PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BA Modern Languages** (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese) If two languages studied: – BA Language A and Language B – OR – BA Language A with Language B If one language studied: – BA French Studies – BA German Studies – BA Spanish and Latin American Studies If Year Abroad taken: – Any of the above awards 'with International Experience' (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 Department/other teaching departments	Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics
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) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Languages Cultures and Societies
UCAS code	RR12; RR13 (with int exp); RR1F
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBALNMD_C (full-time, 3 years) UUBALNDX_C (full-time with int exp, 4 years) UBALNMDR_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFLNMD_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFLNMDR_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	(CAH19-04) 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 (101164) Chinese studies
Start date of programme	c1990 (single language programmes except Japanese); 2008 (two languages)
Date of programme approval	c. 1990/2008
Date of last programme amendment approval	May 2024
Valid for academic year and cohorts	**2026-27**
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 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 Foundation Year programme specification.

The programme, offering evening, face-to-face study, allows students to study ANY TWO foreign modern languages, from the full range of languages offered at Birkbeck (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean or Mandarin Chinese), 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. 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 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 taking Mandarin Chinese will currently exit with Chinese 3 equivalent to Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Level 3.

Students who reach the higher exit levels in BOTH languages (in practice taking and passing Language 5 in both), and who take between 150 and 210 credits relating to each language, will be awarded a degree in e.g. French AND Spanish.

Students who reach the higher level in only ONE of these languages (reaching Language 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. French WITH Spanish.

Students taking Korean will currently exit with Korean 3 equivalent to Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) Level 2.

Students taking Mandarin Chinese will currently exit with Chinese 3 equivalent to Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Level 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.

Alternatively, students may elect to study ONLY ONE of the following languages: French, German, or Spanish; in which they must attain an 'exit' level equivalent to EITHER Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level C1/C2. Students taking one language will be awarded one of the following degrees: BA French Studies, BA German Studies, or BA Spanish and Latin American Studies. (Students wishing to study Japanese as a single language should apply to the separately listed BA Japanese Studies directly)

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(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 seven languages taught at Birkbeck (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean and Mandarin Chinese).

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1 *(120 credits from modules indicated depending on language pathway being followed)*					
4		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 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	ARLL010S4	Culture and Text AND/OR	30	Option	T2 or T3
4	ARLL009S4	Culture and Image AND/OR	30	Option	T2 or T3

4	LNLN023S4	Rethinking Japan (Japanese students only)	30	Comp	T2
Year 2 *(120 credits from modules indicated depending on language pathway being followed)*					
5/6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 4 (Level 5) or Language 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		Language-specific survey module (French /German & Italian/ Spanish & Latin American)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARMC145S5 ARMC093S5	Popular Culture in Japan and East Asia OR Theorising Japanese Cinema (Japanese students only)	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)	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 'with International Experience' only					
5		60 credits APL from modules taken at a partner institution* (see below)	60	Option	n/a
Year 3 OR Year 4 'with International Experience' (120 credits from modules indicated depending on language pathway being followed)					
6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 5 (if not already taken)	30	Core	T1-T3
6		LANGUAGE TWO (if student taking second language): Language 4 or 5	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
6		Language-specific survey module (French /German & Italian/ Spanish & Latin American) (may be taken at L5 if Lang 5 taken in Y2)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6	ARMC187S6 ARMC203S6	Manga and Anime OR Advanced Seminar in Japanese Culture and Society (Japanese students only)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6		Range of 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
6	ARCL123S6	Languages and Cultures Dissertation	30	Option	T1-T3
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1 (90 credits from modules indicated depending on language pathway being followed)					
4		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 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	ARLL010S4	Culture and Text AND/OR	30	Option	T2 or T3
4	ARLL009S4	Culture and Image AND/OR	30	Option	T2 or T3
4	LNLN023S4	Rethinking Japan (Japanese students only)	30	Option	T2
Year 2 (90 credits from modules indicated depending on language pathway being followed)					
5/6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 3 or 4 (Level 5) or Language 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
4		Level 4 Option (as above YEAR 1)	30	Option	T2 or T3
5		Language-specific survey module (French /German & Italian/ Spanish & Latin American) OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	ARMC145S5 ARMC093S5	Popular Culture in Japan and East Asia OR Theorising Japanese Cinema (Japanese students only)	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)	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 (Students must take 30 credits at Level 6 before Year 4, which may include Language 5) (*90 credits in total from modules indicated depending on language pathway being followed)*					
5/6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6) (if not already taken)	30	Core	T1-T3
5/6		LANGUAGE TWO (if student taking second language): Language 3 or 4 (Level 5) or Language 5 (Level 6) (if not already taken)	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
5		Level 5 Option(s) (as above YEAR 2)	30/60	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6		Level 6 Option(s) (as below YEAR 4)	30/60	Option	T1, T2 or T3
Year 4 *(90 credits from modules indicated depending on language pathway being followed)*					
6		LANGUAGE ONE: Language 5 (if not already taken)	30	Core	T1-T3
6		LANGUAGE TWO (if student taking second language): Language 4 or 5	30	Core if taken	T1-T3
6		Language-specific survey module (French /German & Italian/ Spanish & Latin American) (may be taken at L5 if Lang 5 taken in Y2)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6	ARMC187S6 ARMC203S6	Manga and Anime OR Advanced Seminar in Japanese Culture and Society (Japanese students only)	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
6		Range of 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
6	NEW	Dissertation	30	Option	N/A

**APL from modules taken at a partner institution*: where a student is unable to complete credit from a partner institution these APL credits may be substituted through taking the two 30 credit level 5 option modules: ARCL067S5 Study Abroad Module 1 and ARCL068S5 Study abroad Module 2.

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

Note: 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.

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 Languages and Linguistics cluster in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication.

- **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.
- 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.

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/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 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.

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.

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-G. As above, and:

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

Careers and further study

You will find **Modern Languages** 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: https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/careers-service.

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.

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