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>RR14</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) German Studies and Spanish Studies</td>
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<td>RR24</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Triple language degree</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Modern Languages</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>R800</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three languages chosen from Chinese, French, German, Italian and Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Integrated BA/MA degree</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MLang Modern Languages and Cultures</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>R810</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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</table>

For information on fees, scholarships and additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joint degrees (French + non-language)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) French Studies and Computing</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) French Studies and English Literature</td>
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<td>RQ13</td>
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<td>BA (Hons) French Studies and History</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>RV11</td>
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<td>WR41</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4 years</td>
<td>QR31</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Management and French Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>RN12</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joint degrees (German + non-language)</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>4 years</td>
<td>GR42</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) German Studies and Film</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) German Studies and Philosophy</td>
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<td>RL22</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Psychology and German Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) German Studies and Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Management and German Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>RN41</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Will I study at advanced or beginners level?**

The majority of our degrees offer the opportunity to study the language from beginners or advanced level. Beginners level is suitable for those with a GCSE (or equivalent), or complete beginners. Our teaching programme rapidly progresses beyond GCSE level so students are not repeating their studies. Advanced level is for those who have an A level (or equivalent) in the language. If you are interested in a multiple language degree, it is only possible to study one of the languages from beginners level. This is due to the extra workload involved in the beginners modules to bring you up to a high level quickly.

**Which languages can I study at which level?**

Chinese, French, German and Spanish may all be studied from advanced and beginners level. Italian may be studied from beginners level only and can only be a minor subject within your degree. It takes students to the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference. Chinese may only be studied as a joint degree with another subject. This means we do not offer a single honours degree in Chinese Studies.

**Additional entry requirements**

Please see further detail online about additional entry requirements for specific joint degree schemes: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)
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. Our language classes are typically small enough for staff and students to get to know each other well and develop a strong sense of community. We support new language learners by providing additional contact hours during your first two years of study.

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 attain.

Guest lecturers
We regularly invite guests to teach on our degree programmes. Such events allow you to engage with language professionals and bring real-world experience into the academic environment. Some examples of recent guest lecturers include:

- Bill Swainson, publisher and editor, delivered workshops on publishing and editing literary translations, offered careers guidance and one-to-one translation surgeries for students.
- Roman Ehrlich, one of the most unconventional and interesting voices among young contemporary writers in Germany was invited to listen to our students’ translation of his work.
- Sophie Lewis, Visiting Translator in Residence (French and Portuguese), worked with students on literary translation and offered guidance on careers in translation and publishing, while working on her translation of Leila Slimani’s latest novel.
- Benoît Peeters, Visiting Professor in Graphic Fiction, has worked with our second and final-year students on translating comics.

Assessment
As a guide, most of our degrees have a 40% coursework, 60% exam assessment pattern. Our tutors usually return written work promptly, with constructive comments, and with individual attention; we aim to return all coursework within four working weeks.

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 you with the use of language labs, self-access materials, virtual learning environments and online resources so as to develop your own autonomous learning strategies.

TEF Gold

lancaster.ac.uk/languages-and-cultures
Degree structure

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and regularly introduce and update modules. In any academic year, the modules offered may therefore differ from those presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, in response to curricular developments and following consultation with students. Please check our website for the latest information: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Year 1

Language studies (advanced or beginners) + Optional module or joint major core module + Optional module or minor module

Year 2

Language studies + Language-specific culture modules + Comparative culture modules + Optional module or minor + Preparation for International Placement Year

Year 3

International Placement Year

International Placement Year: intercultural and academic reflection

The International Placement Year 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 up observations on a contemporary aspect of the country you have lived in and/or a report on the placement you undertook.

Year 4

See module examples on page 16.

Language studies + Comparative culture modules + Specialist culture modules + Dissertation

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

Select modules that compare aspects of language, culture and society across different countries.

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.

Joint Degree Structure

If you are studying a joint degree, you will study core and optional modules in both your subjects in an approximately 50/50 split. Please see our website for detailed module options for the degree in which you are interested: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study
Our modules

The below modules are indicative of the modules you will study on all of our BA (Hons) language degrees in your second and fourth years.

Year 2

Language-specific culture modules (core)

French
- Shaping Contemporary France: Moments and Movements

German
- Shaping Contemporary German-speaking Europe: Moments and Movements

Spanish
- Shaping Contemporary Spain and Latin America: Moments and Movements

Comparative culture modules (options)

French
- Understanding Culture
- Society on Screen: The Language of Film
- 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)

German
- Francophone Voices: Literature and Film from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Canada
- French Culture in the Digital Age
- Images of Austria: National Identity and Cultural Representation
- Literature and Fame in Contemporary Germany

Spanish
- Memories of War and Dictatorship in Contemporary Spain
- Latin America and Spain on Film: Violence and Masculinities

Year 4

Language-specific culture modules (options)

French
- Francophone Voices: Literature and Film from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Canada
- French Culture in the Digital Age

German
- Images of Austria: National Identity and Cultural Representation
- Literature and Fame in Contemporary Germany

Spanish
- Memories of War and Dictatorship in Contemporary Spain
- Latin America and Spain on Film: Violence and Masculinities

Comparative culture modules (options)

French
- Chinese Culture and Society
- Contemporary Cities in Literature and Film
- Imagining Modern Europe: Post-Revolutionary Utopias and Ideologies in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century
- Translation as a Cultural Practice

Year 3

International Placement Year

You will select a mix of language and culture modules at a partner university abroad. This constitutes 90 credits of your annual assessment.

Year 4

Masters Dissertation

You will write a 20,000 word Masters level 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.

Research Skills for Modern Linguists

You will learn research skills specific to modern languages to support you in researching and writing your dissertation. Topics include: Beginning Research; The Academic Research Process; Mapping a Research Project; Abstract Writing; Resource Evaluation; Research Paper attendance; Working with Theory: Advanced Presentation Techniques. The module culminates in a Postgraduate Conference.

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.

MLang degree structure

The MLang degree is a selective and accelerated four-year BA with integrated MA. It allows you to go abroad in your second year and finish your BA in your third year, ready for Masters study level work in your final year. You may study either one or two advanced level languages for this degree.

Year 1

You will study core language studies, alongside optional modules, as for other degrees in the Department. In addition, you will take the non-credit bearing ‘International Placement Year Preparation’ module that helps to prepare you for all aspects of spending a year abroad including administrative, academic, financial and welfare support matters.

Year 2

International Placement Year

You will write a project in the target language on a topic researched in the host country. This constitutes 30 credits of your annual assessment.

Year 3

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

Year 4

Masters Dissertation

You will write a 20,000 word Masters level 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.

Research Skills for Modern Linguists

You will learn research skills specific to modern languages to support you in researching and writing your dissertation. Topics include: Beginning Research; The Academic Research Process; Mapping a Research Project; Abstract Writing; Resource Evaluation; Research Paper attendance; Working with Theory: Advanced Presentation Techniques. The module culminates in a Postgraduate Conference.

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.
Your international placement year

Spending your third year abroad is an integral and assessed part of all our language degrees. We offer flexibility to split your time abroad between different activities.

Studying abroad
You can choose to study 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
- Ecole de Traduction et d’Interprétation (ETI), Geneva
- 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 Granada
- Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (Barcelona)

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

- Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla - Mexico

If you are studying Chinese, during your International Placement Year you will be able to study or do a work placement in China.

Work placements
You may wish to spend your International Placement Year on a work placement for a company or as a Language Assistant for the British Council (see right). 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 International Placement Year’ module.

Here are some examples of where our students have undertaken placements previously:

**French work placements:**
- Brand Project Assistant, Nomen Communication Agency, France
- Business Development Intern, Maupard Fiduciaire, France
- Event Coordinator, MJC Annanay, France
- Website Coordinator and Client Liaison, Roomlala, France

**German work placements:**
- Social Media and Editing Internship, MMC, Munich, Germany
- Transport Market Internship, LKW WALTER Internationale Transportorganisation AG, Wiener Neudorf, Austria
- Teacher and Translator, AREVA GmbH, Erlangen, Germany
- International Relations Office Internship, BOKU, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Germany

**Spanish work placements:**
- Internship, British Chamber of Commerce in Madrid, Marbella and Barcelona, Spain
- Culture and Language Facilitator, CII Teach Argentina, Argentina
- Marketing Intelligence Internship, Underwriters Laboratories Ibérica, Barcelona, Spain
- Internship for CAMENA (Centro Académico para la Memoria de Nuestra América), Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México, Mexico
- Drama and English Classroom Assistant, SEK International Schools, Catalunya, Spain

For students studying two languages, we do not have set rules about your choice of countries/ies. Students taking three languages are required to spend their International Placement Year 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.

Work with the British Council
You may apply to spend your International Placement Year working as a Language Assistant with the British Council. This role 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.

On my International Placement Year, I spent 12 months in Wuppertal, Germany, working for an online retail company. The job involved copywriting and producing content for the website, customer support, hiring and training new interns, and finally developing online Google campaigns. It was mainly an in-office job, however, I also had the opportunity to attend national and international fairs to meet existing manufacturers and find new collaborators. I travelled to Italy, the Netherlands and other German cities with all expenses paid!

Anna Bonapersona,
Management Studies and European Languages, 2019

Anna’s placement experience
Meet our staff

Cyrille Rollet
Cyrille is a Teaching Associate in French and teaches oral classes. He is passionate about languages and has co-written a book on French verbs. He is in charge of our Language Resource Centre and is very much involved in the French community in the region. Cyrille organises trips abroad for students and regular social events to support language learning. He also hosts lunch clubs, international karaoke nights and the international café.

Professor Rebecca Braun
Rebecca’s research into issues of authorship and celebrity, and the relationship between the media and the culture industry, feeds directly into her teaching. Rebecca is also Director of the University’s Institute for Social Futures.

Dr Elena Polisca
Elena is a Senior Teaching Associate in Italian and our Admissions Tutor. She teaches Italian language and translation alongside culture seminars. She is interested in language pedagogy and didactics, intercultural awareness, learner autonomy, and language assessment and feedback.

Professor Jinghan Zeng
Jinghan Zeng is Professor of China and International Studies and Director of the Confucius Institute at Lancaster University. His research lies in the field of China’s domestic and international politics. He is the author of The Chinese Communist Party’s Capacity to Rule: Ideology, Legitimacy and Party Cohesion (2015). He has published numerous academic papers and frequently appears in TV and radio broadcasts including the BBC, Al Jazeera, and Russia Today (RT).

Dr Charlotte Baker
Charlotte’s specialism is literary and cultural representations of marginalised groups in sub-Saharan Africa, and the Francophone West African dictator novel. These interests inform the module Francophone Voices: Literature and Film from sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Canada.

Your life at Lancaster

Societies
Our students take part in a very wide range of student societies, including the Study Abroad Society and other clubs connected to sport, travel and language. A popular annual event is participation in the Sauerkraut Cup football tournament for all students of German throughout the UK and Ireland.

Language Lunch Clubs
We host informal social lunches and brunches in the department so you can practise your conversational language skills. Our communal social space is perfect for catching up with friends, sharing some food and finding out the latest news.

Placements and Volunteering
We encourage you to gain work experience and offer a variety of work placements in industry and education while at Lancaster and during your International Placement Year. You can opt to take our work-based learning module (Professional Contexts for Modern Languages) in the second year. On this module, you will undertake a language-related work experience placement. You’ll consider the linguistic and cross-cultural skills you develop in the role and enhance your employability. Other opportunities to gain work experience include volunteering as a supervisor in our Language Resource Centre, or paid work as a student ambassador representing the University at events.

We work collaboratively with Lancaster University Students’ Union to provide opportunities for you to volunteer in local schools as a classroom assistant or reading buddy. There are also roles on campus such as organising activity days for school groups.

The Lancaster Award
You can participate in the Lancaster Award, which rewards you for taking part in extra-curricular activities. This certificate enhances your future employment prospects by encouraging you to engage in college activities, careers workshops, work experience and volunteering. The new skills and experiences developed through these endeavours are recognised and valued by employers.
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 International Placement Year 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. I have nothing but fond memories of my time at Lancaster.

Studying languages gave me the chance to work for the British Chamber in Chile which was an amazing International Placement Year opportunity! The many projects I undertook included changing their email system to Google Apps for Business, assisting on all monthly and quarterly publications, and planning high profile golf and tennis tournaments.

After graduation, I was offered a permanent position as the Marketing and Communications Manager, a position not normally offered to a graduate student.

We have a departmental Employability Champion who advises students on their strengths and possible future careers. Employability resources and job ads are uploaded and constantly updated on our web platform. We also have active Alumni Facebook and LinkedIn groups to stay in touch and continue to promote opportunities once you have graduated. Within the Faculty there are specialist careers advisors and opportunities to apply for paid work placements to help you gain experience and prepare for your future career.

**Workplace skills**
Quite apart from language- and subject-related skills, a degree in languages develops rich interpersonal, intercultural, cognitive and transferrable skills that can be utilised across a variety of careers. In both our work-based learning module in the second year and on the International Placement Year, students reflect academically on key issues in relation to their placement organisation.

**Careers-related events**
We hold ‘Careers with Languages’ events where you can meet major employers who recruit graduates with language skills. The department also hosts an event called ‘Languages - A Route to a World of Careers’. This year, Rosie (BA Hons French and Psychology), who worked both for a translation firm in Paris and for an estate agent in Tahiti during her International Placement Year, returned to campus to talk about her current role as a Digital Graduate for BGL Group. She explained to students what firms are looking for in job candidates and gave valuable advice on the set of skills needed to succeed. Such events are a great opportunity to gain awareness of how to stand out from the crowd in the graduate market.

Other events focus on the demands of the current job market. These include welcoming alumni to share insights about their careers in a ‘languages and employability panel’ video interview techniques workshop, CV workshop and training in translation software.

**Future careers**
Our graduates find employment across a wide range of language-related and non-language-related sectors, often internationally. Recent graduates from Lancaster have gone into the following categories of employment as well as further study:
- Marketing and Communications
- General Management
- Operations
- Corporate Banking
- E-learning consultancy
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Other events focus on the demands of the current job market. These include welcoming alumni to share insights about their careers in a ‘languages and employability panel’ video interview techniques workshop, CV workshop and training in translation software.

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