

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	<p>BA Language Teaching and Languages</p> <p>If two languages are studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BA Language Teaching and Language A and Language B <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BA Language Teaching and Language A with Language B <p>If one language studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BA Language Teaching and Language name <p>For Japanese only, if exiting with Japanese 3: BA Language Teaching with Japanese</p> <p><i>If Year Abroad taken:</i> Any of the above awards 'with International Experience'</p>
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE; Cert HE
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English and Relevant Language(s)
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years; 4 years with Foundation Year; 4 years with International Experience); Part-time (4 years; 6 years with Foundation Year) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Languages, Cultures and Societies
UCAS code	Q104; Q106 (with int exp); Q105 (with FY)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBALNLN_C (3 years, full-time) UBALNLNT_C (4 years, part-time) UUBALNLX_C (4 years, full-time with Int exp) UUBFLNLN_C (4 years, full-time with FY) UBFLNLNT_C (6 years, part-time with FY)
HECoS Code	languages and area studies, inc: 100322 French studies 100324 German studies 100327 Italian studies 101143 Brazilian studies

	100765 Iberian studies 101168 Japanese studies Linguistics, inc: 100328 linguistics 100970 applied linguistics
Start date of programme	2023/24
Date of programme approval	November 2022
Date of last programme amendment approval	February 2023
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	28/02/2023

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 96-128 points (48 for with Foundation Year entry)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

For Foundation Year (year zero), see Arts Foundation Year programme specification.

The programme, offering evening, face-to-face study, allows students to become proficient linguists in ONE OR TWO modern foreign languages, while also developing the skills and knowledge needed in order to become a teacher of modern languages, or of English (as a Second or Other Language).

Students may study ANY TWO foreign modern languages, from the full range of languages offered at Birkbeck (French, German, Italian, Japanese or Spanish), in at least one of which an 'exit' level equivalent to Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level C1/C2 must be attained (apart from Japanese, see below). The second language may be studied from a low level (including Beginners) and an 'exit' level equivalent to CEFR Level B2 attained; or it may be studied at the higher level and Level C1 attained. Students taking Japanese will normally attain an exit level equivalent either to Upper Intermediate N3 or Advanced level N2, according to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

Students who reach the higher exit levels in BOTH languages (in practice taking and passing Language 5 in European languages or Japanese 4 or above in Japanese), and who take at least 120 credits related to each language, will be awarded a degree in e.g. BA Language Teaching and French and Spanish.

Students who reach the higher level in only ONE of these languages (reaching Language 5 or Japanese 4/5), but who take at least 90 credits in the 'minor' language (and take and pass Language 3 in that language), will be awarded a degree in e.g. BA Language Teaching and French with Spanish.

Alternatively, students may elect to study ONLY ONE of the following languages: French, German, Japanese or Spanish. For European languages, they must attain an 'exit' level equivalent to EITHER Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level C1/C2. These students will be awarded a degree in e.g. BA Language Teaching and French/German/Italian/Spanish. For Japanese, if they attain an 'exit' level equivalent to Advanced level N2 in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), they will be awarded the degree BA Language Teaching and Japanese. If they exit with Intermediate level N3 or below in the JLPT, their degree will be BA Language Teaching with Japanese.

Students taking the four-year full-time 'with International Experience' programme will spend a year of study (normally the third year) in a country in which one of the languages they are studying is spoken. Please note: students must make satisfactory progress during year 1 and 2 of their degree to be eligible for a Year Abroad. Students may elect EITHER to study at one of

our partner institutions OR to take up a work placement, e.g. on the British Council Assistantship scheme: see [Teach abroad as an English Language Assistant | British Council](#)

If they choose the study option, the non- UK partner institution may set its own entrance criteria, including, but not limited to, academic criteria, language requirements and visa requirements. In instances where a student does not meet the eligibility criteria for an approved Year Abroad, their registration may be transferred to the corresponding BA programme pathway without the 'with International Experience' designation. Students electing to enter for the competitive Assistantship scheme must meet the criteria set by the British Council.

More specifically we aim to:

1. Offer a broad and balanced degree programme in the evening that enables students to engage fully in the improvement of their language skills.
2. Allow students to study the associated culture(s) of their chosen language(s); and to acquire advanced knowledge of a range of comparative cultural topics.
3. Provide access to learning and curricula appropriate for students with a range of traditional and non-traditional educational backgrounds, including a large number from abroad who are now resident in the UK.
4. Enable our students to develop independent critical thinking and judgment.
5. Develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills, particularly conceptual, analytical, and communication skills, including the ability to write lucid, logical, and well-structured prose in both English and, at an appropriate level, the chosen target language(s). To these should be added appropriate IT skills and confidence to engage with evolving media.
6. Enable our students to work or study in a country in which one of the languages they are studying is spoken, for an academic year as part of a four-year full-time award including the designation 'with International Experience' in order to provide them with an opportunity to develop their language skills and their knowledge of the national culture, as well as to acquire a range of transferable personal, academic and employability skills.

Further distinctive features:

1. We are particularly well-known for the strength of our language teaching provision.
2. The relatively high proportion of native speakers of the target languages not only enriches all students' learning experience through shared experience and discussion, but also strengthens the linguistic atmosphere we endeavour to create in our classes and social activities.
3. We offer a varied range of modules relating both to the comparative study of cultures and to the five languages taught at Birkbeck (French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish).

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
NB for this programme, students (FT & PT) taking two Language pathways may take a maximum of six Language stages (e.g. LANG ONE 3-5 + LANG TWO 1-3). PT students will normally start their second Language pathway in Year Two.					
Full-time – 3 years (4 years with international experience)					
Year 1					
4		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 3 or 4 (Level 4) For Japanese: Japanese 1, 2, 3 or 4 (Level 4)	30	Core	T1-T3
4		LANGUAGE TWO (if student taking second language): Language 1, 2, 3 or 4 (Level 4)	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
4	ARLL004S4	Doing Languages Cultures and Applied Linguistics	30	Comp	T1
4	LNLN026S4	Approaches to Language	30	Core	T2
4	ARLL010S4	Culture and Text OR	30	Option	T3
4	ARLL009S4	Culture and Image	30	Option	T3
Year 2					
5/6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6) For Japanese: Japanese 2, 3 or 4 (Level 5) or Japanese 5 (Level 6)	30	Core	T1-T3
5/6		LANGUAGE TWO (if student taking second language): Language 2, 3 or 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6)	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5	SSAC036H5 OR SSAC037H5	Language Learning OR Language Teaching Research	15	Core	T2
5	NEW	Language-specific survey module (French /German & Italian/ Japanese / Spanish & Latin American)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARLL012S5 OR ARLL011S5	Comparative Themes in the Novel OR Themes in European and Japanese Cinema (offered in alternation)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
Year 3 'with International Experience' only					
5		60 credits APL from modules taken at a partner institution OR	60	Comp	n/a
5	ARCL067S5 & ARCL068S5	Study Abroad Module 1 & Study Abroad Module 2	30+ 30	Comp	n/a

Year 3 OR Year 4 'with International Experience'					
6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 5 (if not already taken) For Japanese: Language 3, 4 or 5 (Level 6)	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
6		LANGUAGE TWO (if student taking second language): Language 4 or 5	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
6	ARCL123S6	Languages and Cultures Dissertation	30	Core	T1-T3
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30		T1-T3
6	SSAC038H6	Language Learning (Level 6)	15	Core	T2
	SSAC039H6	Language Teaching Research (Level 6)			
6		Linguistics option (see below)	15	Option	T2 or T3
6		Range of 'Culture' Options @ 15 credits	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5/6		Language-specific survey module (French /German & Italian/ Japanese / Spanish & Latin American) (may be taken at L5 if Lang 5 taken in Y2) OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6	LNLN005S6	Translation from and into French (students must have passed French 4)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
Part-time - 4 years					
Year 1					
4		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 3 or 4 (Level 4) (Students taking one Language only may start at Lang 2) For Japanese: Japanese 1, 2, 3 or 4 (Level 4)	30	Core	T1-T3
4	ARLL004S4	Doing Languages Cultures and Applied Linguistics	30	Comp	T1
4	LNLN026S4	Approaches to Language	30	Core	T2
Year 2					
5/6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 3 (if not **), 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6) For Japanese: Japanese 2, 3, 4 (Level 5) or Japanese 5 (Level 6)	30	Core	T1-T3
4		LANGUAGE TWO** (if student taking second language): Language 1, 2, 3 or 4 (Level 4)	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
4	ARLL010S4	Culture and Text (if not **)	30	Option	T2 or T3
		OR			
4	ARLL009S4	Culture and Image	30	Option	T2 or T3
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
Year 3 (Students must take 30 credits at Level 6 before Year 4, which may include Language 5)					
5/6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 4 (Level 5, if not **) or 5 (Level 6) (if not already taken) For Japanese: Japanese 3, 4 or 5 (Level 6)	30	Core	T1-T3
5/6		LANGUAGE TWO** (if student taking second language): Language 2, 3 or 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6)	30	Core if taken	T1-T3

5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5	SSAC036H5 OR SSAC037H5	Language Learning OR Language Teaching Research	15	Core	T2
5		Language-specific survey module (if not **) OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARLL012S5 OR ARLL011S5	Comparative Themes in the Novel OR Themes in European and Japanese Cinema (offered in alternation)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6		Linguistics or Culture module(s) (if needed): see Year 4	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
Year 4					
6		LANGUAGE ONE or TWO: Language 4 or 5 For Japanese: Language 3, 4 or 5	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
6	ARCL123S6	Languages and Cultures Dissertation OR	30	Core	T1-T3
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30		T1-T3
6	SSAC038H6 OR SSAC039H6	Language Learning (Level 6) OR Language Teaching Research (Level 6)	15	Comp	T2
6		Linguistics Option (see below)	15	Option	T2 or T3
6		Range of 'Culture' Options @ 15 credits	15	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6		Language-specific survey module OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6	LNLN005S6	Translation from and into French (students must have passed French 4)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement	30	Option	

Indicative list of Linguistics options:

Options are normally offered in alternate years.

SSAC031H6 Neurolinguistics

SSAC033H6 Psycholinguistics

SSAC049H6 Sociolinguistics

SSAC068H6 Language and the City

SSAC054H6 Identity in Applied Linguistics Research

Indicative list of Language survey/culture modules:

Options for Level 5 currently include:

ARLL007S5 Contemporary Literature in French

NEW Cultural Perspectives on German and Italian 19th and 20th Century History

ARMC145S5 Popular Culture in Japan and East Asia

ARLL005S5 Word and Image: Constructing the Other in the Hispanic World

Cross-cultural comparative modules (one offered per year, all Level 5):

ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures

LNLN024S5 Representations of Love, Desire and Sexuality

ARCL125S5 Culture and Crisis

Options for Level 6 currently include:

ARMC187S6 Manga and Anime

AREL003H6 Sensibility and Sociability in the Eighteenth-Century French Novel

AREL049H6 The French Novel of Disillusionment

ARCL054H6 The Twentieth-Century German Novel

LNLN003H5 The Weimar Republic

ARCL078S6 Sex, survival and la dolce vita: Neorealist to Contemporary Italian Film

ARCL057H6 The Spanish Noir: Crime and Detection in Contemporary Fiction

ARCL034H6 The Auteurist Tradition in Spanish Cinema

LNLN054S6 Space, Culture and Society in Brazil

How you will learn

Your learning is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Learning and teaching methods vary between Language modules and Linguistics or 'Culture' modules, but in all cases the programme builds on tried and tested methods, and the collective experience and expertise deployed in existing modules within the Department of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics.

- Language classes are 2.5 hours long (including a short break). Activities are varied and are designed to promote student participation. Language classes all employ a task-driven syllabus, which serves to promote the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Students will be exposed to a variety of authentic materials (including written and audio/visual texts), and develop competency through a range of activities and exercises including individual, pair, and group work.
- Classes for the Linguistics and 'Culture' modules (90 or 2x90 minutes including a break) adopt a mixed-mode delivery, part lecture, part student activity either singly or in small groups, part open discussion. The range of methods deployed is effective in retaining students' attention after a day's work. Varied use is made of the full range of available support materials and technologies, including Moodle. Supervised group and pair-work and short student presentations serve to vary the pace of classroom activity. Presentations also offer the opportunity for formative feedback, and may be used to prepare a written assignment.
- **Lectures** and presentation of knowledge aim to fulfil the intellectual aims of "knowledge and understanding of what is involved in the study of the field". Students' understanding of the lecture/presentation material is reinforced by interactive discussion. This suits the mature student body, whose life experience and cultural background is a resource in the learning process.
- **Small group** work is designed to allow students to undertake focused tasks in a supportive environment and to develop their creative, analytical, communication and interpersonal skills, as appropriate.

- **Discussion group** work is designed to develop students critical and analytical, presentation and communication skills.
- **Tutorials**, typically on a one-to-one basis, develop student skills in presenting and discussing ideas.
- **Study abroad:** Students taking modules at one of partner institutions will be assessed according to the methods employed at those institutions. Students not based at a university during their time abroad will be expected to submit work to Birkbeck in order to gain credits, including essays and a learning diary.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

- In **Language modules**, assessment takes place at regular intervals throughout the academic year and takes a variety of forms testing skills in writing, reading, speaking and listening as appropriate to the language-level of the module; exercises might include short coursework assignments, in-class written tests, oral and listening comprehension tests. At Level 5 students complete a self-reflexive essay; and at Level 6 they undertake a short project. Regular homework is given and returned to students, with extensive feedback, usually within a week.
- The **Linguistics** subjects in the degree are assessed entirely by coursework, mainly in the form of essays.
- Assessment for **'Culture' modules** is via a combination of assessed essays, commentaries and in-class or take-home tests. Formative or non-assessed exercises might include presentations, as well as pre- and post-session activities such as quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

Linguistics

Studying linguistics develops a number of skills, including reasoning skills, abstract thinking, being able to critique and evaluate ideas, synthesise information from different sources, and problem solving. Linguistics also helps to develop the ability to construct and evaluate models, and explore the relationships between theories and the phenomena that theories are designed to explain.

On successful completion of the course you will be expected to be able to:

- Understand key concepts in modern linguistics and to apply them to analysing how language is used.
- Develop a critical understanding of human language, and what makes it unique among communication systems.
- Construct and evaluate linguistic arguments
- Compare and evaluate different ways of analysing data, and the nature and limitations of the various theoretical frameworks which have been proposed to explain language.

Languages and Culture

On successful completion of the course you will be expected to be able to:

French, German, Italian, Spanish:

A. Use of the target language

- Demonstrate appropriate use of the French, German, Italian or Spanish languages. Our courses have been mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) as follows:
 - Stage 1 A1-A2
 - Stage 2 B1
 - Stage 3 B2
 - Stage 4 C1
 - Stage 5 C1/C2The aims and objectives for each of these stages can be found in each corresponding module specification.
- Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in the target language (TL), with competent or native speakers of the TL, to a level approximately equivalent to CEFR level B2 to C2, depending on starting level.
- Exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, to contextualise a broad range of materials in written or spoken TL appropriate to the level attained.
- Apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.

B. Explicit knowledge of language

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of TL.
- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse TL. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)

C. Knowledge of related studies

- Demonstrate an ability critically to evaluate through appropriate methodologies one or more aspects of the arts, cultures, histories, institutions or linguistic situation of the societies in which TL is spoken.
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of the cultures and societies of countries in which TL is spoken gained through one or more of the creative media of TL.

D. Intercultural awareness and understanding

- Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies, other than your own.

Japanese:

A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Japanese at natural speed using audio-visual materials; to use original texts from a variety of sources and subject fields to develop their reading techniques including scanning and skimming for key information, reading extended paragraphs and complex sentences, and in-depth reading; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire academic-level verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations; to write substantial reports and short essays based on texts read and discussed in class, using their knowledge of between 800-1,000 kanji characters and of appropriate compositional structure.

- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Japanese.

B-D. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key moments and concepts in the cultural/social history of modern Japan.

E. Intellectual

- Identify and describe problems and to devise effective strategies for their resolution.
- Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding.

F. Practical

See Subject-specific skills, plus the following:

- Gather, process and evaluate critically information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources.
- Use IT effectively, both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning.

G. Personal and Social

- Communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both orally and in writing with due regard to the target audience.
- Be responsive to the discipline of working with others and to work effectively as part of a team.
- Be an effective and self-aware independent learner.

Careers and further study

A clear objective of this programme is to prepare students for a career in language teaching.

However, you will find Languages and Linguistics graduates in a wide range of roles in the creative industries, as well as, in education, law, the civil service and business roles. Our graduates leave with valuable attributes such as:

- High-level oral and written communication skills in English and in one or more foreign modern languages
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing various types of information
- The ability to convey your ideas and build an argument
- The ability to analyse and process complex ideas
- Independent research skills as well as the ability to work as part of a team

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

All Language modules are 'Core', which means that each Language stage on a Pathway must be passed before a student may progress to the next Language stage. The final stage of the Language pathway must be taken (and passed) at Level 6.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

Copyright, Birkbeck, University of London 2022 ©