PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**Cert HE Linguistics and Language** *Programme exit awards:* – Cert HE Linguistics and French – Cert HE Linguistics and German – Cert HE Linguistics and Italian – Cert HE Linguistics and Spanish – Cert HE Linguistics and Japanese – Cert HE Linguistics and Korean (Level 4)
Name and title of any interim qualification(s)	N/A
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
HomeSchool/other teaching departments	School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English and relevant language
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
[QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#)	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	UCHLINGC_C
HECoS Code	100328
Start date of programme	Autumn 2011
Date of programme approval	Summer 2011
Date of last programme amendment approval	May 2024
Valid for entry year	**2025-26**
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.

There are no specific A level requirements. Applicants are invited to take a written test and interview.

Course aims

This certificate programme is designed to give you a foundation in linguistics – the scientific study of language. The linguistics elements of the programme provide you with conceptual, theoretical and analytical skills which will enable you to reflect on and analyse structural, functional and communicative features of language. A distinctive feature of this programme is that it provides an opportunity to study areas of applied linguistics.

You will also learn Beginner's level Japanese; Korean; French; German; Italian or Spanish, which will enable you to communicate in your chosen language in a variety of social and work situations.

Course structure

The basic unit of certificate programmes is the module (30 credits). Students on the Cert HE Linguistics and Language programme must complete 4 core modules over 2 years on a part-time basis.

In your first year you must take both the Approaches to Study (level 4) module and the Language 1 or Language 2 (level 4) module, depending on your proficiency in the language.

In your second year you must take both the Approaches to Language (level 4) module and the Language 2 (level 4) or Language 3 (level 5) module, depending on which language module you took in your first year.

The programme has six possible routes, so that once completed a student will leave with one of the following awards based on what language they had studied:

Cert HE Linguistics and French
Cert HE Linguistics and German
Cert HE Linguistics and Italian
Cert HE Linguistics and Spanish
Cert HE Linguistics and Japanese
Cert HE Linguistics and Korean

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
4	ARLL004S4	Doing Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics	30	Core	T1
4	ARMC161S4 AREL062S4 AREL065S4 ARIB106S4 ARCL039S4 SC04010S4	Language 1 to include **either** Japanese 1, Korean 1, French 1, German 1, Spanish 1, Italian 1	30	Comp	T1-3
OR (depending on entry level)					
4	ARMC164S4 AREL067S4 AREL070S5 ARIB115S4 ARCL040S4 SC04013S4	Language 2 to include **either** Japanese 2, Korean 2, French 2, German 2, Spanish 2, Italian 2	30	Comp	T1-3
Year 2					
4	LNLN026S4	Approaches to Language	30	Core	T2
4	ARMC164S4 AREL067S4 AREL074S4 ARIB115S4 ARCL040S4 SC04013S4	Language 2 to include either Japanese 2, Korean 2, French 2, German 2, Spanish 2, Italian 2	30	Comp	T1-3
OR (depending on module taken in previous year)					
5	ARMC165S5 AREL070S5; AREL077S5; ARIB118S5 ARCL041S5 SC04017S5	Language 3 to include either Japanese 3, Korean 3, French 3, German 3, Spanish 3, Italian 3	30	Comp	T1-3

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 and teaching 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.

Teaching takes several forms, including lectures, seminars, discussions and presentations.

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 your degree are assessed entirely by your coursework, mainly in the form of essays. The language components are also assessed by written work, as well as by unseen exams.

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.

At the end of this course:

If you complete the pathway starting with Language 1, you will develop fluency in communicating in a variety of everyday social and work situations. You will also develop an ability to understand more complex situations. You will also acquire the ability to read and write in your chosen language at intermediate level.

If you complete the pathway starting with Language 2, you will be able to sustain relatively complex conversations in a wide range of social and work situations. You will also be able to distinguish different levels of politeness appropriately, and to understand relatively complex discussions and exchanges in a wide range of social and business situations.

You will develop an understanding of the role of cultural sensitivity in understanding and speaking your chosen language.

The Linguistics modules will give you an understanding of how language is structured, and the functions language performs in the individual, the group and society. You will learn linguistic concepts and theories, and how to apply these to analyse language data.

You will develop an understanding of Linguistics as a scientific approach to describing features of language, and exploring how language is used as a means of communication. Studying Linguistics will help you develop analytical and critical skills, and to understand the role of theory in explaining how language is organised and the roles that it plays in communication.

Through studying Linguistics you will gain an understanding of how ideas about language and language behaviour relate to other areas, such as psychology, society, and culture.

Working with fellow students, you will engage in critical debates, and carry out teamwork through group tasks. You will broaden your thinking and analytical skills through your study of a technically rigorous discipline.

Careers and further study

You will find Linguistic 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.

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.