

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA Linguistics and Language (French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – BA Linguistics and [<i>named Language</i>] OR – BA Linguistics with [<i>named Language</i>] <i>If Year Abroad taken:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Any of the above awards 'with International Experience' – BA Linguistics and Culture (title awarded on exit only)
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	Linguistics, Languages, Cultures and Societies
UCAS code	Q101; Q1E5 (with int exp); Q102 (with FY)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBALNGN_C (full-time, 3 years) UUBALNGX_C (full-time with int exp, 4 years) UUBFLNGN_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBALNGLN_C (part-time, 4 years) UBFLNGLN_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 101212 Korean 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	23/05/2024

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 points 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, see Arts Foundation Year programme specification.)

The BA Linguistics and Language degree is aimed at students who want to learn about linguistics at the same time as acquiring a high level of competence in a modern language. The programme offers full-time, evening, face-to-face study, combining the study of a modern foreign language and linguistics to a high level.

Linguistics

The linguistics component of the programme is aimed at students who want to learn about linguistics at the same time as acquiring a high level of competence in a modern language.

On this programme students learn about the structure and functions of language, and study the linguistic ideas and theories which enable us to model and analyse how language is patterned and how it is used. Specifically, you will study the major areas of linguistic, and learn how each of these areas enables us to understand how language is structured, and how people use language to communicate meanings, as well as information about themselves and their identity.

By studying linguistics, students can develop a scientific, critical approach to thinking about how language works, and how it functions within society. A unique feature of the BA Linguistics and Language is that students study aspects of Applied Linguistics – the application of linguistic methods to problems in real-world contexts. These aspects of linguistics are not normally taught as part of undergraduate degrees in linguistics.

Language

The aim of the languages component of the programmes is to allow students to reach a high level of competence in a modern foreign language (French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean or Spanish) over three or four years; to study the associated culture(s) of the language and to acquire advanced knowledge of a range of comparative cultural topics.

The chosen 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 N4-N3 or Advanced level N2, according to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). Students taking Korean will currently exit with Korean 3 equivalent to Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) Level 2.

Students who reach the higher exit levels in the language will be awarded a degree in e.g. Linguistics AND French. Students who reach the lower level will be awarded a degree in e.g. Linguistics WITH French.

For Korean, **only the ‘with Korean’ award title is currently available**, because we currently do not offer levels beyond Korean 3 for an exit level Korean proficiency.

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. Additionally, 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.

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; 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.

Course structure

For Foundation Year module details – see Arts Foundation year programme specification.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4		Language 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
4	ARLL010S4	Culture and Text	30	Option	T3
4	ARLL009S4	OR Culture and Image	30	Option	T3
Year 2					
5/6		Language 2, 3 or 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6)	30	Core	T1-T3
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1

5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5		Linguistics option (see below)	15	Option	T1, 2
5	Various:	Language-specific survey module	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARLL012S5	OR Comparative Themes in the Novel	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
	ARLL011S5	OR Themes in European and Japanese Cinema (offered in alternation)			
5	ARCL022S5	OR Cross-cultural comparative module: Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
	LNLN024S5	OR Representations of Gender, Love and Sexuality			
	ARCL125S5	OR Culture and crisis (one offered per year)			
Year 3 'with International Experience' only					
5		60 credits APL from modules taken at a partner institution	60	Option	n/a
Year 3 OR Year 4 'with International Experience' (120 credits – with 60 credits chosen from options0					
6		Language 4 or 5	30	Core	T1-3
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30	Core	T1-3
6		Linguistics option	15	Option	T1,2
chec 6		Language-specific survey module (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	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 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					
4	ARLL010S4	Culture and Text OR	30	Option	T2 or T3
4	ARLL009S4	Culture and Image	30	Option	T2 or T3
5/6		Language 2, 3 or 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6)	30	Core	T1-T3
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Comp	T1

Year 3 (Students must take 30 credits at Level 6 before Year 4, which may include Language module if it is final stage in Pathway)					
5/6		Language 3 or 4 (Level 5/6) or Language 5 (Level 6) (if not already taken)	30	Core	T1-T3
5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5		Linguistics Option	15	Option	T2
5/6	Various	Language-specific survey module (French / German & Italian / Japanese / Spanish & Latin American) (may be taken at L6 if needed)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARLL012S5	Comparative Themes in the Novel	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
	ARLL011S5	Themes in European and Japanese Cinema (offered in alternation)			
5	ARCL022S5	Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
	LNLN024S5	Representations of Gender, Love and Sexuality			
	ARCL125S5	Culture and crisis (one offered per year)			
6		Linguistics or Language Options (if needed at L6 – see below, Year 4)	2x15	Option	T1, T2 or T3
Year 4					
6		Language 4 or 5	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Linguistic option	15	Option	T2
6	NEW	Language-specific survey module (French /German & Italian / Japanese / Spanish & Latin American)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6		Range of Language-specific Options @ 15 credits	2x15	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6	LNLN005S6	Translation from and into French (students must have passed French 4)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3

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*

Award rules – see programme specific regulations below for information relating to the award of specific programme titles.

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 Identity in Applied Linguistics Research (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

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 '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 '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. We use a variety of assessment methods. 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-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.

Language

Further, 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 and/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/C2

The 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 the student's 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.

Korean

A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Korean 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; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Korean.

B-G. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the modern Korean society and culture.

Careers and further study

You will find Linguistics and Language 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.

Programme specific regulations: The title of the degree awarded is determined by the exit level of the language studied and the number of credits studied in the language area (which can include relevant culture modules). Students who achieve language level 3 and study at least 90 credits in the chosen language area will be eligible to obtain the BA (Hons) Linguistics with Language degree title. Students who reach a higher level of language, and complete 150 credits in modules related to their chosen language will be awarded the BA (Hons) Linguistics and Language.

The same rule will apply for those completing the BA Linguistics and Language with International Experience.

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.

Those students who do not reach the language exit level of at least 3 will not meet the above criteria and will achieve a BA (Hons) Linguistics and Culture award on the completion of their degree. To be awarded this title, students must study at least 90 credits of their 360 credits in culture/language modules, as well as 150 credits in linguistics modules.

Course Management: 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.

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](#).

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