

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA German/ BA German with International Experience / BA German with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBAGERM_C (full-time 3 years) UBAGERMN_C (part-time 4 years) UUBAGMIX_C (full-time with int experience 4 years) UUBFGERM_C (full-time with Foundation Year 4 years) UUBFGERMN_C (part time with Foundation Year 6 years)
5	UCAS code	R200: BA German R201: BA German with International Experience R202: BA German with Foundation Year
6	Home Department	Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics
7	Exit Award(s)	Cert HE, Dip HE
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years, 4 years or 6 years
9	Mode of Study	Full time, Part time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	For Foundation Year: also English, Theatre and Creative Writing, Film, Media and Cultural Studies, History of Art
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Group	Languages, Cultures and Societies

14	Programme Rationale & Aims	
	<p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>Main Aims</p> <p>This programme, offering evening, face-to-face study, allows students to reach a BA honours degree 'exit' level of attainment in German (Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR), Level C1/C2) by the end of a three-year, four-year or six-year period of study. Students also study the culture of Germany and German-speaking countries, either through the medium of that language, or in English, and 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 'with International Experience' programme will spend a year of study (normally the third year) in a German-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</p>	

	<p>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>More specifically we aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 German cinema from its origins, German philosophy and 19th and 20th century German history. 2. Provide access to learning and curricula appropriate for students with a range of traditional and non-traditional educational backgrounds, including European and international students. 3. Enable our students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement. 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 German. To these should be added appropriate IT skills and confidence to engage with evolving media. 5. To enable our students to work or study in a German-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 German with International Experience in order to provide them with an opportunity to develop their language skills and their knowledge of the culture of Germany, Austria or Switzerland, as well as to acquire a range of transferable personal, academic and employability skills. <p>Further distinctive features:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are particularly well-known for the strength of our language teaching-provision. 2. The flexibility of our language pathways means that students can normally enter the part-time programme at any language level from intermediate to near native and the full-time programme at any level from A-level to near native. All students have the opportunity to reach the BA honours degree ‘exit’ level of attainment. 3. The relatively high proportion of native or near-native German-speaking students not only enriches all students’ learning experience through shared experience and discussion, but also strengthens the German atmosphere we endeavour to create in our classes and social activities which is helped by our extremely active German society run by the students. 4. We offer a varied range of modules relating both to German culture, and the comparative study of cultures relating to German and to the other languages taught at Birkbeck (currently French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish).
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15	<p>Entry Criteria</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>
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	<p>To join the full-time programme you must normally have A-level/B2 (CEFR) competence, or the equivalent, in German, 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> <p>UCAS TARIFF POINTS 104-128 The UCAS tariff score is applicable to those who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>FOUNDATION YEAR DEGREES You can progress onto the BA German if you successfully complete the foundation year of our BA Arts and Humanities 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>INTERNATIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 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 German 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>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></p> <p>Subject Specific</p> <p>A. Use of the target language</p> <p>1. Our German language courses have been mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) as follows: Stage 1 A1-A2</p>
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	<p>Stage 2 B1 Stage 3 B2 Stage 4 C1 Stage 5 C2 The aims and objectives for each of these stages are defined for each corresponding module.</p> <p>2. Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in German, with competent or native speakers of German, 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 German appropriate to the level attained.</p> <p>4. Be able to apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.</p> <p>B. Explicit knowledge of language</p> <p>5. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of German.</p> <p>6. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse German. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)</p> <p>C. Knowledge of related studies</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 German-speaking countries.</p> <p>8. Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of the cultures and societies of German-speaking countries gained through one or more of the creative media of German.</p> <p>D. Intercultural awareness and understanding</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 German-speaking culture or society in comparison with the student's own.</p> <p>Intellectual</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>Practical</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>Personal and Social</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	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<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 Cultures and Languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Study abroad</p> <p>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.</p>
18	Programme Description
	<p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>Three-year full-time, four-year part-time, six-year decelerated modes:</p> <p>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 German language and language ‘content’ modules and up to 120 credits can be chosen from beyond the German programme.</p> <p>‘With International Experience’ programmes:</p> <p>The degree will be made up of 420 credits. 360 credits will be taken at Birkbeck (in accordance with the three-year, full-time BA German 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>

Students will be able to start the degree from intermediate level or above.

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

Language Pathways:

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 German 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):

German 2 (Elementary A2 → Intermediate B1)

German 3 (Intermediate B1 → Upper Intermediate B2)

German 4 (Upper Intermediate B2 → Advanced C1)

German 5 (Advanced C1 → Proficiency C2)

Language modules, stages 1-4, are offered at multiple Levels to allow students to take them at an appropriate level for their year of study, with additional learning outcomes and assessment elements at Levels 5 & 6. German 5 is only offered at Level 6. (Students on Language Pathways D and E take German 5 in Year Two.)

The language modules in any given pathway are core modules and each is worth 30 credits

Pathway A (available for 6 year programme only):

Students take German 1 (Level 4) in their first year and German 2 (Level 4), German 3 (Level 5), German 4 (Level 5) and German 5 (Level 6) consecutively in subsequent years.

They also take **content** 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.

Pathway B (not available for 3 year programme):

Students take German 2 (Level 4) in their first year and German 3 (Level 5), German 4 (Level 5) and German 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 German 3 (Level 4) in their first year and German 4 (Level 5) and German 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 German 4 (Level 4) in their first year and German 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.

<p>Pathway E: Students take German 5 (Level 6) in their second year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For all Pathways a minimum of 240 credits of the 360 credits taken must have German content, including German language, linguistics and culture modules. All students must take 'Cultural Perspectives on German Culture' (Level 4; 30 credits; compulsory) and the Extended Essay (Level 6; 30 credits; core).</p> <p>Content modules can be taken as follows (a balanced range of the following is offered in any one year):</p> <p>Cultural Perspectives on German History (Level 4/5; 30 credits) Transformation, Transgression and Tradition: German language Culture across the Centuries (Level 5; 30 credits) The Emergence of the German Nation State in the 'Long' Nineteenth Century (1770-1914) (Levels 5 and 6; 15 credits) The Weimar Republic (Levels 5 and 6; 15 credits) Literature and Society since 1945 (Levels 5 and 6; 15 credits) The German Novelle (Levels 5 and 6; 15 credits) German Film: Nation and Identity (Levels 5 and 6; 15 credits) The Nazi Regime (Levels 5 and 6; 15 credits) Wirtschaftsdeutsch (Level 6; 30 credits) Extended Essay (Level 6; 30 credits; core)</p>

19	Programme Structure			
3 year full-time sample programme: Language Pathway C				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	AREL042S4	Cultural Perspectives on German History	30	Compulsory
4	LNLN021S4 OR LNLN026S4	EITHER Understanding Culture: Language and Texts OR Approaches to Language	30	Option
4		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL078S5	German 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option

Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	AREL079S6	German 5	30	Core
6		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
6	LNLN016S6	Extended Essay	30	Core
4 year part-time sample programme: Language Pathway B				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREL074S4	German 2 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	Option	1 x 30 credit option	30	Option
4	AREL042S4	Cultural Perspectives on German History	30	Compulsory
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL077S5	German 3 (Level 5)	30	Core
4		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL078S5	German 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
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	AREL079S6	German 5	30	Core
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
6	LNLN016S6	Extended Essay	30	Core
6 year sample programme: Language Pathway AA				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREL065S4	German 1 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	AREL042S4	Cultural Perspectives on German History	30	Compulsory
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core

Year of entry: 2021/22



Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREL074S4	German 2 (Level 4)	30	Core
4		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL077S5	German 3 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL078S5	German 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 5				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	AREL079S6	German 5	30	Core
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 6				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
6	LNLN016S6	Extended Essay	30	Core
4 year full-time 'with International Experience' sample programme: Language Pathway C				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	AREL042S4	Cultural Perspectives on German History	30	Compulsory
4	LNLN021S4 OR LNLN026S4	EITHER Understanding Culture: Language and Texts OR Approaches to Language	30	Option
4		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREL078S5	German 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option

Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
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 Module 1 and ARCL068S5 Study abroad Module 2.				
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	AREL079S6	German 5	30	Core
6		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
6	LNLN016S6	Extended Essay	30	Core

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

20	Additional Programme Information
	Students who have completed the Cert He Culture and Language (German) may be admitted directly to the second year of the programme.

21	Programme Director	Dr Eckard Michels
22	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	c.1990
23	Date approved by TQEC	c.1990
24	Date approved by Academic Board	c.1990
25	Date(s) updated/amended	May 2020