PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BA Linguistics and Culture** (Level 6)
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
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years; 4 years with Foundation Year); 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	Linguistics Languages, Cultures and Societies
UCAS code	QV19, QV1F (with FY)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBALICU_C (full-time, 3 years) UBALICUL_C (part-time,4 years) UUBFLICU_C (full-time with FY,4 years) UBFLICUL_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100328 linguistics, inc: 100970 applied linguistics languages and area studies, inc: 100322 French studies 100324 German studies 100327 Italian studies 101143 Brazilian studies 100765 Iberian studies 101168 Japanese studies
Start date of programme	Pre-2003
Date of programme approval	Pre-2003
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	**2024-25**
Date of last revision to document	16/07/22

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 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 BA Linguistics and Culture allows you to study linguistics together with a range of cultural topics associated with, or comparing, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Latin American cultures.

In the linguistics component of the course, you will learn about the structure and functions of language, and how people use language to communicate information and meaning about themselves and their identity. You will learn how to construct and evaluate linguistic arguments and how to compare and evaluate different ways of analysing data. You will also explore the nature and limitations of various theoretical frameworks. By studying linguistics, you can develop a scientific, critical approach to understanding how language works and how it functions within society. A unique feature of the course is that you will learn how to apply linguistic methods and models to real-world problems and contexts.

At the same time, you will gain advanced knowledge of the culture of one or more language areas (French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish & Latin American), including literature, thought and cinema, and you can also choose to explore comparative and cross-cultural elements.

Course structure

Please see Arts Foundation Year specification for details of modules taken in the Foundation year.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
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
4	AREN256S4 AREN257S4	School of Arts module, e.g. Storytelling OR Production of the Human	30	Option	T1 & T2 T3

Year 2					
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5		Linguistics option	15	Option	T2
5	Various:	Language-specific survey module (French / German & Italian / Japanese / Spanish & Latin American) AND/OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3

5	ARLL012S5
	
	ARLL011S5
		Themes in the European and Japanese Novel
		    OR
		Themes in European and Japanese Cinema
		    (offered in alternation)
		AND/OR
			30	Option	T1, T2 or T3

5	ARCL022S5
	
	LNLN024S5
	
	ARCL125S5
		Reading Transnational Cultures
		    OR
		Representations of Gender, Love and Sexuality
		    OR
		Culture and crisis
		    (one offered per year)
			30	Option	T1, T2 or T3

Year 3					
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Linguistics option	1-2 x15	Option	T2
6	NEW	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		Range of Language-specific Options @ 15 credits AND/OR	2-3 x15	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement	30	Option	
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	ARLL004S4	Doing Languages Cultures and Applied Linguistics	30	Comp	T1
4	LNLN026S4	Approaches to Language	30	Core	T2
4	AREN256S4 AREN257S4	School of Arts module, e.g. Storytelling OR Production of the Human	30	Option	T1 & T2 T3

Year 2					
4	ARLL010S4	Culture and Text OR	30	Option	T2 or T3
4	ARLL009S4	Culture and Image	30	Option	T2 or T3
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
5		Linguistics or language options'	2 x 15/ 1 x 30	Option	T1, 2 or 3

Year 3 (90 credits) (Students must take 30 credits at Level 6 before Year 4)					
5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5		Linguistic option	15	Option	T1, 2 or 3
5/6	Various:	Language-specific survey module (French / German & Italian / Japanese / Spanish & Latin American) (may be taken at Level 6 if needed) OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARLL012S5 ARLL011S5	Themes in the European and Japanese Novel OR Themes in European and Japanese Cinema (offered in alternation) OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARCL022S5 LNLN024S5 ARCL125S5	Reading Transnational Cultures OR Representations of Gender, Love and Sexuality OR Culture and crisis (one offered per year) OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6		Linguistics or Language Options (if needed at L6 – see below, Year Four)	2x15	Option	T1, T2 or T3

Year 4 (90 credits)					
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Linguistics Option(s)	1-2 x15	Option	T1, 2
6	NEW	Language-specific survey module AND/OR	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6		Range of Language-specific Options @ 15 credits AND/OR	2-3 x15	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement	30	Option	

BA Linguistics and Culture 2024-25

Indicative list of Linguistics options:
Options forming Groups are normally offered in alternate years at both Levels 5 & 6 (with the exceptions below), allowing students to take related modules, subject to availability, in a 'mini-pathway'.

Group 1
SSAC036H5/038H6 Language Learning (Levels 5 & 6)
SSAC037H5/039H6 Language Teaching (Levels 5 & 6)

ARLL001H5 Contemporary and Global Englishes (Level 5 only, offered annually)

Group 2
SSAC030H5/031H6 Neurolinguistics (Levels 5 & 6)
SSAC032H5/033H6 Psycholinguistics (Levels 5 & 6)

Group 3
SSAC040H5/042H6 Multilingual and Multicultural Communities (Levels 5 & 6)
SSAC041H5/043H6 Multilingual and Multicultural Individuals (Levels 5 & 6)

Group 4
SSAC048H5/049H6 Sociolinguistics (Levels 5 & 6)
SSAC067H5/068H6 Language and the City (Levels 5 & 6)

SSAC054H6 Language and Identity (Level 6 only)

Indicative list of Language survey/culture modules:

Options for Level 5 currently include:
ARLL007S5 Contemporary Literature in French
ARLL031S5 German and Italian Fascism: History, Culture and Memory (Level 5)
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
AREL085H6 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

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

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 may vary between Linguistics modules and '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.

- **Classes** for both 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.

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.

- 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-sessional 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.

Culture
Further, you will be expected to be able to:

A. **Knowledge of studies relating to French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Latin American cultures**
   - 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 listed above.
   - Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of these cultures and societies.

B. **Intercultural awareness and understanding**
   - Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies, other than the student's own.
C. **Intellectual**

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

D. **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.

E. **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

You will find Linguistics and Culture 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 a foreign modern language
- 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.

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.