

Course Summary: May 15, 2025

## Modern Languages and Linguistics BA Honours

- UCAS code: **QT19**
- Full time
- 4 years

Master two languages on our Modern Languages and Linguistics degree programme and explore how languages change, develop and are used.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2025**

Next start date:

- September 2025

### Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,535**
- International: **£23800**

## Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **ABB**
- IB: **32 points**

[View contextual offers](#)

## UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

## Course overview

This **Modern Languages and Linguistics BA Honours** degree focuses on the study of two languages and linguistics. You can choose from French, German, Portuguese and Spanish, as well as Chinese or Japanese.

You'll be immersed in the study of global cultures and societies of the countries where your chosen languages are spoken, gaining a firm foundation of how language works, its structure and its history.

You will apply your knowledge and skills to strengthen your fluency in your chosen languages.

**You will have the option of spending the third year of your degree abroad**, so you can develop your language skills among native speakers and experience a different culture.

**Alternatively, you'll have the option to undertake a Careers Placement Year in the UK or to complete your degree in 3 years without either a Year Abroad or a Careers Placement Year.**

Regardless of what you choose to do, you will confirm this with us in Stage 2.

This exciting Modern Languages and Linguistics programme is shaped by the research specialisms of our world-leading staff. It ensures your studies explore the latest ideas and most exciting areas of linguistics, such as:

- computational linguistics
- language variation
- psycholinguistics
- theoretical linguistics
- second language acquisition

Find out more about our undergraduate programmes on the [School of Modern Languages website](#)

### **Your course and study experience - disclaimers and terms and conditions**

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the programmes, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19.

View our [Academic experience page](#), which gives information about your Newcastle University study experience for the academic year 2024-25.

See our [terms and conditions and student complaints information](#), which gives details of circumstances that may lead to changes to programmes, modules or University services.

## **Quality and ranking**

### **Professional accreditation and recognition**

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

## **Modules and learning**

### **Modules**

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

### **Optional module availability**

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#)

You will spend two-thirds of your time studying two languages at a level that reflects your language ability. You can choose from Chinese or Japanese, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese. You'll then spend the remaining third of your time studying linguistics. You will concentrate on the structure, history and use of both the English language and your foreign languages.

You will also select from a wide range of optional cultural modules to complement your language studies.

## **Modules**

### **Compulsory Modules**

### **Credits**

<a href="#">Introduction to the Structure of</a> <a href="#">Language 1: Phonetics, Phonology &amp;</a> <a href="#">Morphology</a>	20
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Introduction to Language Structure 2: Syntax, semantics and pragmatics	20
Academic Study and Research Skills	0
<b>Optional Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Level A (HE Entry Level) Chinese I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Chinese II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese II	20
France and the Francophone World	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) French I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) French II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) French	20
Introduction to German history, culture and society	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) German I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) German II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) German	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese) I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese II	20
Introduction to Latin America	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Portuguese I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Portuguese II	20
The Nature of Language	20
Dealing with Data	20
Introduction to Linguistics	20
Introduction to International Film	20
Introduction to Cultural Studies	20

Language and Cross Cultural Communication	20
Introduction to History, Culture and Society of the Iberian Peninsula	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Spanish I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Spanish II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish	20

In Stage 2, you will continue to further develop your skills in two languages as well as linguistics theory. You will also choose from a range of cultural modules related to the languages you are studying and optional linguistics modules.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to study beginners' modules in:

- Catalan or Italian if you study French or Spanish
- Dutch if you study German

## Modules

Optional Modules	Credits
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese II	20
France and the Francophone World	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) French (Ex-Level A)	20
Classic French Cinema	20
Paris: Aspects of History and Culture	20
How to Build an Empire	20
Linguistic Variation in France	20
The French Caribbean – Literature, Language and Society	20
Level C (HE Advanced) French	20

Introduction to German history, culture and society	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) German (Ex-Level A)	20
Berlin: culture and society from the Weimar to the Berlin Republic	20
Radicalism, Revolt and Revolution in German Thought	20
Dutch I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) German	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese II	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese II	20
Introduction to Latin America	20
Cultura y poder en América latina: debates desde la antropología	20
Cultures and Societies of the Portuguese-Speaking World	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Portuguese	20
Phonological Theory	20
Syntactic Theory	20
Sociolinguistics	20
Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties	20
Experimental Methods in Linguistics	20
CHiLD: Current Hypotheses in Language Development	20
Introduction to Second Language Learning and Teaching	20

Experimental Practicum	20
Philosophy of Linguistics	20
Introduction to International Film	20
Introduction to Cultural Studies	20
Italian language and culture I	20
Introduction to History, Culture and Society of the Iberian Peninsula	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish (Ex-Level A)	20
Catalan I	20
Language Diversity in the Hispanic World	20
Food, Football and Fiction: Constructing Catalan Cultural Identity	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Spanish	20

## Year abroad

Studying abroad is a great way to immerse yourself in local cultures, meet new people and improve your language skills.

**Our year abroad is optional**, meaning you can choose to study abroad in your third year (making your degree four years) or you can opt out (which will make your degree three years). **You do not have to choose right away** and you can talk through your options with your Degree Programme Director once you arrive at Newcastle.

The way you spend your year abroad is up to you. You can:

- work as a British Council teaching assistant in a school (UK nationals only)
- study at a partner university
- undertake an approved work placement



The year abroad is highly flexible and students can choose to either spend their year abroad in one country or divide it between two countries. You can also study at a partner university in one semester and undertake a work placement in another.

## Careers placement year

Work experience can enhance your career prospects beyond university. **All modern language students not taking a year abroad have the opportunity to undertake a Careers Placement Year in the UK.** This will be in the third year of your study and will make your degree four years long in total.

With a placement year you can choose to do:

- one placement lasting 9-12 months
- two placements which last at least 4.5 months each

Again, you don't need to decide now if you'd like to choose a Placement Year and you'll have the chance to talk to staff about your options.

Stage 4 for those choosing a Year Abroad and Stage 3 for those choosing not to spend a Year Abroad:

In final year, your language studies build on the levels you have developed in Stage 2 or during your Year Abroad and also develop more professional skills. You will be able to choose between studying translation and interpreting or language for professional and academic purposes.

As in Stages 1 and 2, you choose optional modules to further develop your knowledge of the countries where your chosen languages are spoken as well as choosing from optional linguistics modules.

## Modules

### Optional Modules

### Credits

Level D (HE Further Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Chinese II	20
Classic French Cinema	20
Paris: Aspects of History and Culture	20
How to Build an Empire	20
Linguistic Variation in France	20
The French Caribbean – Literature, Language and Society	20
Level C (HE Advanced) French	20
Occupation and Resistance: Literary and Cinematic Responses to the Second World War in France	20
Historical Perspectives on the French Language	20
From Experimental to Explicit: Translating Women's Writing in French	20
From Cannibals to Kin: Global Encounters in French and Francophone Travel Writing	20
Social Justice in French and Francophone Culture	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced): French for Professional and Academic Purposes	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced): French Translation and Interpreting	20
Berlin: culture and society from the Weimar to the Berlin Republic	20

Radicalism, Revolt and Revolution in German Thought	20
Level C (HE Advanced) German	20
Dutch II	20
A Comparative History of German and English: phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon	20
Place, belonging and identity in the German-speaking Alps	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced): German for Professional and Academic Purposes	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese II	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Japanese II	20
Cultura y poder en América latina: debates desde la antropología	20
Language Endangerment and Revitalisation in Latin America	20
Latin American Art: Indigenous Contemporary Art and Activism	20
Cultura y Política en Colombia	20
Identidades Pós-Coloniais Luso-Afro-Brasileiras	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Portuguese	20
Origins and Evolution of Language	20
Language and Ageing	20

Advanced Second Language Acquisition	20
Laboratory Phonology	20
Medieval and Early Modern Meaning: English Historical Semantics	20
Current Issues in Linguistics	20
New Words in English	20
Advocating and Teaching Languages in Schools	20
Italian language and culture II	20
Memory and Storytelling Across Borders	20
Dissertation/T&I Project	20
Language Diversity in the Hispanic World	20
Food, Football and Fiction: Constructing Catalan Cultural Identity	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Spanish	20
Catalan II	20
Cultura Popular en España y Cuba	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced): Spanish for Professional and Academic Purposes	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced): Spanish Translation and Interpreting	20

### Information about these graphs

We base these figures and graphs on the most up-to-date information available to us. They are based on the modules chosen by our students in 2024-25.

Teaching time is made up of:

- scheduled learning and teaching activities. These are timetabled activities with a member of staff present.
- structured guided learning. These are activities developed by staff to support engagement with module learning. Students or groups of students undertake these activities without direct staff participation or supervision

## Teaching and assessment

### Teaching methods

The majority of language modules are taught in small groups by native speakers. You also work in standard or PC-equipped seminar rooms and undertake self-study in our award-winning Language Resource Centre. Our cultural modules are informed by the latest research.

[Read more about our Language Resource Centre](#)

### Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assessments
- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Coursework
- Dissertation or research project
- Dossier
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Practical sessions
- Presentations
- Reflective report/journal
- Reports

- Seminar tasks/exercises

## Skills and experience

### Research skills

You have the option of writing a dissertation in your final year, which allows you to explore and discuss a topic of interest in great detail, while developing your research skills.

## Opportunities

### Optional Year Abroad

This Modern Languages degree includes an optional Year Abroad, meaning the degree can be 3 or 4 years.

Students studying a European language can:

- study at one of our partner universities
- undertake a work or voluntary placement
- undertake a combination of both (ensuring they do not overlap)

You usually divide the year between the countries relating to your chosen languages, although it may be possible to spend the entire year in one country.

If you're studying Chinese or Japanese, you'll spend either a semester or the full academic year studying at one of our partner institutions in China or Japan. If you also study European languages you can split your time and do one of the options above for your European language.

### Support for Year Abroad

You will receive lots of help to prepare for your Year Abroad, including:

- briefings covering practicalities like insurance, student safety and country-specific information
- support in finding a work placement
- a Tandem Learning Scheme, to practise conversation in your foreign language and make in-country contacts, before you travel
- a training course for British Council language assistants

There are also events in your second year where you can meet students who have already done their year abroad and students from our partner universities in Europe, Latin America, China and Japan.

You'll be in contact with our Year Abroad team during your time abroad, and will communicate with your personal tutor. You'll also write compulsory blog posts, reflecting on your linguistic, personal and professional development.

## Optional Careers Placement Year

Work experience can enhance your career prospects beyond university. If you choose not to take a year abroad, you can undertake a Careers Placement Year in the UK. This will be in the third year of your study and will make your degree four years long in total.

With a placement year you can choose to do:

- one placement lasting 9-12 months
- two placements which last at least 4.5 months each

You don't need to decide right away if you'd like to choose a Placement Year and you'll have the chance to talk to staff about your options once you arrive.

## Facilities and environment

### Facilities

As a Modern Languages student, you'll be based at our city centre campus. We've been teaching languages in Newcastle for more than 100 years.

You will have access to PC-equipped rooms and the award-winning Language Resource Centre, with self-study resources for over 100 languages.

You'll also have access to:

- specialist language learning software
- films
- live foreign-language TV channels
- online or on-campus tandem schemes

## Support

You'll have the support of an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree to help with academic and personal issues.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have when starting university.

## Your future

Ability in languages is highly regarded by employers across all sectors, including industry and business. Employers value the linguistic, interpersonal, intercultural and skills of language graduates.

International businesses need employees who not only speak another language but also understand the history, politics and culture of the region.

The international outlook and knowledge our students develop alongside advanced language skills will allow you to consider career options in a range of fields. Our graduates find employment in sectors such as business services, marketing, advertising, management, banking and communications.

Some work as researchers, internet consultants, United Nations translators, in local government, with community groups or in refugee support.

Many work in the digital industries or the arts. Teaching is also a popular choice, undertaking primary or secondary Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)



or teaching English abroad.

## **Make a difference**

### **Careers support**

Our Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

### **Recognition of professional qualifications outside of the UK**

From 1 January 2021 there is an update to the way professional qualifications are recognised by countries outside of the UK

[Check the government's website for more information.](#)

## Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:  
**[www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate)**
- To watch videos about student life in Newcastle, visit  
**[www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle)**
- Visit **[www.ncl.ac.uk/tour](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/tour)** to take virtual tours of the campus and city
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person  
**[www.ncl.ac.uk/openday](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/openday)**
- Contact us online at **[www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries)** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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**[www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations)**

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