



Course Summary: March 28, 2026

Modern Languages BA Honours

- UCAS code: **T901**
- Full time
- 4 years

Master up to three languages on our highly flexible Modern Languages degree programme and prepare yourself for a career as an engaged, global citizen.

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 **Modern Languages BA Honours** degree immerses you in the study of global cultures and societies. Focusing on the development of your language skills in your chosen language(s), you'll graduate with an appreciation for other cultures and multilingual skills sought by employers.

Through our multidisciplinary and intercultural approach to teaching, you'll gain an in-depth insight into how culture, cinema, history, politics, people and society shape the countries where your chosen languages are spoken. You will have the knowledge and understanding you need to engage with people in their native language.

Flexible language choices

You can study **one, two or three** languages. Choose from a range of languages and build fluency through engaging learning. Choose from:

- **Chinese** or **Japanese** (must be taken with another language)
- **French**
- **German**
- **Portuguese** (from beginner's level only)
- **Spanish**

At least one of your language choices will be at intermediate level (suitable for those with an A-Level or equivalent in that language.) If you study 2 or 3 languages, 1 of your choices can be beginner's.

You may also have opportunities to explore **Catalan, Italian, Dutch, or Korean** from Stage 2, depending on your language choices.

Further details about language combinations and choices are available in the modules section below.

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.

Study with us and become a **confident linguist**, ready to embark on your career journey as a **global citizen**.

Find out more about other undergraduate language degrees 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](#)

Study **one, two** or **three** languages: up to two post A-Level or equivalent (Level B) and up to one from beginner's level (Level A). If you choose to study only one language you will choose from French, German or Spanish at Level B.

Choose from:

- Chinese or Japanese (can only be taken with another language)
- French
- German
- Portuguese (only available at beginner's level)
- Spanish

Alongside your language studies, you'll choose a range of optional modules. These modules will allow you to explore the history and cultures of the countries where your chosen languages are spoken.

Module choices depend upon the languages you choose and the level you study at. Further information to help you with module selection is provided when you start each year of your course.

Modules

Optional Modules	Credits
Introduction to Chinese Culture and Society	20
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
Introduction to Japanese History and Culture	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
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

You'll also study [Academic Study and Research Skills](#) (0 credits)

In Stage 2, you'll continue to develop your skills in your chosen languages. If you studied:

- Level A at Stage 1, you'll take Level B (Intermediate) modules this year
- Level B at Stage 1, you'll study Level C (Advanced) modules this year

You could also study the following optional languages from beginner's:

- **Catalan** or **Italian** if you study Spanish or French at Level C (Advanced)
- **Dutch** if you study German
- **Korean** if you study Chinese or Japanese

You will again choose optional modules that explore the cultures and histories of the countries where your **chosen languages** are spoken.

Module choices depend upon the languages you choose and the level you study at. Further information to help you with module selection is provided when you start each year of your course.

Modules

Optional Modules	Credits
Contemporary Chinese Society: Issues and Challenges	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese II	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) 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
Linguistic Variation in French	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
Contemporary Japanese Popular Culture	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
Career Development for second year students	20

Cultures and Societies of the Portuguese-Speaking World	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Portuguese	20
Introduction to Linguistics	20
Introduction to International Film	20
Introduction to Cultural Studies	20
Cities in East Asian Cinema: Culture, History and Identity	20
Italian language and culture I	20
Reading in Translation	20
Korean 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

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 or even three countries for those taking three languages. 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 here.](#)

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.

In your final year you'll continue to develop your language skills and you'll also develop professional skills.

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

You'll continue to develop your skills in your chosen languages. If you studied:

- Level B in Stage 2, you will take level C (Advanced) modules this year.
- Level C in Stage 2, you will take level D (Further Advanced) modules this year

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 **chosen languages** are spoken.

Module choices depend upon the languages you choose and the level you study at. Further information to help you with module selection is provided when you start each year of your course.

Modules

Optional Modules	Credits
Contemporary Chinese Society: Issues and Challenges	20
Chinese Independent Documentaries: Alternative Archive and Video Activism	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese II	20
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
Linguistic Variation in French	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
From Experimental to Explicit: Translating Women's Writing in French	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
Place, belonging and identity in the German-speaking Alps	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced): German for Professional and Academic Purposes	20
Contemporary Japanese Popular Culture	20
Contemporary Japanese Animation	20
Literary and cultural expressions in contemporary Japan	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
Translation for Singing	20
Career Development for final year students	20
Identidades Pós-Coloniais Luso-Afro- Brasileiras	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Portuguese	20
Cities in East Asian Cinema: Culture, History and Identity	20
Advocating and Teaching Languages in Schools	20
Italian language and culture II	20
Korean 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 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 the 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 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 are studying three languages we encourage you to spend some time during the summer vacation in the country of your third language.

If you're studying Chinese or Japanese, you'll spend either a semester or a full academic year studying at one of our partner universities 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 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, 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 receive plenty of support and advice on your options before you make 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
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **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
- Contact us online at **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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