Modern Languages and Linguistics

BA Honours

A world-class university in a world-famous city

UCAS code QT19
4 Years
Modern Languages and Linguistics

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This degree combines the study of foreign languages with linguistic theory, to explore how language works.

On this programme you choose two languages to study and will gain near-native fluency. Cultural modules provide you with an in-depth insight into the countries where your languages are spoken, covering topics such as:

- culture, cinema and literature
- history, politics and society

You also study linguistics, concentrating on the structure, history and use of both the English language and your foreign languages. Topics include:

- syntax, phonology and morphology
- semantics and pragmatics
- sociolinguistics and language acquisition

You'll also spend a year studying or working abroad, immersed in the culture of another country, developing your language skills and confidence.

Highlights of this degree

Languages available
You select from the following list of languages (with at least one in French, German or Spanish at post-A level or equivalent):

- Chinese
- French
- German
- Japanese
- Portuguese
- Spanish

In addition, there are optional beginners’ modules available in:

- Catalan, Quechua or Italian for students of Spanish
- Catalan or Italian for students of French
- Dutch for students of German

Quality and ranking
The quality of linguistics at Newcastle is highly recognised. We rank:

- 7th in the UK – The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020
- 94% overall student satisfaction score – National Student Survey 2019

Modern languages:

- top 100 – Linguistics category – QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019
- top 200 – Arts and Humanities category – Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2018

Year abroad and/or work placement
All of our modern languages degrees include a compulsory year abroad.

Students studying a European language can:

- study at one of our partner universities
- undertake a work or voluntary placement
- or do a combination of the above (ensuring that they do not overlap)

Students of Chinese or Japanese spend the whole academic year studying at one of our partner universities in China or Japan.

You usually divide the year between the two countries relating to your chosen languages, although it may be possible to spend the whole year in one country.

If you are studying three languages we encourage you to spend some time during the summer vacation in the country of your third language.

Support for year abroad
We offer lots of help to prepare you for your year abroad, including:

- briefings covering practicalities like insurance, visas and student safety
- support to find a work placement
- a Tandem Learning Scheme, to practise conversation in your foreign language and make contacts in the country before you travel
- a training course for language assistants

We also run social events for second-year students to meet finalists who have already done their year abroad, Erasmus students from our partner universities in Europe, and Chinese and Japanese exchange students from our host universities in East Asia.

Our Year Abroad team will keep in close touch with you while you are abroad. You will communicate regularly with your personal tutor. You’ll also complete blog posts through our e-portfolio system. This will help you reflect on your linguistic, personal and professional development.
Facilities and support
As a Modern Languages and Linguistics student at Newcastle you will divide your time between the School of Modern Languages and the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics.

Facilities
You will have access to language laboratories and the award-winning Language Resource Centre, with self-study resources for over 50 languages. You’ll also have access to specialist language software, dictionaries, DVDs, films and live satellite TV channels.

Find out more about our facilities on the School website.

Support
You will have an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree. They can help with academic and personal issues.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have.

Social events
You will receive lots of support from both Schools to help you settle in and feel at home. This includes a busy programme of social and academic events, organised by our two very active student-run societies:

- the Modern Languages Society
- the Linguistics Society

There are opportunities for translation through our Real Translation scheme. Alternatively, you can get involved with our student-led publications Flying Solo and Gift of the Gab.

Cutting edge expertise
The School of Modern Languages produces high-level original research in the cultures of the contemporary societies with which it engages. We have particular research expertise in:

- Film Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Medieval Studies

The Language and Linguistics section within the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics is part of one of the largest concentrations of research expertise in Linguistics and Language Sciences in the UK. Our current research expertise includes:

- Computational linguistics
- Language variation
- Psycholinguistics
- Theoretical linguistics

Course Details

Modules for 2019 entry
Please note
The module and/or programme information below is for 2019 entry. Our teaching is informed by research and modules change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, student feedback, or insufficient numbers of students interested (in an optional module). To find out more read our terms and conditions.
Module/programme information for 2020 entry will be published here as soon as it is available (end of May 2020).

Our degrees are divided into Stages. Each Stage lasts for an academic year and you need to complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each Stage. Further information, including the credit value of the module, is available in each of the module descriptions below.

Stage 1

Compulsory modules
You take the following modules:

- SEL1027 Introduction to the Structure of Language 1: Syntax and Phonology
- SEL1028 Introduction to the Structure of Language 2: Morphology and Meaning

Plus language modules appropriate to your current language skill level:

- if you have one A level or equivalent, you take one intermediate and one entry level language module pair
- if you have two A levels or equivalent, you take two intermediate language modules

Entry level language modules

- CHN1065 Level A (HE Entry Level) Chinese I AND CHN1066 Level A (HE Entry Level) Chinese II
- FRE1065 Level A (HE Entry Level) French I AND FRE1066 Level A (HE Entry Level) French II
- FRE1071 Level B (HE Intermediate) French*  
- GER1065 Level A (HE Entry Level) German I AND GER1066 Level A (HE Entry Level) German II
- GER1071 Level B (HE Intermediate) German*  
- JPN1065 Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese I AND JPN1066 Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese II
- POR1065 Level A (HE Entry Level) Portuguese I AND POR1066 Level A (HE Entry Level) Portuguese II
- SPA1065 Level A (HE Entry Level) Spanish I AND SPA1066 Level A (HE Entry Level) Spanish II
- SPA1071 Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish*  

*You must have an A level or equivalent in the language to take Level B (HE Intermediate) language module at Stage 1.

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Intermediate language modules
- FRE1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) French
- GER1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) German
- SPA1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish

Optional modules
You also have a choice of optional modules to bring your total to 120 credits:
- FRE1006  La France de 1789 à nos jours
- GER1016  Deutschland zwischen 1871 und 1945
- LAS1010  An Introduction to Latin America
- SEL1008  The Nature of Language
- SEL1032  Language Variation and Change: Dealing with Data
- SML1018  Introduction to Literature
- SML1019  Introduction to Linguistics
- SML1021  Introduction to International Film
- SML1022  Introduction to Cultural Studies
- SPA1019  Introduction to History, Culture and Society of the Iberian Peninsula

*If you are doing Portuguese you cannot take this module until Stage 2

Stage 2

Compulsory modules
You take one of the following modules:
- SEL2086  Introduction to Child and Adult Language Acquisition
- SEL2089  Syntactic Theory

Plus language modules appropriate to your current language skill level:
- if you have one A level or equivalent, you take one advanced module and one intermediate module (provided that you wish to carry on studying this language)
- if you have two A levels or equivalent, you take two advanced modules

Intermediate modules
- CHN2010  Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese
- FRE1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) French
- GER1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) German
- JPN2010  Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese
- POR2010  Level B (HE Intermediate) Portuguese
- SPA1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish

Advanced modules
- FRE2061  Level C (HE Advanced) French
- GER2061  Level C (HE Advanced) German
- SPA2061  Level C (HE Advanced) Spanish

Optional modules
You take one optional module for each language studied, according to the level taken. No Level B or Level C optional modules can be taken with Chinese or Japanese.

Level B Options (to go with intermediate language modules)
- FRE1006  La France de 1789 à nos jours
- GER1016  Deutschland zwischen 1871 und 1945
- LAS1010  An Introduction to Latin America
- POR2001  Cultures and Societies of the Portuguese-Speaking World
- SML1018  Introduction to Literature
- SML1021  Introduction to International Film
- SML1022  Introduction to Cultural Studies
- SPA1019  Introduction to History, Culture and Society of the Iberian Peninsula

*If you are taking POR2010 Level B Portuguese you must take this as your optional module

Level C Options (to go with advanced language modules)
- FRE2005  Classic French Cinema
- FRE2009  Paris: Aspects of History and Culture
- FRE2013  Ethnography for Language Learners (French)
- FRE2044  Linguistic Variation in French
- FRE2045  French Caribbean Literature
- GER2010  A Cultural History of Berlin: Cabaret, Catastrophe, Capital
- GER2011  M for Murder: Crime, Law and Justice in Modern German Literature and Film
- GER2013  Nature and Ecology in German Culture
- GER2031  Beginners’ Dutch (if you are also studying German Level C)*
- GER2036  Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland bis 1990
- LAS2028  Diversidad Cultural en America Latina
- LAS2030  Comparative History of Hispano-America and Brazil: from Independence to the Mexican Revolution (1789/1810-1917)
- LAS2032  Caribbean Imaginaries: Image, Text, Music
- SML2014  Introduction to Italian Language and Culture (if you are also studying Spanish Level C or French Level C)*
- SPA2019  World Spanish
- SPA2021  Introduction to Catalan (if you are also studying Spanish Level C or French Level C)*
- SPA2025  Representations of Revolution, Dictatorship and Democracy in Spain and Latin America

* You may only take one of these modules.

You also have a choice of optional Linguistics modules from the list below bring your total to 120 credits:
- SEL2000  Phonological Theory
- SEL2086  Introduction to Child and Adult Language Acquisition
- SEL2089  Syntactic Theory
- SEL2091  Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of Language
- SEL2212  Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties

Stage 3 (Year Abroad)
You spend your year abroad studying at one of our partner universities, on a work placement, or a combination of the two.

You can spend the whole year in one country or divide the year between two countries where your chosen languages are spoken.

If you want to study Chinese or Japanese at Stage 4 you must spend this year studying in China or Japan. We recommend you use the summer vacations on either side of

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this to visit French- German- Portuguese- or Spanish-speaking countries, depending on the other languages you are studying.

During your year abroad, you take the following compulsory module:

- SML3004 Year Abroad ePortfolio

You also choose one of the modules below:

- SML3006 Study Abroad
- SML3007 Year Abroad Work Placement Report 1
- SML3008 Year Abroad Work Placement Report 2
- SML3009 Year Abroad Project 1
- SML3010 Year Abroad Project 2

Stage 4

Compulsory modules

You continue to study your chosen languages with modules that build on the level of fluency achieved on your year abroad.

You select language modules appropriate to your current language skill level:

- if you have one A level or equivalent, you take one further advanced module and one advanced module (if you wish to carry on studying this language)
- if you have two A levels or equivalent, you take two further advanced modules

Advanced modules

- CHN4010 Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese
- FRE2061 Level C (HE Advanced) French
- GER2061 Level C (HE Advanced) German
- JPN4010 Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese
- POR4010 Level C (HE Advanced) Portuguese
- SPA2061 Level C (HE Advanced) Spanish

Further advanced modules

- FRE4081 Level D (HE Further Advanced) French: Advanced Writing Skills
- GER4081 Level D (HE Further Advanced) German: Advanced Writing Skills
- SPA4081 Level D (HE Further Advanced) Spanish: Advanced Writing Skills

You must select one module from the following list for each Level D language studied:

- FRE4082 Level D (HE Further Advanced) French: Language for Professional & Academic Purposes
- FRE4083 Level D (HE Further Advanced) French: Translation & Interpreting
- GER4082 Level D (HE Further Advanced) German: Language for Professional & Academic Purposes
- GER4083 Level D (HE Further Advanced) German: Translation & Interpreting
- SPA4082 Level D (HE Further Advanced) Spanish: Language for Professional & Academic Purposes
- SPA4083 Level D (HE Further Advanced) Spanish: Translation & Interpreting

Optional modules

You choose two or three modules from the list below.

- FRE4014 Historical Perspectives on the French Language (if studying Level D French)
- GER4015 A Comparative History of German and English: Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Lexicon (if studying Level D German)
- SEL3352 Language Development: Cross-disciplinary Approaches
- SEL3372 Language and Ethnicity in 21st Century Britain
- SPA4007 Spanish and Romance Word Analysis (if studying Level D Spanish)

You also have a choice of optional modules to match the level of language you are studying and to bring your total to 120 credits. If you are taking a Level C language you can choose only one level C option:

Level C Options (to go with advanced language modules)

- FRE2005 Classic French Cinema
- FRE2009 Paris: Aspects of History and Culture
- FRE2013 Ethnography for Language Learners (French)
- FRE2044 Linguistics Variation in French
- FRE2045 French Caribbean Literature
- GER2010 A Cultural History of Berlin: Cabaret, Catastrophe, Capital
- GER2011 M for Murder: Crime, Law and Justice in Modern German Literature and Film
- GER2013 Nature and Ecology in German Culture
- GER2036 Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland bis 1990
- LAS2028 Diversidad Cultural en America Latina
- LAS2030 Comparative History of Hispano-America and Brazil from Independence to the Mexican Revolution (1789/1810-1917)
- LAS2032 Caribbean Imaginaries: Image, Text, Music
- POR4003 Lusophone Borderlines: Borders and Crossings in Portuguese-Speaking Cultures
- SPA2019 World Spanish
- SPA2022 The Contemporary Hispanic City: Narrative Cartographies
- SPA2025 Representations of Revolution, Dictatorship and Democracy in Spain and Latin America

Level D Options (to go with further advanced language modules)

- FRE4003 Occupation and Resistance: Literary and Cinematic Responses to the Second World War in France
- FRE4006 Contemporary French Cinema
- FRE4007 Les valeurs républicaines, le système d’enseignement et le social renewal
- FRE4014 Historical Perspectives on the French Language
- FRE4015 From Experimental to Explicit: Translating Women’s Writing in French
- FRE4016 Contemporary Life Writing in French: Textual and Visual Experiment
- FRE4017 Du Surrealisme au Street Art: Theories et Pratiques de la Ville
- GER4004 Intermediate Dutch*
- GER4014 German Representations of the Holocaust
- GER4015 A Comparative History of German and English: Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and the Lexicon
- GER4016 The Future: Its Past and Its Future
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- LAS4001 Inter-American Relations from Spanish-American War (1898) to the end of the Cold War (1989/1991)
- LAS4005 Multilingualism and Society in Latin America
- LAS4010 Cultura y Política en Colombia
- SML4003 Communicating and Teaching Languages for Undergraduate Ambassadors
- SML4004 Intermediate Italian*
- SML4009 Dissertation
- SPA4002 Intermediate Catalan*
- SPA4005 Cultura Popular en Latinoamérica y España
- SPA4006 Spectres of the Past: Memory in Contemporary Spanish Culture
- SPA4007 Spanish and Romance Word Analysis

* You must have taken the relevant language at Stage 2 to take this module

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods
The majority of practical language modules are taught through classes led by native speakers. You also work in language laboratories and undertake self-study in our Language Resource Centre.

Assessment methods
Assessment involves oral and language laboratory work and written examinations at the end of each Stage, as well as course work submitted during the year.

During your year abroad in Stage 3 you are required to complete a personal learning record (a diary exercise consisting of three short pieces of work), and either write a project in the relevant language or submit marks from modules taken at the exchange university.

Find out more
Visit our Teaching and Learning pages to read about the outstanding learning experience available to all students at Newcastle University.

Careers

Modern languages and linguistics careers
Most people study modern languages because of their interest and ability in the subject. For most graduates teaching is a popular career choice, undertaking primary and secondary Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) or beginning careers teaching English on an international basis. Others go into jobs in which their language skills are desirable, such as the media, sales, e-commerce, and areas of finance.

With ever more European and international connections, such skills will grow in importance and can give you a real advantage in applying for a wide range of graduate jobs.

Ability in languages is increasingly valued by a wide range of employers across all sectors, including industry and business. They recognise that a degree in modern languages is evidence not only of linguistic skills and cultural awareness but also of other personal transferable skills needed in employment.

You will develop the self-confidence to communicate orally as well as on paper, to work effectively in a group, to organise and plan your work and to find solutions to problems by critical, logical and creative thinking.

Consequently our graduates find work in diverse areas such as tourism, marketing, management, civil service, advertising and the media, teaching and banking.

The School of Modern Languages works with the University’s Careers Service to run an annual Employability Week, including an opportunity to network with recent graduates. We also collaborate on the Modern Languages careers blog, Careers Translated. The blog gives you access to a range of relevant jobs, training and work experience opportunities, as well as interviews with alumni and employers, and general advice.

Find out more about the career options for Modern Languages and Linguistics from Prospects: The UK’s Official Careers Website.

What our graduates go on to do: employment and further study choices
See what our recent graduates went on to do and view graduate destinations statistics. These statistics are based on what graduates were doing on a specific date, approximately six months after graduation. Take a look at the most recent data available for our graduates.

The destination data is available in varying levels, beginning with the University and moving through Faculty and School down to individual course reports. This final level may give you some useful ideas about possible options after your course or a course you are considering.

Careers and employability at Newcastle
Newcastle University consistently has one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK.

96% of our 2017 UK-domiciled UG/PG graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating.

85.5% of our graduates are in graduate level employment or further study within six months of graduating.

We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through an initiative called ncl+. This enables you to develop personal, employability and enterprise skills and
to give you the edge in the employment market after you graduate.

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers.

Fees & Funding

Tuition Fees (UK students)

2020 entry: £9,250

For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

Please note:

- The maximum fee that we are permitted to charge for UK students is set by the UK government.
- As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.
- See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Tuition Fees (EU students)

2020 entry: £9,250

You will pay the same tuition fees as UK students for the duration of your course.

For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

Please note:

- As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.
- See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Tuition Fees (International students)

2020 entry*: £18,000

*Please note:

You will be charged tuition fees for each year of your degree programme (unless you are on a shorter exchange programme).

Tuition Fees (International students)

The tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year as a result of inflation.

If you spend a year on placement or studying abroad as part of your degree you may pay a reduced fee for that year.

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Scholarships and Financial Support (UK students)

You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.

Newcastle University Scholarships

Government financial support

Scholarships and Financial Support (EU students)

You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.

Newcastle University Scholarships

Government financial support

Scholarships and Financial Support (International students)

We offer a range of scholarships to eligible international students:
- Vice-Chancellor’s International Scholarships
- Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence Scholarships
- Vice-Chancellor’s Global Scholarships

We also offer International Family Discounts which are available for all international students with a close family member who has graduated from or is now studying at Newcastle University.

Newcastle University offers Sanctuary Scholarships for eligible undergraduate students (excludes MBBS and BDS students) from asylum-seeker and refugee backgrounds.

Some of our subject scholarships and sports scholarships are also available for international students.
Apply

Applying to Newcastle University through UCAS

To apply for undergraduate study at Newcastle you must use the online application system managed by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

UCAS codes for Newcastle University

• institution name - NEWC
• institution code - N21

UCAS buzzword

Ask your teacher or adviser from your school or college for the UCAS buzzword. You need the buzzword when you register on the Apply system. This makes it clear which school or college you are applying from.

All UK schools and colleges and a small number of EU and international establishments are registered with UCAS.

If you are applying independently, or are applying from a school or college which is not registered to manage applications, you will still use the Apply system. You will not need a buzzword.

Making your application

On the UCAS website you can also find out more about:

• application deadlines and other important dates
• offers and tracking your application

Application decisions and enquiries

Find out more about our admissions process and who to contact if you need help with your application.

We welcome students from all over the world.