

# Languages



## Essentials

There are a number of ways to study languages at Sussex. We offer dual-language majors and joint majors involving a language with the choice of French, Italian or Spanish. All these degrees are four years long and incorporate a third year abroad, studying or working in a foreign-language setting

We also provide opportunities for students on a wide range of non-language degrees to gain proficiency in a variety of languages as part of the options available within their degrees (refer to page 87). This new scheme also provides the chance for students on our joint majors involving a language to gain proficiency in a second language if they wish

### What language degrees are there?

#### Dual-language majors

- French and Italian
- French and Spanish
- Italian and Spanish

#### Joint majors involving a language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)

- Anthropology and a Language (p32)
- Art History and a Language (p34)
- Drama Studies and a Language (p57)
- English and a Language (p68)
- English Language and a Language (p71)
- English Language Teaching and a Language (p72)
- Film Studies and a Language (p74)
- Geography and a Language (p77)
- International Development and a Language (p81)
- International Relations and a Language (p84)
- Media Studies and a Language (p97)
- Philosophy and a Language (p106)
- Politics and a Language (p112)
- Sociology and a Language (p121)

### Proficiency in a language

There are also opportunities for students on a wide range of non-language single-honours degrees to gain proficiency in a language as part of their options. Languages normally available in this scheme include French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese or Spanish. For more information, refer to page 87

### What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer for dual-language majors: ABB

To study a dual-language major, you must have A level grade B (or equivalent) in one of your chosen languages. Your other language can be taken from beginner's level if it is Italian or Spanish. However, if it is French, we would expect you to have at least a GCSE grade A\* (or equivalent) in that language

To study a language as part of a joint major involving a language, you must have A level grade B (or equivalent) in the chosen language. Refer to the relevant subject entry for information on any non-language requirements for the joint degree

Typical IB offer for dual-language majors: 34 points

To study a dual-language major, IB applicants would be expected to have one of their chosen languages at Higher Level (grade 5). The second language can be taken from beginner's level if it is Italian or Spanish. However, if it is French, we would expect some previous knowledge. For more information on entry requirements, contact:  
Undergraduate Admissions  
University of Sussex, Falmer  
Brighton BN1 9RH, UK  
E [ug.enquiries@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ug.enquiries@sussex.ac.uk)  
T +44 (0)1273 678416  
F +44 (0)1273 678545

To study a language as part of a joint major involving a language, IB students would normally be expected to have their chosen language at Higher Level (grade 5). Please see the relevant subject page for information on any non-language requirements for the joint degree

### Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

### How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:  
Sussex Centre for Language Studies,  
University of Sussex, Falmer,  
Brighton BN1 9SH, UK  
E [languages@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:languages@sussex.ac.uk)  
T +44 (0)1273 877258  
F +44 (0)1273 678476  
[www.sussex.ac.uk/languages](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages)

### When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours. Please book online at [www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors) or call 01273 876787





### Why languages?

The study of languages enables you to acquire excellent communication skills and enhance your understanding of your own and other cultures. Knowledge of a foreign language gives you access to the intellectual achievements and social developments of the countries where the target languages are spoken. In addition, the ability to speak a second language and the experience of having spent time studying or working abroad are major assets in the employment market. To quote Nelson Mandela: 'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.'

### Why languages at Sussex?

- Languages at Sussex is ranked in the top 25 in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11*.
- Intellectually stimulating degrees with relevant practical applications.
- Start post-A level and/or from beginner's level at the appropriate standard.
- Reach a high level of proficiency with the expert tuition of experienced native-speaking lecturers.
- Enjoy all the academic, social, personal and, ultimately, professional benefits of the year abroad, whether working, teaching or studying at a partner university.
- Profit from studying alongside visiting and exchange students from continental Europe and beyond.

### What sort of career could I have?

Employers will value your communication and language skills, not to mention the maturity and life experience gained during your year abroad.

Careers that are open to our graduates include:

- arts and media
- journalism and publishing
- business and marketing
- commerce and finance
- Civil and Diplomatic Services
- the institutions of the European Union
- public service and politics
- teaching and academia.

Recent employers include:

- Amnesty International
- Red Cross
- Sony
- Headstar
- DeHavilland News.

### How will I learn?

Learning and teaching methods include lectures, question and answer sessions, and seminars and classes on individual topics as well as on broad issues. There will be opportunities for group work, as well as for individual exploration. Study materials include literature and other texts dealing with subjects as wide ranging as popular culture, philosophy, politics, history, science and technology, as well as music and visual artefacts such as paintings, photographs and films.

Assessment methods include essay writing, individual and group presentations, oral and aural language examining, unseen exams and dissertations.

### What will I achieve?

- advanced language and communication skills, as well as skills in intercultural mediation such as translation and interpreting
- intellectual skills, including the ability to acquire appropriate knowledge, to analyse and evaluate cultural products of various kinds, to make comparisons between different areas of intellectual and cultural concern and the approaches that characterise them, and to express arguments and ideas effectively in both English and your target language
- knowledge and understanding of significant aspects of the culture, developments, artefacts and achievements of Europe and of countries in other continents where French, Italian or Spanish are spoken
- informed and sympathetic comprehension and appreciation of the diversity, but also the inter-relatedness, of different cultures
- through the cross-cultural experience of a year spent studying or working abroad, skills and adaptability that give you excellent preparation for your future professional life.

### Rebecca's perspective

'Sussex is a wonderful place to study languages and the facilities of the Language Learning Centre really allow you to develop your skills and fluency. One of the things that attracted me to Sussex was the large number of destinations on offer in which to spend your year abroad. My year abroad in Paris was unforgettable and I'm planning on using the language skills and cultural awareness I've gained during my degree to work abroad in the future. The feeling of mastering a foreign language is incredibly satisfying – languages set you apart from other graduates, are relevant to almost any job and employers love them! And the lovely thing about languages at Sussex is the chance to do in-depth academic work while gaining a skill at the same time.'

Rebecca Loxton  
Languages student





## Core courses

## Courses currently include:

## Year 1

In Year 1, you study your chosen language, with the focus on accuracy and fluency in both speaking and writing. You can explore study skills that allow you to make the best of our well-equipped Language Learning Centre

Alongside language study you follow courses giving you an insight into the ideas and events that underpin modern society in the countries of Europe and beyond. What is it like to live and work in France, Italy and Spain today? What place does Europe have within the wider international context and what are the attitudes of Europeans towards their own countries, towards Britain, the rest of Europe and to the world beyond?

You are also introduced to aspects of cultural difference. What is culture? What part does cultural competence play in communication between speakers of different mother tongues?

## Year 2

Your language study becomes more demanding, with the focus on high levels of competence in tasks such as giving oral presentations, writing reports, summarising spoken and written texts, writing book and film reviews, and holding meetings and discussions. The advanced study of your language prepares you for your third year abroad. In addition to your language study, you explore cultural, political, historical, literary and social aspects of countries in and beyond Europe where French, Italian or Spanish are spoken. You also learn about language in use and consider ways in which language is affected by differing social contexts. How does language reflect culture? How do we signal politeness, formality, irony, etc in English? How does this compare with other languages? What issues do such questions raise for translation and mediation between cultures? You have the opportunity to investigate these and other related areas

## Year 3

Your third year is spent abroad, studying at one of our partner universities, on a work placement or as a teaching assistant in a school

## Year 4

In your final year, you take language courses including an introduction to the vocational skills of translation and interpreting. You will also develop and deepen your knowledge of relevant social or cultural issues through the study of special subjects

## Degrees

## Dual-language majors

You can choose to study two languages:

**French and Italian**  
**BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: RR13**  
**French and Spanish**  
**BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: RR14**  
**Italian and Spanish**  
**BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: RR34**

In addition to gaining a high level of proficiency in your target languages, these programmes give you the opportunity to get to know and appreciate the cultural and social aspects of countries in Europe and other continents where French, Italian or Spanish are spoken.

History and culture courses will give you an insight into the events and movements that have influenced countries in Europe and beyond, allowing you to explore the factors that influence your own culture before moving on to study aspects of cultural difference. These courses will be complemented with material in your chosen foreign languages such as films, documentaries, and live and recorded television and radio programmes, as well as written texts of all kinds including, for example, short stories, plays, and newspaper and journal articles. A vital part of your study will involve considering the ways that language reflects culture. Courses leading to cultural competence therefore form an important part of your degree.

Your language classes give you the opportunity to acquire oral and written fluency, enhanced comprehension skills, a wider vocabulary and advanced grammatical knowledge, and accuracy in your chosen languages. In the second year there is more emphasis on summarising, synthesising and handling authentic texts. Study of the culture, society and politics of the appropriate country is undertaken to prepare you for the year spent abroad. In the final year there will be opportunities to pursue independent projects and acquire interpreting and translation skills.

## Joint majors involving a language

In addition to spending 50 per cent of your time on a language programme as described above, our joint degrees allow you to gain a qualification in a subject area that complements your language. You can choose a language from French, Italian or Spanish and explore cultural and social aspects of that language. Your third year will be spent abroad. Joint degrees include:

- Anthropology and a Language (p32)
- Art History and a Language (p34)
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In addition to your main language, there will be further opportunities to add another language to your portfolio. Refer to Proficiency in a language on the right for more information.

## Other opportunities to study a language

## Proficiency in a language

The Sussex Centre for Language Studies recognises that, as a future global citizen, you will travel, live and work in countries across the world. For this reason we have developed a flexible language programme allowing students on a wide range of single-honours degrees to opt for the award of '... with proficiency in (the target language)' to be certified as part of their final degree.

This involves you taking language options as part of your degree for two years, starting in either Year 1 or 2. Depending on your level of prior study of the language, you would either commence at beginner's level and progress to intermediate level, or start at intermediate level and progress to advanced level. To qualify for the '... with proficiency in (the target language)' award you need to successfully complete the two-year programme in one language at intermediate or advanced level. As we offer languages at various levels, there are no specific language entry requirements for this scheme.

For 2012 entry, the range of languages available is envisaged to include: French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. From 2013 entry, we are planning to add Arabic to our portfolio.

For details of which non-language degree programmes offer the opportunity to gain proficiency in a language, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/languageproficiency](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languageproficiency)

## Open language courses

If you are interested in learning a new language or improving your existing foreign-language skills outside the context of your chosen degree programme, Sussex offers the opportunity to study a language on a weekly basis with other students, postgraduates, and members of the University staff and the local community. You can choose from Arabic, British Sign Language, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Swahili classes. Classes take place at lunchtimes or in the early evening.

All of our open language courses offer the opportunity to develop language skills and to learn about the country and customs concerned.

## Independent language learning

The Language Learning Centre provides state-of-the-art technology that supports self-access language learning. Foreign-language newspapers and magazines are also available.

Further information about these courses and tuition fees is available from the Open Course Office (email [opencourses@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:opencourses@sussex.ac.uk)) or at [www.sussex.ac.uk/languages](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages)

