

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA English and Language (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese) - BA English and French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese OR - BA English with French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese (Level 6)
Name and title of 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
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years; 4 years with Foundation Yr) Part-time (4 years; 6 years with Foundation Yr) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for England</u>	English Languages, Cultures and Societies
UCAS code	Q321; Q322 (with Foundation Year)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAENLN_C (full-time, 3 years) UBAENLNG_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFENLN_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFENLNG_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100329 100320 (100322) French studies 100324) German studies (100327) Italian studies (101143) Brazilian studies (100765) Iberian studies (101168) Japanese studies (101212) Korean studies (101164) Chinese studies
Start date of programme	October 2015
Date of programme approval	Summer 2014
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Programme Director	Grace Halden
Date of last revision to document	01/12/2025

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: 112 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

This course aims to:

- Provide a stimulating introduction to English as taught at Birkbeck in the School of Arts.
- Provide progression from foundation year level to MA study in English and related subjects at Birkbeck.
- Provide a broad and balanced degree programme enabling students to engage imaginatively in the reading and analysing of literary texts from all periods from the early medieval period to the present.
- Enhance students' abilities in critical thinking, enabling them to develop independent critical judgement.
- Develop students' knowledge of a range of textual forms (including poetry, drama, novels, short stories, graphic novels) and genres (such as tragedy, comedy, the gothic, science fiction, romance, life-writing).
- Develop students' knowledge and understanding of a diverse range of critical theories, such that they are able to enter into critical debate and make their own use of various methodological approaches.
- Enhance students' ability to write lucid, logical and well-structured prose, enabling them to write on the subject matter of their modules at progressively extended length, in a range of academic, and, as appropriate, creative, genres.
- Develop students' understanding of the ways literature responds to and helps shape its social and political contexts, exploring issues such as race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, and environmental politics.
- Provide students with a broad and balanced understanding of the practices of academic reading, research and writing.
- Enable students to develop skills in editing and revising their own writing.
- Enable students to consolidate learning through lecturer/peer feedback.
- Produce well-rounded graduates ready to make a contribution to the professional environment across a range of relevant sectors (arts and culture, education, charity, law, the civil service), or to progress to postgraduate studies.

Specific aims of the Language component of the programmes are:

- to allow students to reach a high level of competence in a modern foreign language (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese).
- to study the associated culture(s) of the language.
- to acquire advanced knowledge of a range of comparative cultural topics.

Distinctive Features:

- The compulsory English modules provide students with a strong foundation in key literary concepts and skills, explored from diverse perspectives and energising modes of study.
 - Optional English modules allow students to develop their own specialist interests with research-led option modules
 - Students are supported by a Personal Tutor throughout the course, providing individual consultation to help address specific skills development, offer academic consultation when choosing options and dissertation topics, and provide a familiar point of contact for pastoral issues.
 - Students benefit from a range of written and verbal feedback on their work, tailored to help them improve their skills, knowledge and understanding throughout the course.
 - Students can apply to take part in a competitive Industry Placement module where they spend a term working in an arts-related organisation or arts-related role.
 - Employers highly value the analytical, critical and communication skills an English degree provides.
 - The degree also provides ideal preparation for postgraduate study.
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- The distinctive nature of the languages component of the programmes lies in the flexibility of our languages offering, which extends to the full range of languages taught at Birkbeck (currently French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean or Mandarin Chinese) and allows entry at a variety of levels of language competence.
 - For the European languages included in this programme, language entry levels are at one of five levels, as defined in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): Level A1 (Beginners); Level A2 (GCSE or equivalent); Level B1 (AS/A level or equivalent); Level B2 (A level + or equivalent); Level C1 (Proficiency).
 - For Japanese there are four basic entry levels, all pegged to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT): Beginners, Upper Beginner, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate.
 - For Korean, there are three levels, pegged towards the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK): Beginners for Korean 1, Post-beginners for Korean 2 (entry with just under TOPIK 1), and Pre-intermediate for Korean 3 (entry with post-TOPIK 1 but under TOPIK 2).
 - For Chinese, there are three levels, pegged towards the Chinese proficiency test Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK): HSK1 for Chinese 1, HSK2 for Chinese 2, HSK3 for Chinese 3.
 - After three years (full-time), students who start at approximately A-level standard language competence will attain a level which conforms to the 'typical' exit level equivalent to CEFR Level C1/C2, as defined in the QAA benchmark statement for 'Languages and related studies', or JLPT Level N2.
 - Those full-time or part-time students who start at CEFR A1 or JLPT N5 (Language 1) or full-time students who start with CEFR A2 or JLPT N5 (Language 2) will exit with either CEFR B2 or JLPT N4-N3 (Language 3) or CEFR C1 or JLPT N3-N2 (Language 4).
 - For Korean, only the 'with Korean' award title is currently available, because we currently do not offer a single-honours Korean programme, leading to unavailability of an 'exit level proficiency for Korean'.
 - For Chinese, students will start from beginners and exit after three years with close to HSK3 proficiency (entry to Chinese 1, exit with Chinese 3).
 - PLEASE NOTE: All Language modules are taken over three terms (10+10+4 weeks, 2.5 hours per week)
 - Students complete 180-210 credits on English side of programme and 150-180 credits on Language side of programme.

- If a student achieves the exit level of CEFR C2 (European Language 5) or JLPT Level N3 or above (Japanese 4/5) in their language, and has 150 credits on the Language side of the programme, the eventual award title is:
 - BA English and French
 - BA English and German
 - BA English and Italian
 - BA English and Japanese
 - OR
 - BA English and Spanish
- If a student completes at least 150 credits on the Language side but does not achieve CEFR C2 (European Language 5) or JLPT Level N3 or above (Japanese 4/5), the degree awarded is BA English with Language (either French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese).
- If a student completes fewer than 150 but at least 90 credits on the Language side, this constitutes a 'Minor' pathway, and the award title becomes, e.g., English with French, etc. Please note for the award of a language minor degree with 90 credits of language, ie English with Language (either French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese), students must achieve a language level of at least 3.
- For Korean and Mandarin Chinese, **only the 'with Korean/Chinese' award title is currently available**, because we currently do not offer levels beyond Korean 3 or Chinese 3 for an exit level Korean/Chinese proficiency.

Course structure

(For Foundation Year modules, please see the Arts Foundation Year specification)

'Language' in the following = French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling	30	Compulsory	T1 -2
4	ENHU007S4	Writing London	30	Compulsory	T2
4		Language 1, 2, 3 or 4	30	Core	T1-3
4	ARLL010S4 ARLL009S4 LNLN023S4	Language 'culture' modules: Culture and Text OR Culture and Image OR Rethinking Japan	30	Option	T2 or T3
Year 2					
5		English option module	30	Option	
5		English option module	30	Option	
5		Language 2, 3 or 4 OR	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Language 5	30	Core	T1-T3

5	Various ARLL012S5/ ARLL011S5	Language-specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel /Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Comparative module e.g. ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
Year 3					
6		English option module	30	Option	
6		English option module or dissertation	30	Option	
6		Language 3, 4 or 5 OR	30	Core	T1-T3
5		Language 'culture' module (if Language 5 taken in Year 2)	30	Option	T1 OR T2
6		Language 'culture' module(s)	30 OR 15+15	Option	T1 OR T2
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling	30	Compulsory	T1&T2
4	ENHU007S4	Writing London	30	Compulsory	T2
4		Language 1, 2, 3 or 4	30	Core	T1-T3
Year 2					
5		English option module	30	Option	
4	ARLL010S4 ARLL009S4 LNLN023S4	Culture and Text OR Culture and Image OR Rethinking Japan	30	Option	T2 or T3
5		Language 2, 3 or 4 OR	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Language 5	30	Core	T1-T3
Year 3 (Students must take 30 credits at Level 6)					
5/6		English option module	30	Option	
5	Various ARLL012S5/ ARLL011S5	Language-specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel OR Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Comparative module e.g. ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5/6		Language 3, 4 (taken at Level 6 if final stage in pathway) OR	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Language 5 OR	30	Core	T1-T3
5/6		Language 'culture' module(s) (if Language 5 taken in Year 2)	30 or 2x15	Option	T1 OR T2

Year 4 (Students complete 150-180 credits on Language side of programme)					
6		English option module	30	Option	
6		English option module or dissertation	30	Option	
6		Language 4 or 5	30	Core	T1-T3
6		OR Language 'culture' module(s) (if Language 5 taken in Year 2)	30 or 2x15	Option	T1 OR T2

Indicative English Options:

Level 5

AREN247S5 European Drama and Theatre

AREN100S5 Creative non-fiction

AREN236S5 Flight Paths: Migration, Diaspora and Identity

ENHU004S5 Literature, Empire and Race

AREN163S5 Telling the Self

Level 6

AREN249S6 America Rewired: US Literature and Culture since the 1960s

AREN139S6 Fiction Workshop: The Contemporary Novel

ENHU049S6 Fin-de-Siecle

AREN258S6 Literature and the Politics of Feelings

AREN069S6 The Victorians and their World

Indicative list of Language survey/culture options:

Level 5:

ARLL012S5 Themes in the European and Japanese Novel

ARLL011S5 Themes in European and Japanese Cinema

ARCL088H6 Contemporary Literature in French

LNLN026S5 Masterpieces of French Literature and Culture: From the Enlightenment to Postmodernity (Level 5)

ARLL031S5 German and Italian Fascism: History, Culture and Memory (Level 5)

ARMC145S5 Popular Culture of East Asia

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

ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures

LNLN024S5 Representations of Love, Desire and Sexuality

SC04067S5 Exile and Nation in Modern Spain (Level 5)

Level 6:

ARMC187S6 Manga and Anime

AREL003H6 Sensibility and Sociability in the Eighteenth-Century French Novel

ARCL054H6 The Twentieth-Century German Novel

AREL086H6 Culture in the Weimar Republic

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

LNLN054S6 Space, Culture and Society in Brazil

ARCL128S6 Telling the Twentieth Century: Sexuality, Race and Storytelling in Twentieth Century Italian Literature & Film (Level 6)

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 on the programme is varied. English and Language 'culture' modules at Levels 4 and 5 are typically taught by lectures, seminars, and workshops. Modules at Level 6 are usually taught in seminar groups as well as through individual supervision sessions for the Dissertation. Some modules include one-to-one tutorials by arrangement (for example to discuss essay feedback). You may also encounter other forms of teaching - e.g. language work – depending on the options you choose.

Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare. Workshops based on more hands-on exercises that allow you practice skills such as close reading and critical analysis.

Language classes are normally 2.5 hours long. Activities are varied; the Languages department pioneered the use of learning software for languages, and this has now been extended to Moodle, which allows access to additional targeted language learning materials. Regular homework is given and returned to students, with extensive feedback, usually within a week. All classes are conducted in the target language.

Other important modes of learning include: note-taking, textual analysis, private study, library and archival research, use of internet sources, as well completion of the assessed work.

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.

Assessment methods in English include commentaries, essays, take-home examinations and the option of an independent final year dissertation, as well as a wide range of exercises designed to evaluate different abilities and prepare students to the range of genres, lengths, and writing skills required in the twenty-first-century workplace.

Assessment methods in Languages include a variety of exercises testing skills in writing, reading, speaking and listening, including (but not limited to) 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.

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, you should be able to:

- Have a wider and deeper knowledge of English literature.
- Recognize, discuss, and write about forms and genres of literary text.
- Write analytically.
- Have knowledge of current and recent critical theories relevant to the study of literature and apply them as critical tools.
- Demonstrate critical skills in the close reading and analysis of literary texts
- Choose appropriate subjects and write about them, as well as to edit, develop, and extend an analytical (and as appropriate creative) piece of work.
- Demonstrate research skills, including the ability to gather, sift and organise material independently and critically and to present it in the form of an essay, report, presentation or creative piece.
- Have gained skills of self-evaluation enabling you to reflect on your own practice.
- Demonstrate bibliographical skills, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work.
- Think critically and independently.

French, German, Italian, Spanish

A. Use of the target language

- Our French, German, Italian and Spanish language 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 proposal. Additionally, on successful completion of the Language component of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

- 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.
- Be able to 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.
- Be able to 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.

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-D. As above, and:

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

Mandarin Chinese

A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Mandarin Chinese 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 Mandarin Chinese.

B-D. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the modern Sinophone societies and cultures.

Careers and further study

You will find English 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
- 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.

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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