Lancaster University

Languages and Global Cultures

Undergraduate Degrees 2027

Welcome

In a rapidly changing global order, we create a thriving culture of multilingual exchange, skills development and opportunities to engage with the challenges of our time.

Our language degrees are exciting and flexible four-year programmes where you can learn to think globally and apply your knowledge across a variety of areas.

Our impactful research in transcultural practices in the arts, global health, translation, environment and society is internationally recognised and feeds directly into your learning experience. We have a long history of experience in training confident, multi-lingual graduates with collaboration, communication, and leadership skills, who stand out to employers, whether in the UK or overseas.

As you will discover in this subject guide, we support your journey towards a future career in sectors such as international business, interpreting, translation, project management, business innovation and community engagement.

You'll feel part of our community here at Lancaster where you'll have a close and productive relationship with your lecturers.

We look forward to getting to know your own personal ambitions and supporting you in your language learning and cultural exploration.

Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Languages and Global Cultures		MLang	R810	4	AAB
Languages and Global Cultures	or	BA	R811	4	ABB
Psychology and Languages	or	BA	C8Q0	4	AAB
French/German/Spanish/Chinese Studies and Geography	or	BA	LR71, LR72, LR74, LT71	4	ABB
French/German/Spanish/Chinese Studies and Linguistics	or	BA	QR11, QR12, QR14, T1Q1	4	AAB
French/German/Spanish and Mathematics	or	BSc	GR11, GR12, GR14	4	AAB
French/German/Spanish Studies and Computing	or	BSc	GR41, GR42, GR44	4	AAB
French/German/Spanish/Chinese Studies and International Relations	or	BA	R1L2, R2L2, R4L2, T1L2	4	ABB
Management and French/German/Spanish	or	BA	RN12, RN41, RN22	4	ABB
French/German/Spanish/Chinese Studies and History	or	BA	RV11, RV21, RV41, T1V1	4	AAB
French/German/Spanish Studies and English Literature	or	BA	RQ13, RQ23, RQ43	4	ABB

Alternative entry requirements

We welcome applications from students with a range of alternative UK and international qualifications. For all information on degree options, entry requirements and scholarships, see our website: **lancaster.ac.uk**

Combined honours degrees

We offer a wide variety of combined honours degrees that allow you to study a language alongside another subject. You will find detailed course structure and module information about these on our website: **lancaster.ac.uk**

Global engagement year

All of our degrees include a core year spent abroad which we call your 'global engagement year'. You have flexibility to either undertake a work placement or study in a country where the language you are studying is spoken. While for Chinese learners it is not possible to undertake a work placement in China due to visa restrictions, you may still complete a placement at a Chinese-speaking organisation in the UK. If you are studying multiple languages, you can split the year between different destinations. On the MLang, due to the accelerated pace of the degree, it's essential to spend the year studying.

Made for *learning*

A global and future-orientated approach

We bring a fresh, flexible and global approach to teaching modern languages and the cultural elements that surround them.

Alongside the development of language skills, you will:

- explore the pasts, presents and futures of languages and the cultures of the countries in which those languages are spoken.
- analyse major global affairs issues, examining how knowledge and understanding of languages and cultures informs our responses to global challenges such as global environmental emergencies, the global health crises, human rights and community engagement.
- learn how these topics relate to issues of race, gender, sexuality, disability, or belief in the contexts of different language communities across the world.
- reinforce your language learning through the lens of cultural studies, exploring topics such as film and visual media, literature, philosophy, art, politics and history, immersing you in varied socio-political and cultural worlds. You will learn with leading experts in their fields who bring their active, cutting-edge research into the classroom.

We will also explore the future of global languages, the impact of new technologies on how we communicate and learn languages, and new careers that are emerging for language specialists.

Learning methods

You will engage in an interactive, collaborative approach to learning supported by our academic experts. Alongside your language studies, you will apply innovative problem-based learning approaches to global affairs such as environmental challenges and climate change, politics, health care and human rights.

You will learn through a combination of interactive lectures, workshops, seminars and independent study conducted either individually or in groups.

Your learning is enhanced by teaching and assessment through our online education platform, Moodle, and the use of other interactive digital tools.

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, especially as you will join your languages by level rather than be limited to meeting fellow students in the same year group.

In addition, you'll be able to learn from first-language speakers who are international students studying at the University. We have a structured way to facilitate this and it's another great way to broaden your network.

Facilities

We have an excellent library that provides a space to engage with international media and foreign language films as a way to improve your language learning and immerse yourself in other languages and cultures.

We also provide you with self-access materials, virtual learning environments and online resources to help you to develop your own autonomous learning strategies.

By studying Languages and Global Cultures, you will become part of our School of Global Affairs, which is also home to the Confucius Institute, located in the Roundhouse, and equipped with a social space plus kitchen for learning, social activity and events.

Proficiency test centre

We are an official language proficiency test centre for Chinese, French and Spanish. This means you could prepare for and take proficiency tests in other languages, outside your studies. You could potentially gain additional internationally recognised qualifications in this way.

Guest lecturers

We regularly invite guest lecturers to teach on our degrees. This allows you to engage with language professionals and brings real-world experience into the academic environment. Some examples of recent guests:

- Diana Coromines i Calders, Translator in Residence and journalist, writer, editor and diplomat and polyglot in six languages, born in Catalonia and based in Denmark, ran specialised workshops on the creative aspects of Spanish literary translation and employability sessions exploring potential career opportunities for all our students.
- Round table with our Translator in Residence Jack Hargreaves on Human Translation in the Age of AI.
- Investigative Journalists as Cultural Mediators in an Age of Threat: Examples from Mexico and the Amazon, with John Gibler.

Global *engagement* year

You'll spend one year of your degree abroad on a global engagement year. On our BA degrees you have options to study or work abroad during your third year. There is also flexibility to combine different activities so you can improve your language skills in a variety of settings. Here are the options:

Language Assistant with the British Council

In this role, you support the teaching of English in a school or college, plan extracurricular activities and produce learning resources. It is a great way to explore the start of a career in teaching. Please note, this opportunity is only available to students of French, German and Spanish, but not Chinese.

Work placement

Engage with the local culture and community while developing professional skills by completing a work placement.

Examples of previous student placements include archival research, business development chamber of commerce internship, cyber intelligence, culture and language facilitation, events coordination, international relations, translation, text production and editing.

Study abroad

You can choose to study with one of our well-established partner universities. This enhances your language skills whilst offering the chance to make a host of international friends and experience learning in a different culture and context.

MLang Hons Languages and Global Cultures

On the MLang you will spend your second year studying at our international partner universities.

TOP 100 Worldwide

Our research and reputation are recognised internationally. The latest QS World Subject Rankings (2026) places Lancaster 71st in the world for Modern Languages.

Invaluable in developing my cultural sensitivity, resilience and communication.

L'Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, France and UIC Barcelona, Spain

Lancaster University

Eve, *recent graduate*

French and Spanish

There are plenty of study or work abroad opportunities, including destinations across Europe, Asia and South America. On my year abroad, I studied at L'Université Bordeaux-Montaigne in France, and the second half of the year was spent studying at UIC Barcelona in Spain. This experience was genuinely the best year of my life, where I made memories to last me a lifetime. The chance to travel and experience new cultures and meet diverse people was so fun. I loved going to my classes and being immersed in French and Spanish language and culture. The city of Bordeaux is so beautiful, has rich history and plenty to do and see to keep entertained - I loved visiting the Miroir D'eau at nighttime and taking part in student events and French evening classes. Barcelona was equally amazing, from its incredible weather, sights, beaches and food to the incredibly welcoming people, especially at the university. My year abroad was invaluable in developing my cultural sensitivity, resilience and communication. If I could do it all again, I would.

Gain *real-world* experience

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster. Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

Work placements abroad

You can research and apply for international work placements to conduct on your global engagement year. We support you with this competitive process. Chinese learners are unable to complete a work placement in China due to visa restrictions, but may work at a Chinese-speaking organisation in the UK instead.

British Council placements

For students of French, German and Spanish, we work with the British Council to coordinate opportunities for you to spend your global engagement year working as an English language teaching assistant abroad.

Discovery placement

On this optional module, you can take up a short placement to work with an organisation needing internationalisation support, such as a local school, school abroad, translation company, research project, charity/NGO, or small/medium sized enterprise.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities such as publishing assistant, content delivery manager or assistant events producer. The scheme offers you an opportunity to gain access to direct work experience while you study.

The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.

For Chinese learners

The Confucius Institute here on campus provides a variety of volunteering opportunities in weekend language classes for children, after school clubs, Chinese Days in local schools and festival celebrations.

Language lunch clubs

You can bring your lunch (or brunch!) along to these social events to informally practise your conversational language skills. Practice makes perfect and errors are part of improving, so never miss an opportunity to speak. Our communal social spaces are perfect for catching up with friends, sharing some food and finding out the latest news.

Social events

Even if you cannot attend our lunch clubs, we have plenty of other opportunities to practise your language skills. Examples include film nights in the target language followed by discussion about the films, international quiz evenings with questions relating to the languages we teach and the places they are spoken, and games evenings. Last but by no means least, we organise regular karaoke nights where you can sing in any language you know except for English, and in this way discover new artists, languages and songs.

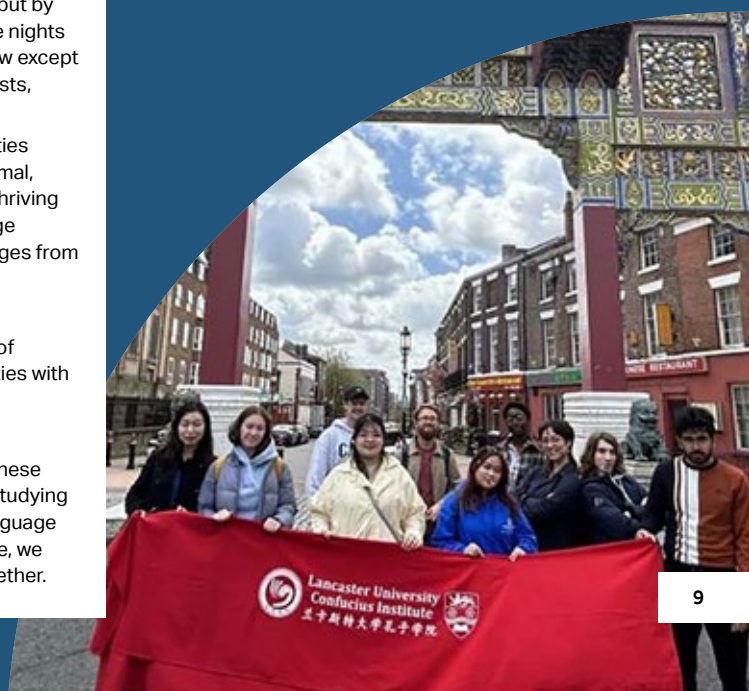
All of these social events provide opportunities to practise the languages you speak in informal, relaxed contexts and become a part of the thriving community at the University of both language learners as well as speakers of other languages from across the world.

Societies

Our students take part in a very wide range of student societies, including language societies with the Lancaster University Students' Union.

Chinese Friendship Programme

The Confucius Institute has a Lancaster Chinese Friendship Programme that pairs students studying Chinese as part of their degree with first-language Chinese speakers. As part of the programme, we organise activities for students to enjoy together.



Languages and Global Cultures

BA (Hons)

Study a combination of Chinese, French, German or Spanish as a core language from advanced or beginner's level. Add discovery languages to the mix, including beginner's level Italian.

This degree offers a fresh, flexible, and global approach to modern languages and cultures. You will explore the past, present, and future of global cultures, analysing major global issues and how language and cultural knowledge shape responses to these challenges.

Alongside language development, you will study topics such as the climate emergency, global health crises, human rights, and community engagement. You will learn how these topics intersect with issues of race, gender, sexuality, disability, and belief across diverse language communities around the world.

Your language learning will be enriched by cultural studies, covering film, visual media, literature, art, and history, providing a comprehensive understanding of the societal contexts of your chosen languages.

Additionally, you will investigate the future of global languages, the role of emerging technologies, and the evolving career opportunities for language specialists.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Core Language

Chinese / French / German / Spanish (from beginner's or advanced level)

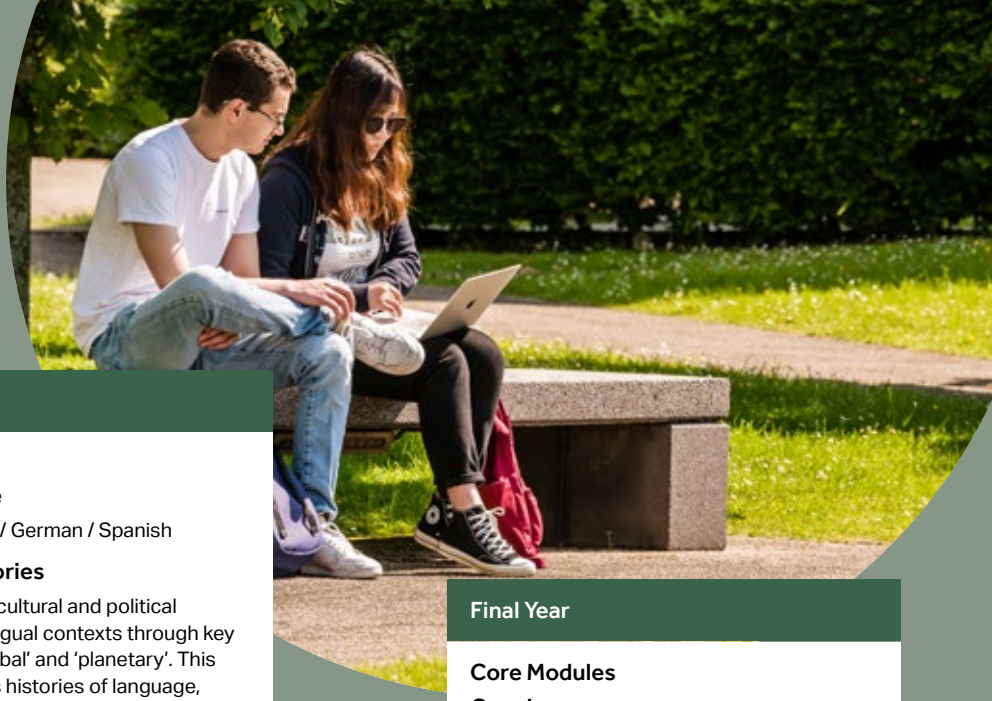
Languages and Global Cultures Now

Explore how languages, cultures, and power intersect through topics like decolonisation, language journeys, migration and AI. Using materials from various cultures, in this module you'll investigate these topics through lenses such as nationhood, multilingualism and translation.

Optional Modules

- Discovery Language: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish
- Global Challenges in World Politics
- Foundations of Language
- Understanding Culture
- History of Philosophy: Ideas that Shaped the West
- Parties, Populism and Protest
- Global Religions and Society

A distinct feature of this degree is that you study in classes organised by language level (as measured by the Common European Framework of Reference or the Chinese HSK). Whatever year of your degree you are in, you'll be in classes with students who match your level in that language.



Year 2

Core Modules

Core Language

Chinese / French / German / Spanish

Planetary Histories

Explore societal, cultural and political change in multilingual contexts through key concepts like 'global' and 'planetary'. This module examines histories of language, translation and cultural encounters, using diverse cultural texts such as films, literature, poetry, songs, and graphic novels.

Optional Modules

- Discovery Language: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish
- Employability, Purpose and Social Impact
- Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions
- Taking an Idea and Making it Happen
- Film Theory and Aesthetics
- Body, Mind and Society
- Society on Screen: The Language of Film
- Language and Identity in France, Spain, Germany and the Sinophone World
- Global Superpowers
- Politics of the Global South
- Global Religions, Women and Gender

Year 3

Global Engagement Year

Spend an academic year abroad engaging with the communities of the relevant language(s) studied. Opportunities include, partner universities, industry placements, NGOs or other charitable projects, entrepreneurial activity or teaching English as a foreign language.

Final Year

Core Modules

Core Language

Chinese / French / German / Spanish

Global Cultures Independent Project

Undertake an extended individual project as a discursive, translation, or practice-based dissertation, exploring topics like global challenges, language and technology, or creative translation. Projects may include policy reports, creative work, or teaching materials, supported by feedback and workshops.

Optional Modules

- Discovery Language: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish
- Discovery Placement
- Spirits in the Material World: Cultures and Sciences
- Autocrats, Dictators and Caudillos: Dictatorship and Representation in the 20th and 21st centuries.
- Literature and Environment
- Queer Futures
- People Power and Collective Action
- Confronting the Climate Crisis
- Artistic Fusions
- Global Film Genres
- The Politics of Borders and Migration
- State and Religion

MLang Languages and Global Cultures

BA with integrated master's study

Deep dive into the fascinating world of language, where words become bridges to understanding and cultures come alive through communication. For those that excel in language learning, this degree will enable you to fast-track your learning.

In your first year, you will develop your core language skills (in one or two languages) at advanced level whilst exploring the presence of languages and cultures across the globe. If you join with one language, you can also study a discovery language – Chinese, German, French, Italian or Spanish – from beginner's level.

You spend your second year studying abroad at one of our established partner universities around the world to enhance your core language skills. You return to Lancaster for your third year and progress to postgraduate modules in your fourth year.

Alongside the development of your language skills, you learn about the pasts, presents and futures of languages and the cultures of the countries in which those languages are spoken. You will explore major global affairs issues, examining how knowledge and understanding of languages and cultures informs our responses to global challenges.

Year 1

Core Modules

Core Language

Chinese / French / German / Spanish

Languages and Global Cultures Now

Explore how languages, cultures, and power intersect through topics like decolonisation, language journeys, migration and AI. Using materials from various cultures, in this module you'll investigate these topics through lenses such as nationhood, multilingualism and translation.

Optional Modules

- Discovery Language: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish
- Global Challenges in World Politics
- Foundations of Language
- Understanding Culture
- History of Philosophy: Ideas that Shaped the West
- Parties, Populism and Protest
- Global Religions and Society

Year 2

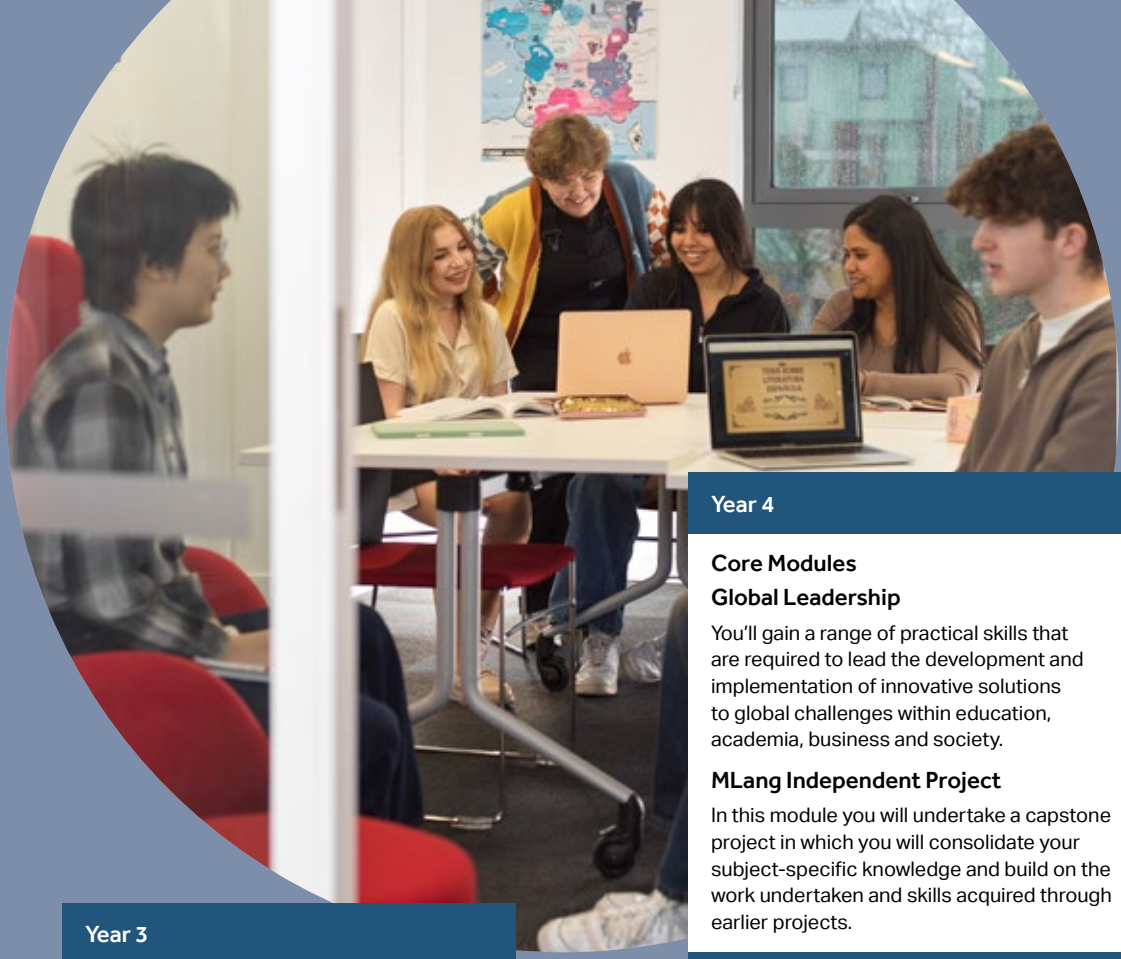
Core Modules

MLang Global Engagement Year

Spend an academic year abroad engaging with the communities of the language(s) you are learning whilst studying at a partner university. If you have two core languages you will split your time accordingly.

MLang Global Engagement Year: Intercultural and Academic Reflection

As you progress in the language(s) you are studying whilst abroad, you will produce a reflective portfolio. You will also be required to write a project in the target language(s) on topics that you have researched in your host country.



Year 3

Core Modules

Core Language

Chinese / French / German / Spanish

Global Cultures Independent Project

Undertake an extended, in-depth individual project that will typically take one of the following formats: a discursive dissertation; a translation dissertation; or dissertation by practice.

Optional Modules

- Discovery Language: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish
- Literature and Environment
- Queer Futures
- People Power and Collective Action
- Confronting the Climate Crisis
- Artistic Fusions
- Global Film Genres
- The Politics of Borders and Migration
- State and Religion

Year 4

Core Modules

Global Leadership

You'll gain a range of practical skills that are required to lead the development and implementation of innovative solutions to global challenges within education, academia, business and society.

MLang Independent Project

In this module you will undertake a capstone project in which you will consolidate your subject-specific knowledge and build on the work undertaken and skills acquired through earlier projects.

Optional Modules

- Foundations of Language Teaching
- Data to Argument: Digital Analysis in the Humanities
- Applied Learning Studio 2: Connected Worlds
- Independent Research Module

Careers and *employability*

By studying languages and global cultures, you have the chance to graduate with a multilingual, multicultural skills set.

Apart from language and subject-related skills, a degree in languages develops rich interpersonal, intercultural, cognitive and transferable skills that can be utilised across a variety of careers.

Careers consultants

We have staff who advise 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 to you once you have graduated.

Within the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, there are specialist careers advisors and opportunities to apply for internships to help you gain experience and prepare for your future career.

Careers events

We hold 'Careers with Languages' events where you can meet major employers who recruit graduates with language skills. 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', a video interview techniques workshop, a CV workshop, and training in translation software.

Graduate destinations

Language graduates progress into multilingual roles in business such as sales, management and consulting; translation and interpreting; language teaching; roles in the travel and tourism sector.

More generally, graduates are well-suited to a wide range of roles which require collaboration, communication and leadership skills, critical thinking and clarity of communication as well as intercultural competencies and creativity.

Beyond language-related and international professional contexts, we envisage our multilingual graduates able to embrace careers that have a strong element of implementing global solutions.

These include print, digital and broadcast media; journalism; publishing and publishing; business, sales and marketing; government and NGO policy roles; public administration and civil service; roles intelligence and security; and in the arts, including the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives and museums) sector.

Language graduates might choose to pursue careers in a very wide range of roles, such as:

- Intelligence analyst linguist
- Global supply chain manager
- Management consultant
- Translator or interpreter
- Language teacher
- Marketing specialist
- Journalist
- Book editor
- Civil servant
- Security service personnel
- Cultural consultant
- Museum or gallery educator

Kate Foster, *graduate*

Deputy Head of International Affairs, Federation of Small Businesses

My degree gave me a thorough grounding in international politics and EU law that took me to my first job in Brussels lobbying on behalf of the creative industries. Now working on trade and international affairs at the Federation of Small Businesses, the global outlook my studies gave me helps me understand and navigate a rapidly changing geopolitical environment. I use the communication skills I gained from studying languages every day, from assessing the impact of new legislation on businesses to speaking with colleagues and policymakers around the world. And I still speak French and Spanish when I travel for work!

"I am now working as an in-house financial translator in Paris. I love what I do."

Charlie O'Leary, *graduate*

PwC Language Services

I studied French and Italian for four fantastic years, graduating in 2021, including a year abroad. Throughout my studies, it became increasingly clear to me that I wanted a career specifically using my languages... which is how I found myself pursuing a master's degree in Conference Interpreting studies following my BA.

Following my studies, I spent two years working as a freelance conference interpreter, where I was flown around the world to lend my voice as an interpreter at a wide range of events (a human rights memorial in Bosnia Herzegovina, a board meeting in Romania, charity work in Paris, a week shadowing at the EU in Brussels).

I am now working as an in-house financial translator in Paris. I love what I do, and the most important skill in my line of work is a high command of languages and translation methodology... and there is no doubt that I got to where I am because of the foundations built in Lancaster!

Find out more

MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
FSC® C017574
FSC
www.fsc.org

recycle

lancaster.ac.uk/languages

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2027 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2026. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: **lancaster.ac.uk/study** for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: **lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice**.