Languages

English may be the preferred language of the business world but studying a second language can give you a huge advantage when it comes to job hunting. It also opens up exciting opportunities for working abroad.

You can find full details of your course in the *Programme Specification*.

**Which languages can I study?**

You can study the following languages at the University of Hertfordshire as a minor subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Beginners Route A</th>
<th>Intermediate Route B</th>
<th>Advanced Route C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin Chinese</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What level am I eligible for?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I have</th>
<th>What I can do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No prior knowledge/ 5 or below in GCSE</td>
<td>Beginners (Route A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCSE grades 6 or above or A1 grade D, E or equivalent</td>
<td>Intermediate (Route B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 pass or equivalent or A1 grade A – C or equivalent</td>
<td>Advanced (Route C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can only join a language class at a level commensurate to your prior knowledge or qualifications. For example:

- If you have a GCSE German grade 6 or above, you are only eligible for intermediate level, Route B.
- If you have an A-level Japanese, you are not eligible to take Japanese, as we don’t offer it at advanced level, Route C.
- If you have a Mandarin GCSE, grade 6 or above, you are not eligible to take Mandarin.
• If you have lived in a Spanish speaking country and studied in Spain at secondary school level, you are not eligible to take Spanish as you have already achieved advanced level.
• If you are a native/near native speaker but without any developed skills in writing the language, you are still not eligible to take a class in that language.

We reserve the right to assess your language level on arrival and you may be advised to attend an alternative route. If you're not eligible for a language you've previously studied because we do not offer a route appropriate to your level, we encourage you to take an alternative language to broaden your skills even further.

If you are unsure about your eligibility to study a language, but please contact the Admissions Tutor to discuss further.

Attendance Requirement
You are expected to attend 100% of all timetabled teaching sessions. You will benefit from this because students who attend tend to get better marks and degrees. Engaging with other students is also part of the learning experience.
If you cannot attend a class, you should contact the class tutor (whose details will be on the module Canvas site); you should also consult the module StudyNet site for any handouts or classroom materials stored there.

Academic Year

Academic Year 2021 - 2022
The University’s academic year is made up of 3 Semesters. For most undergraduate students the academic year is split into two Semesters (A & B). Each of these is made up of teaching weeks followed by exams (the re-sit period falls within Semester C)

• Semester A runs from Monday 27 September 2021 to Friday 21 January 2022
• Semester B runs from Monday 24 January 2022 to Friday 13 May 2022
• Semester C runs from Monday 16 May 2022 to Friday 9 September 2022

How will I study?
You will spend between two to three hours a week in class depending on the language level and size of the group. Our classes usually start with a lecture, followed by the opportunity to practise in small-group seminars and language lab sessions. You'll also be given directed learning tasks to work on at home each week.

Will my language studies be acknowledged in my degree title?
It will be reflected in your degree title provided that you have studied your chosen language for the duration of your degree i.e. three years.
Additional expenses

All language classes make full use of the resources offered by the internet. Our intranet called StudyNet also provides plenty of opportunities for accessing a wide range of materials. Depending on the level / language course you will be taking, you may be asked to buy a coursebook or a grammar book. This should not exceed £60 a year.

Spending a year abroad

As part of your studies, you can also spend a year in a country where your chosen language is spoken, studying at one of our partner universities and / or working. This will take place before you commence your final year, subject to meeting pre-requisites and the confirmation of a suitable institution or employer.

Learn more about spending a year abroad.

Careers

Learning a foreign language at any level can really open up your career opportunities, and it’s not just specialist occupations like translation, interpreting and teaching which you can go into. Practically any job can involve languages, whether it’s based in the UK or overseas. You could work in law, banking or insurance; the media, creative industries or PR; marketing, the civil service or manufacturing.