

Course Summary: March 28, 2026

Modern Languages and International Relations BA Honours

- UCAS code: **TL12**
- Full time
- 4 years

This degree combines the study of one or two languages with key concepts in international relations and politics.

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

Prepare for an internationally focused career with our **Modern Languages and International Relations BA Honours** degree. Languages play a central role in international relations by facilitating the sharing of ideas and negotiation. On this degree you'll have the opportunity to:

- explore other languages, cultures and societies
- develop a better understanding of the nature and significance of politics and international relations

Flexible language choices

During your degree you'll develop proficiency in reading and listening, writing and speaking, and mediating skills in **one or two** languages.

Choose from:

- Chinese or Japanese
- French
- German
- Portuguese (from beginner's level only)

- Spanish

You could continue learning a language you have studied before or try something completely new.

International relations

Alongside your language choices you'll study global issues such as power, race and gender. You'll expand your international outlook and gain a wider perspective on international affairs and interactions.

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 our other 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](#)

This degree is run by the School of Modern Languages with either half or a third of your modules taught by the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology. You can combine your languages in one of three ways:

- one language at beginner's level
- one or two languages at post A-Level (or equivalent)
- two languages – one at post A-Level (or equivalent) and one at beginner's level

Stage 1 of your degree lets you study your language(s) at post A-Level or beginner's level, depending on your current language ability. You can choose from:

- Chinese or Japanese
- French
- German
- Portuguese (from beginner's level only)
- Spanish

You will also study modules in the culture, history, cinema or linguistics of the countries where your **chosen languages** are spoken.

In addition you will study compulsory International Relations modules, providing you with a foundation in the discipline.

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

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Key Concepts in International Politics	20
Power and Inequality: How to Study Global Politics ... and Change the World	20
Academic Study and Research Skills	0
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
Interconnected World	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
Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century	20
State, People and Politics: Comparative Politics in a Globalised World	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

If you study two languages in your first year, you may reduce this to just one language for the remainder of your degree before moving on to Stage 2.

You will continue to develop your language skills at an advanced/intermediate level. You will again choose optional modules that explore the cultures and histories of the countries where your chosen languages are spoken.

You'll also study Becoming a Political Researcher and further optional international relations modules including Political Geography, Power and Poverty in the Global Economy and The Politics of Race.

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

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

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

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Becoming a Political Researcher	20
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
Political Geography	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
Politics of the Middle East	20
The Politics and Policy of the European Union	20
Power and Poverty in the Global Economy	20
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Social Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy	20
Sex, Gender and Power	20
The Global Politics of Race	20

International Organizations and Diplomacy	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
Year Abroad Preparation	0
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 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 developed in Stage 2 or during your Year Abroad and you also develop more professional skills.

As in Stages 1 and 2, you choose optional modules to further develop your knowledge of the culture and histories of the countries where your chosen language(s) are spoken as well as choosing from optional international relations modules that include Geopolitics, Power and Policy and Political Citizenship.

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
Geopolitics	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
Writing for Foreign Policy Makers: Research Project in Foreign Policy Analysis	20
Final Year Dissertation	40
Final Year Project: Semester 1	20
Final Year Project: Semester 2	20
Who and why votes for far right? Using data for political analysis	20
Politics of Immigration	20
Politics of Citizenship	20
Gender and Sexuality Politics in the Middle East	20

Power and Policy: Understanding Impact	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	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 the Language Resource Centre.](#)

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Presentations
- Reports

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 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 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 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 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

This course will prepare you for a wide range of careers in the private, public or voluntary sector, in the UK or abroad.

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. You'll also be able to think critically, assess complex material and data, carry out research and construct well-informed arguments.

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, communication, local or national government, HM Treasury, Civil Service and public affairs consultancies.

Some work as researchers, internet consultants, United Nations translators, 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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