

### Programme Specification

1	<b>Awarding body</b>	University of London
2	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<b>Birkbeck College</b>
3	<b>Programme Title(s)</b>	<b>BA French Studies/ BA French Studies with International Experience / BA French Studies with Foundation Year</b>
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	UUBAFRCH_C (Full-time 3 years) UBAFRNCH_C (Part-time 4 years) UBAFRNCD_C (Part-time 6 years) UUBAFRIX_C (full-time 4 years with International Experience) UUBFFRCH_C (full-time with Foundation Year 4 years) UBFFRNCH_C (part-time with Foundation Year 6 years)
5	<b>UCAS code</b>	R100: BA French Studies R101: BA French Studies with International Experience R102: BA French Studies with Foundation Year
6	<b>Home Department</b>	Cultures and Languages
7	<b>Exit Award(s)</b>	Cert HE, DipHE
8	<b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>	3 years, 4 years or 6 years
9	<b>Mode of Study</b>	Full time or Part time
10	<b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>	6
11	<b>Other teaching depts or institution</b>	Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication. For Foundation Year also English, Theatre and Creative Writing, Film, Media and Cultural Studies, History of Art
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>	N/A
13	<b><a href="#">QAA Benchmark Group</a></b>	Languages, Cultures and Societies

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>
	<p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>The programme, offering evening, face-to-face study, allows students to reach a BA honours degree 'exit' level of attainment in French (Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR), Level C1/C2) by the end of the three-year, four-year or six-year period of study. Students will also study the culture of France and French-speaking countries, either through the medium of that language, or in English. They will also have the opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge of a range of comparative cultural topics. Students study this programme in a three-year full-time, four-year-full-time, four-year part-time or six-year decelerated mode.</p> <p>Students taking the four-year full-time BA French Studies with International Experience programme will spend a year of study (normally the third year) in France or another French-</p>

	<p>speaking country. 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.</p> <p><b>More specifically we aim to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer a broad and balanced degree programme in the evening that enables students to engage fully in the improvement of their language skills, in the reading and analysing of a variety of literary texts from all periods from the Renaissance to the present day, in the study of French cinema from its origins, of contemporary French history and politics, and of aspects of French thought.</li> <li>2. 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.</li> <li>3. Enable our students to develop independent critical thinking and judgment.</li> <li>4. 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 French. To these should be added appropriate IT skills and confidence to engage with evolving media.</li> <li>5. To enable our students to work or study in France or another French-speaking country (subject to the restrictions stated above) either for a term, as an optional part of the three-year full-time degree, or for a year as part of the four-year full-time BA French Studies 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</li> </ol> <p><b>Further distinctive features:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are particularly well-known for the strength of our language teaching provision.</li> <li>2. The relatively high proportion of francophone students not only enriches all students’ learning experience through shared experience and discussion, but also strengthens the French atmosphere we endeavour to create in our classes and social activities.</li> <li>3. We offer a varied range of modules relating both to French and francophone cultures, and to the comparative study of cultures relating to French and to the other languages taught at Birkbeck (currently German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish).</li> </ol>
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15	<p><b>Entry Criteria</b></p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To join the full-time programme you must normally have A-level/B2 (CEFR) competence, or the equivalent, in French, but a high AS/B1 level qualification may also be accepted. To join the part-time programme you would normally need GSCE/A2 (CEFR) competence, or the equivalent.</p>
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	<p><b>UCAS TARIFF POINTS:</b> 104-128 points</p> <p>The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p><b>FOUNDATION YEAR DEGREES:</b> You can progress onto the BA French Studies if you successfully complete the foundation year of our BA French Studies with Foundation Year course. This is an ideal route onto an undergraduate degree if you are returning to study after a gap, or if you have not previously studied this subject, or if you didn't achieve the grades you need for a place on this degree.</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:</b> If English is not your first language or you have not previously studied in English, our usual requirement is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 6.5, with not less than 6.0 in each of the sub-tests.</p> <p>If you don't meet the minimum IELTS requirement, we offer pre-sessional English courses, foundation programmes and language support services to help you improve your English language skills and get your place at Birkbeck.</p> <p>Visit the International section of our website to find out more about our English language entry requirements and relevant requirements by country.</p> <p>For the BA French Studies with International Experience, please be aware that international students who require a Tier 4 visa will initially be provided with a CAS to study for the first two years of your course whilst at Birkbeck. During your third year of study at an institution abroad, you will be required to obtain a visa for that specific country. When you return to the UK to complete your fourth year, Birkbeck will issue you with a second CAS so that you can apply for another Tier 4 visa for your final year. You will therefore need to make a total of three visa applications – two for Birkbeck and one for the institution abroad</p>
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16	<p><b>Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p><b><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></b></p> <p><b>Subject Specific:</b></p> <p><b>A. Use of the target language</b></p> <p>1. Our French language courses have been mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Stage 1 A1-A2 Stage 2 B1 Stage 3 B2 Stage 4 C1 Stage 5 C2</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">The aims and objectives for each of these stages are defined for each corresponding module.</p>
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	<p>2. Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in French, with competent or native speakers of French, to a level approximately equivalent to a BA honours degree 'exit' level (CEFR level C2)</p> <p>3. Be able to exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, to contextualise a broad range of materials in written or spoken French appropriate to the level attained.</p> <p>4. Be able to apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.</p> <p><b>B. Explicit knowledge of language</b></p> <p>5. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of French.</p> <p>6. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse French. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)</p> <p><b>C. Knowledge of related studies</b></p> <p>7. 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 of French-speaking countries.</p> <p>8. Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of the cultures and societies of French-speaking countries gained through one or more of the creative media of French.</p> <p><b>D. Intercultural awareness and understanding</b></p> <p>9. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies, other than the student's own.</p> <p>10. Demonstrate an ability to describe, analyse and evaluate the similarities and dissimilarities of one or more French-speaking culture or society in comparison with the student's own.</p> <p><b>Intellectual:</b></p> <p>11. Identify and describe problems and to devise effective strategies for their resolution.</p> <p>12. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding.</p> <p><b>Practical</b></p> <p>See Subject-specific skills, plus the following:</p> <p>13. Gather, process and evaluate critically information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources.</p> <p>14. Use IT effectively, both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning.</p> <p><b>Personal and Social</b></p> <p>15. Communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both orally and in writing with due regard to the target audience.</p> <p>16. Be responsive to the discipline of working with others and to work effectively as part of a team.</p> <p>17. Be an effective and self-aware independent learner.</p>
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17	<p><b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b></p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>Learning and teaching methods vary between Language modules and 'Content' 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 European Cultures and Languages.</p>
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- Classes (90 minutes) 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.
- Language classes are 3 hours long. Activities are varied and are designed to promote student participation. Regular homework is given and returned to students, with extensive feedback, usually within a week. Assessment takes place at regular intervals throughout the academic year and takes a variety of forms as appropriate to the language-level of the module, including in-class tests, oral presentations, essays and other written tasks.
- Assessment for 'content' modules is via a combination of assessed essays and in class tests.

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- Language classes are 3 hours long. Activities are varied and are designed to promote student participation. Regular homework is given and returned to students, with extensive feedback, usually within a week. Assessment takes place at regular intervals throughout the academic year and takes a variety of forms as appropriate to the language-level of the module, including in-class tests, oral presentations, essays and other written tasks.
- Assessment for 'content' modules is via a combination of assessed essays and in class tests.

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. All students may be required to take an oral exam on their return

18	<p><b>Programme Structure</b></p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <p><b>All students on all versions of the programme will take in their first-year a compulsory, zero-weighted study skills module, called ‘Doing Cultures and Languages’.</b></p> <p><b>Three-year full-time, four-year part-time, six-year decelerated modes:</b>        All students, whether full-time or part-time, take 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6. Full-time students therefore take Level 4 in Year One, Level 5 modules in Year Two and Level 6 modules in Year Three, whereas part-time students take 30 credits of Level 4 in Year Two and 30 credits of Level 6 in Year Three (of four).</p> <p>Normally, 240 credits are made up of French language and language ‘content’ modules and up to 120 credits can be chosen from beyond the French programme.</p> <p><b>‘With International Experience’ programmes:</b>        The degree will be made up of 420 credits. 360 credits will be taken at Birkbeck (in accordance with the 3-year full-time programme). 60 credits will be awarded as APL for the study undertaken during the year abroad (normally as credit only without marks being recorded). This credit will normally be awarded at Level 5.</p> <p>Students will be able to start the degree from intermediate level or above.</p> <p>Year One = 120 credits at Birkbeck        Year Two = 120 credits at Birkbeck        Year Three = 60 credits at European partner institution        Year Four = 120 credits at Birkbeck</p> <p><b>Language Pathways:</b>        A student’s programme of study is determined by his or her language pathways. The language pathway is determined by the student’s level of proficiency in French at entry. Possible entry levels are as follows (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) entry → exit levels for these courses are given in brackets):</p> <p>French 2 (Elementary A2 → Intermediate B1)        French 3 (Intermediate B1 → Upper Intermediate B2)        French 4 (Upper Intermediate B2 → Advanced C1)        French 5 (Advanced C1 → Proficiency C2)</p> <p>The language modules in any given pathway are core modules and each is worth 30 credits</p> <p><b>Pathway A (available for 6 year programme only):</b>        Students take French 1 (Level 4) in their first year and French 2 (Level 4), French 3 (Level 5), French 4 (Level 5) and French 5 (Level 6) consecutively in subsequent years.</p> <p>They also take <b>content</b> modules, spread over their programme of study as follows: 60 credits at Level 4, 60 credits at Level 5 and 90 credits at Level 6.</p> <p><b>Pathway B (not available for 3 year programme):</b></p>
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Students take French 2 (Level 4) in their first year and French 3 (Level 5), French 4 (Level 5) and French 5 (Level 6) consecutively in subsequent years.

They also take **content** modules, spread over their programme of study as follows: 90 credits at Level 4, 60 credits at Level 5 and 90 credits at Level 6.

**Pathway C:**

Students take French 3 (Level 4) in their first year and French 4 (Level 5) and French 5 (Level 6) consecutively in subsequent years.

They also take **content** modules, spread over their programme of study as follows: 90 credits Level 4, 90 credits at Level 5 and 90 credits at Level 6.

**Pathway D:**

Students take French 4 (Level 4) in their first year and French 5 (Level 6) in their second year.

They also take **content** modules, spread over their programme of study as follows: 90 credits at Level 4, 120 credits at Level 5 and 90 credits at Level 6.

**Pathway E:**

Students take French 5 (Level 6) in their second year.

They also take **content** modules, spread over their programme of study as follows: 120 credits at Level 4, 120 credits at Level 5 and 90 credits at Level 6.

For **all Pathways** a minimum of 240 credits of the 360 credits taken must have French content, including French language, linguistics and culture modules. All students must take 'Imagining France' (Level 4; 30 credits; compulsory).

**Content modules** can be taken as follows (a balanced range of the following is offered in any one year):

Imagining France: An Introduction to French Studies (Level 4; 30 credits)

Masterpieces of French Literature and Culture from the Eighteenth Century to Postmodernity (Level 4/5; 30 credits)

French Cinema: History, Practice, Analysis (Level 5; 30 credits)

French Thought: from the Renaissance to Postmodernity (Level 5/6; 30 credits)

Translation from and into French (Level 6; 30 credits)

France from Defeat to Liberation (Level 6; 15 credits)

French Decolonisation (Level 6; 15 credits)

The French Short Story: from Balzac to Maupassant (Level 6; 15 credits)

Writing the Self: Autobiographical Narratives in the 20th and 21st Centuries (Level 6; 15 credits)

Fictions of Enlightenment (Level 6; 15 credits)

Sensibility and Sociability in the Eighteenth-Century French Novel (Level 6; 15 credits)

Voice, Identity, Gender: Women's Writing in France (Level 5/6, 30 credits)

Contemporary Literature in French (Level 6, 15 credits)

The Twentieth-Century French Humanist Novel: Malraux and Camus

Comparative 'culture' optional modules (all 30 credits)

Understanding Culture: Language and Texts (Level 4)

Reading Transnational Cultures (Levels 4 & 5)

Culture and Crisis (Levels 4 & 5)

	Representations of Love, Desire and Sexuality (Levels 5 & 6; 30 credits)			
	Post-War: Key Themes in Comparative European History since 1945 (Levels 5 & 6; 30 credits)			
<b>3 year full-time sample programme: Language Pathway C</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	LNLN022S4	Imagining France: An Introduction to French Studies	30	Compulsory
4	LNLN021S4 OR LNLN026S4	EITHER Understanding Culture: Language and Texts OR Approaches to Language	30	Option
4		Option	30	Option
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core
<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL071S5	French 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
<b>Year 3</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	AREL072S6	French 5	30	Core
6		Option	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
6	ARCL035S6	Advanced French Seminar	30	Option
<b>4 year part-time sample programme: Language Pathway B</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	AREL067S4	French 2 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	LNLN022S4	Imagining France: An Introduction to French Studies	30	Compulsory
4		Option	30	Option
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core



<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL070S5	French 3 (Level 5)	30	Core
4		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
<b>Year 3</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL071S5	French 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
<b>Year 4</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	AREL072S6	French 5	30	Core
6	ARCL035S6	Advanced French Seminar	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
<b>6 year sample programme: Language Pathway A</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREL062S4	French 1 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	LNLN022S4	Imagining France: An Introduction to French Studies	30	Compulsory
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core
<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREL067S4	French 2 (Level 4)	30	Core
4		Option	30	Option
<b>Year 3</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	AREL070S5	French 3 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		Option	30	Option
<b>Year 4</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL071S5	French 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option

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<b>Year 5</b>				
6	AREL072S6	French 5	30	Core
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
<b>Year 6</b>				
6	ARCL035S6	Advanced French Seminar	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
<b>4 year full-time 'with International Experience' sample programme: Language Pathway C</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	LNLN022S4	Imagining France: An Introduction to French Studies	30	Compulsory
4	LNLN021S4 OR LNLN026S4	EITHER Understanding Culture: Language and Texts OR Approaches to Language	30	Option
4		Option	30	Option
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core
<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL071S5	French 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
<b>Year 3</b>				
5	N/A	60 credits APL from modules taken at a partner institution**	60	Option
**Note: where student is unable to complete credit from partner institution these APL credits may be substituted through taking the two 30 credit level 5 option modules: ARCL067S5 Study Abroad 2 and ARCL068S5 Study abroad 2,				
<b>Year 4</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	AREL072S6	French 5	30	Core
6		Option	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
6	ARCL035S6	Advanced French Seminar	30	Option

**Status\***

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

Year of entry: 2021/22



19	<b>Programme Director</b>	Dr Ann Lewis
20	<b>Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)</b>	c.1990
21	<b>Date approved by TQEC</b>	c.1990
22	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	c.1990
23	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	May 2020