

Course Summary: March 27, 2026

## Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies BA Honours

- UCAS code: **RT47**
- Full time
- 4 years

Explore and study the languages, histories and societies of Spain, Portugal and Latin America and immerse yourself in these vibrant cultures.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2026**

Next start date:

- September 2026

### Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,790**
- International: **£24,500**

### Entry requirements and offers

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

**UCAS Institution name and code:**

- NEWC / N21

## Undergraduate Open Day

Start your university journey. Find where you belong. Friday, June 26 (9:00-16:00)  
Saturday, June 27 (9:00-16:00)

[Book your place now](#)

## Course overview

This **Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies BA Honours** degree focuses on developing your language skills in Spanish and Portuguese. You're encouraged to explore the rich linguistic, social and cultural diversity of the Iberian Peninsula, Latin America and the Spanish Caribbean.

Study a range of research-informed modules which cover topics such as:

- social customs
- art
- music
- the survival of indigenous people

In addition, you'll have the opportunity to study **Catalan** from Stage 2.

You will achieve an advanced level of Spanish, both written and spoken. You will also build your Portuguese from a beginners' level.

### **Benefit from the flexibility of an optional Year Abroad or UK Careers Placement**

Shape your degree to suit your personal and professional goals with one of three flexible options. You can choose to:

- spend a year abroad in your third year to develop your language skills among native speakers and experience a different culture
- undertake a Careers Placement Year in the UK in your third year to gain valuable work experience
- complete your degree in 3 years without spending time on a Year Abroad or on a Careers Placement Year

Regardless of what you choose to do, you will confirm this with us in Stage 2 after receiving guidance and support.

You'll become a confident linguist, ready to embark on your career journey as a global citizen.

[Find out more about other 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 2025-26.

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 build on your current language skills, studying Spanish and Portuguese.

You also have opportunities to study a range of optional modules, giving you the chance to explore the cultures of Latin America, Portugal and Spain.

### Modules

| <b>Compulsory Modules</b>              | <b>Credits</b> |
|--|----------------|
| Level A (HE Entry Level) Portuguese I  | 20             |
| Level A (HE Entry Level) Portuguese II | 20             |
| Academic Study and Research Skills     | 0              |
| Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish      | 20             |

| <b>Optional Modules</b>   | <b>Credits</b> |
|---|----------------|
| Introduction to Latin America   | 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             |

You will continue to build on your language skills. You will build on the foundations laid in your first year and will be able to explore new topics

Your optional modules dig deeper into the history and cultures of the countries you're studying. You will also have the opportunity to study Catalan.

## Modules

| <b>Compulsory Modules</b>            | <b>Credits</b> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Level B (HE Intermediate) Portuguese | 20             |
| Year Abroad Preparation              | 0              |
| Level C (HE Advanced) Spanish        | 20             |

  

| <b>Optional Modules</b>  | <b>Credits</b> |
|--|----------------|
| Cultura y poder en América latina: debates desde la antropología | 20             |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Career Development for second year students                        | 20 |
| Cultures and Societies of the Portuguese-Speaking World            | 20 |
| Reading in Translation   | 20 |
| Catalan I  | 20 |
| Language Diversity in the Hispanic World                           | 20 |
| Food, Football and Fiction: Constructing Catalan Cultural Identity | 20 |

## Optional 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 will receive plenty of support and advice on your options before you make your decision in Stage 2.

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.

[Find out more about our current partner universities.](#)

## Optional 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 will receive plenty of support and advice on your options before you make your decision in Stage 2.

Final year is Stage 4 for those choosing a Year Abroad or a Careers Placement and Stage 3 for those not choosing these options.

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. For Spanish 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 cultures and histories of the countries where your languages are spoken.

## Modules

| Compulsory Modules                               | Credits |
|--|---------|
| <a href="#">Level C (HE Advanced) Portuguese</a> | 20      |

### Additional compulsory module information

You must take **one** of the following compulsory modules (also shown in the optional list below):

Level D (HE Further Advanced) Spanish: Language for Professional & Academic Purposes (20 credits)

or

Level D (HE Further Advanced) Spanish: Translation & Interpreting (20 credits)

| <b>Optional Modules</b>  | <b>Credits</b> |
|--|----------------|
| 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             |
| Career Development for final year students                         | 20             |
| Cultures and Societies of the Portuguese-Speaking World            | 20             |
| Identidades Pós-Coloniais Luso-Afro-Brasileiras                    | 20             |
| Advocating and Teaching Languages in Schools                       | 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             |
| 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 |

## Teaching and assessment

### Teaching methods

The majority of language modules are taught 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
- Portfolio submission
- 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 Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies degree includes an optional Year Abroad, meaning the degree can be 3 or 4 years.

Students 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.

### 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 practice 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 and Latin America.

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 receive plenty of support and advice on your options before making your decision in Stage 2.

## **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

The School of Modern Languages works with the University's Careers Service to organise various employability activities, including an opportunity to network with recent graduates.

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

If you're studying an **accredited degree** and thinking about working in Europe after you graduate, the best place to find current information is the [UK Government's guidance on recognition of UK professional qualifications in EU member states](#). This official resource explains whether your profession is regulated in another country, what steps you need to take, and which organisation you should contact.

## Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:  
**[www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate)**
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **[www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni](http://www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni)**
- Watch a virtual tour of our campus at  
**<https://youtu.be/vJUfHcqB7l8?si=8lUrf7kTxXbgdfr1>**
- 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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**<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/student-welcome/student-contract/>**

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