

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information	
1. Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2. School/Campus:	School of Arts and Humanities/Clifton campus
3. Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	<i>BA (Honours) Modern Languages, FT, SW, PT</i>
4. Normal Duration:	FT 3 years, SW 4 years, PT 5 years
5. UCAS Code:	see additional information, below in section 16

6. **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

The BA (Honours) Modern Languages course is designed to prepare you for a career or further study using one or more languages; it equips you with high-level linguistic, critical and analytical skills, and an in-depth knowledge of the societies in which these languages are spoken.

You will study two subjects – including at least one language – through to graduation. French, German, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and Italian can be studied from a post-A Level entry point, while Spanish, Italian, or Mandarin Chinese can be taken from accelerated beginners' level. The non-language subjects available on the course are: History, Linguistics, International Relations, English, Philosophy, TESOL, Linguistics, Communication and Society, Film and TV, Media, and Global Studies. There is a list of valid combinations, but it should be noted that certain combinations are not currently available, or are subject to periodic review.

Central to the structure and philosophy of the degree programme is the provision of relevant employability skills, embedded from Year 1 and developed as a continuing thread throughout your degree. Your Year 1 core language module(s) will include a block of 4-6 weeks focusing on the world of work in the country/-ies corresponding to your language(s); this will enhance both your knowledge of working conditions and practices in one or more relevant countries, and practical skills such as language-specific CV development and the analysis and practice of mock job applications and interviews. During the Year 2 core language module(s), you engage in a small-group project – also over 4-6 weeks and with the support of your tutor – responding to an authentic or simulated employer brief.

In Year 2 there is also an optional module, 'Languages at Work', which combines a language-themed work placement with a piece of writing reflecting on the experience. You are supported by tutors at all stages of this module.

In the final year of the degree, you will have the opportunity to undertake a capstone module in one language, which involves a substantial piece of writing or project work, in English or the target language, on a topic relating to the country or countries in which the language is spoken. There are also opportunities at this stage to produce a practical project in response to an employer brief. The resultant study will be 'portable' and therefore useful to you in the process of finding employment or avenues for further study including postgraduate research

scholarships. This is complemented by a synoptic assessment, in which you reflect on your degree in personal, academic and professional terms.

If you are a full-time student taking the sandwich route, you will normally spend an academic year studying or working abroad during the third year of the four-year course. The three options are to undertake a study period at one or more of our partner institutions; to work as a language assistant in a school abroad; or to engage in one or more approved work placements.

All students have the opportunity to spend a period studying abroad on the International Exchange Semester during Year 2.

The course offers a combination of flexible tuition, a contemporary focus, the acquisition of vocationally relevant skills and the opportunity to hone your linguistic skills in carefully integrated study periods abroad. This in turn makes the Modern Languages course the ideal springboard for a successful career in sectors as diverse as travel and tourism, marketing, research, teaching, translation, retail services and in international organisations such as the European Union.

7. Course outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding (A)

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate high-level knowledge and understanding of the language(s) and non-language subjects studied
2. Demonstrate high-level knowledge and understanding of vocabulary, structures, registers and varieties of the language(s) studied
3. Apply sophisticated language and learning strategies and evaluate your progress
4. Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of aspects of society and culture of countries studied
5. Critically evaluate and analyse aspects of culture and traditions of countries studied
6. Reflect critically on historical, theoretical, cultural and societal debates
7. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of and engagement with the academic and/or work-related contexts of countries studied
8. Demonstrate high-level understanding of working conditions and practices in the countries studied
9. Demonstrate a high-level knowledge of written and spoken materials and techniques pertinent to work-related situations in the target language(s) and culture(s)
10. Demonstrate awareness of the importance of a Modern Languages degree in terms of cultural capital, employability and global citizenship
11. Demonstrate awareness of how to showcase knowledge and skills in a professional context

Four-year course only: all of the outcomes above plus the following:

12. Demonstrate a high-level understanding of the cultural similarities and differences between your own country and the country/countries whose language(s) and culture(s) you have studied

Skills, qualities and attributes (B)

By the end of the course you should be able to:

13. Deploy language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) with a high level of fluency and accuracy for academic, practical, social and professional purposes
14. Communicate complex information, ideas and arguments, cogently and coherently, both orally and in writing, in English and target language and mediate effectively between language pairs
15. Comprehend, analyse, synthesise and evaluate audio-visual, written and electronic texts in English and in target language
16. Construct and sustain complex arguments orally and in writing in English and in the target language
17. Exploit bibliographic and research skills in order to locate and critically evaluate sources of information including online materials
18. Demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills and apply high-level use of IT for electronic communication with others, presentation of argument and bibliographic searches
19. Undertake intensive independent and self-directed study, and demonstrate adaptability, time management skills and ability to work collaboratively.
20. Evaluate your learning and achievements, articulate and manage your skills profile, recognise the transferability of skills to employment after graduation and plan for personal, educational and career development
21. Engage confidently in high-level discussions about working conditions and practices in the countries studied
22. Produce advanced written and spoken materials relevant to work-related situations in the target language(s) and culture(s)
23. Produce high-quality, well-written documents for showcasing knowledge, skills and experience

8. Teaching and learning methods

In terms of language work, practical classes serve to develop the four language-learning skills: writing, reading, speaking and listening. A weekly grammar hour at Level 1 ensures that you understand the main rules and structures of the language(s) you are studying, and this knowledge is applied in conversation classes with a native speaker, also held weekly throughout the course.

A noteworthy feature of our Year 1 language modules is a block of 4-6 weeks focusing on 'The World of Work' in the relevant country. This gives students a clear understanding of working practices, conditions and trends in the country whose language they are studying, as well as providing them with useful skills such as bilingual CV development, and mock job applications and interviews.

In Year 2 language, there is a block of 4-6 weeks in which students work in groups on an authentic or simulated employer brief, to produce a piece of practical work which harnesses and activates the skills they have learned in Year 1.

We make innovative use of e-learning in our teaching. The modules offered on the course use the NOW platform to provide stimulating language-learning opportunities outside the classroom. Online discussion boards are an increasingly prevalent feature on many modules. These provide you with the chance to reflect on key issues and themes, engage in social interaction with your classmates and offer regular opportunities for writing practice in the target language.

The non-linguistic components of the study of a language – contemporary society, politics, culture, recent history etc. – foster an in-depth understanding of how each country works. You do not study the language as an isolated unit: its study is carefully integrated into study of the country so that you achieve a rounded package.

We attach great importance to maximising your study skills and developing your ability to think critically and to reflect on your progress. To this end, support structures are in place in the form of staff located in our Languages Resource Centres, as well as opportunities provided by colleagues in the Library and Learning Resources team. Equally, we expect you to learn to set your own goals in your study, developing individual and team strategies for autonomous learning away from the classroom.

For the Year Abroad, you receive training and advice sessions throughout Year 2, and a structured course of activities and full academic and pastoral support whilst abroad. On your return to Nottingham, the Year Abroad and your reflections on it are integrated into Final Year language work.

9. Assessment methods

The three most common assessment types used on the MLAN course are coursework, class tests and formal examinations. Typically, the coursework elements include the production of essays, written contributions to online discussion boards, newspaper articles, summaries, translation tasks, vocationally pertinent oral activities and oral presentations (individually and/or in groups) using packages such as PowerPoint. These are used to assess your achievement of the knowledge- and understanding-based course learning outcomes and the development of language skills and transferable qualities and attributes. Work contributing to the completion of dossiers and portfolios and your contributions to asynchronous online discussions boards will provide ample opportunity for formative assessment on your progress towards achieving course-related learning outcomes. The length (number of words for written work and duration

for oral assessments) and expectations concerning accuracy and complexity of work produced in the target language will go up as you progress through the course.

In terms of formal examination, we mix traditional written papers (testing your ability to form arguments and express yourself accurately and articulately under controlled conditions on issues and themes addressed in language and/or thematic modules) with oral tasks (both pre-prepared and spontaneous) and, in certain modules, the analysis of audio-visual material. In some modules, particularly those delivered in Level 2, examinations are replaced by class tests.

If you are on the four-year course and opt for one or more study placements on the Year Abroad, your period in each country is assessed via a combination of examinations and coursework undertaken at the host institution(s) and a reflective dossier of tasks (including a blog) written for NTU. The reflective dossier is explicitly designed to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate your learning, articulate and manage your skills profile, recognise the transferability of skills to employment after graduation and plan for personal, educational and career development. If you choose to work as a language assistant or in another approved placement, the dossier will be supplemented by a report submitted by your employer. These activities seek to replicate tasks typically required in the workplace, and reflect the significance we attach to developing your employability by the end of the course. Successful completion of the Year Abroad diet of assessment leads to the award of the NTU Placement Diploma in Language Study Abroad.

In Final Year, you will complete a capstone module in one of your two subjects. This is an extended piece of writing or practical project which is designed to be 'portable' and therefore useful to you in the process of finding employment or avenues for further study including postgraduate research scholarships.

In Final Year you will also undertake a synoptic assessment. This is a piece of writing in which you reflect on the entirety of your undergraduate studies across both subjects and articulate how your degree in the Modern Languages programme has developed you as a person, as an academic thinker and writer, and as a graduate well equipped for successful transition into the world of work.

10. Course structure and curriculum

The course is available in a four-year sandwich version (with an academic year studying or working abroad), a three-year full-time variant and a part-time pathway taken over approximately five to six years.

You will take two subjects from Level 1 including at least one modern foreign language. In each subject, you take a combination of modules, each valued at 40 or 20 credits, to add up to an overall annual total of 120.

A language as a main subject comprises language study and background 'thematic' modules to complement this. Languages on offer are French (from post-A Level entry only), German (from post-A Level entry only), Italian (both post-A Level and accelerated beginners' entry levels), Spanish (both post-A Level and accelerated beginners' entry levels), Mandarin Chinese (both post-A Level and accelerated beginners' entry levels). Subjects available in combination with languages are International Relations, Linguistics, History, English, TESOL, Philosophy, Film and TV, Media, Communication and Society and Global Studies. Certain language/non-language combinations are not currently offered or are under review.

At Levels 2 and 3, the above subjects broaden further, offering a wider range of modules to suit your existing or emerging academic and vocational interests. During the second year, there is also an opportunity to undertake an approved work placement in a local organisation with an international dimension to its business. In Final Year, a capstone module allows you to pursue in greater depth a project of intellectual and/or vocational interest, under the guidance of an expert in the field being studied. A Final Year synoptic assessment provides the opportunity to reflect on your undergraduate studies across both subjects and articulate how your degree in the Modern Languages programme has developed you personally, intellectually and vocationally.

If you take the 'sandwich' variant of the course, you will normally spend an academic year studying or working abroad during the third year of the four-year course. The three options are to undertake a study period at one or more of our partner institutions; to work as a language assistant in a school abroad; or to engage in one or more approved work placements. You also have the opportunity to spend a semester studying abroad on the International Exchange Semester during Year 2. This experience makes a major contribution to your development of language skills and knowledge and understanding of the culture(s) you are studying. It is also crucial to the development of independence, problem-solving skills, maturity and self-reliance.

Finally, a language can also be taken (for credit or merely for interest) at a range of levels on the institution-wide University Language Programme (ULP). Languages currently offered on the ULP are Arabic, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin and English as a Foreign Language. Whilst a language taken under this course can contribute, in terms of credit-building to your central Modern Languages profile in certain subject combinations, it will not stand as a main subject. If it is taken for credit, a ULP language module replaces a 20-credit thematic module from one of your two main subjects.

11. Admission to the course

Entry requirements.

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

12. Support for learning

The induction process at the beginning of the academic year introduces you to the workings of the course and the people who will be teaching and looking after you. It is led by the Course Leader (a member of the Languages academic staff with overall responsibility for the smooth running of the course) and the Course Administrator, who is the Course Leader's administrative counterpart. We provide talks, workshops, tours and informal social events to ensure that your introduction to life on the course is a happy and complete one. From the outset, you are allocated a personal tutor, who will be the first port of call if you need to discuss anything of an academic or personal nature.

As the year proceeds, teaching staff monitor carefully your attendance, progress and the quality of your work, and offer frequent and informative feedback. Combined with the work of the language-learning advisers, this gives a holistic feel to your learning experience, and we hope to create the ideal environment for you to achieve your potential.

Part of the initial training is devoted to Library, Resources and IT skills and access, and support in these areas continues throughout your time on the course. Extensive online module information, including learning materials and module news, is also provided within the university's Virtual Learning Environment, the NOW. This also includes course and subject information such as the subject handbook and assessment information and deadlines. The NOW can be accessed both on and off-campus. An extensive system of IT support is in place. There is a well-equipped library, which offers extensive electronic learning resources.

Our Students in Tandem system, administered by colleagues in the Global Lounge, allows you to pair off with a native speaker of a language you are studying, with the aim of offering mutual linguistic support in an informal environment.

A strong provision of support is offered by Student Support Services, covering areas such as careers advice, counselling, financial planning, chaplaincy, legal advice and academic skills development.

You can seek academic support from your tutors both through electronic communication and during posted office hours, which allow one-to-one contact between you and your tutor. Study skills are fully integrated into the Level 1 curriculum but in addition the Library operates a Study Skills Support process for all students.

Finally, our administrative team includes a colleague devoted to preparing you for, and supporting you during, the Year Abroad.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, "A Language degree gives you a better chance of finding a job than any other except Medicine. Language graduates are more employable than those in computing, science, or even business studies". The reasons for this are many and varied. In addition to the types of advanced-level language skills that are increasingly sought-after in the labour market, Languages graduates have in-depth cultural

knowledge and understanding of important economic markets in Europe, Latin America and Asia. The contemporary-focused nature of the modules on our course helps ensure that you can offer employers a high-level written and oral fluency in one or more languages, and a profound knowledge of one or more relevant societies.

Our students are also independent and self-reliant and have well-developed graduate skills in the areas of problem-solving, interpersonal skills, planning and communication. These qualities and skills are developed primarily through our embedded employability thread, which begins in Year 1 and runs throughout the degree, weaving in practical advice, skills development, project work and invaluable contact with employers. The Year Abroad is particularly effective in enhancing your skills and qualities and giving you the opportunity to put them into practice. This provides you with a unique and challenging experience that will live with you long after graduation.

We at Nottingham Trent are proud of our employability record over recent years, with Languages graduates entering fields as diverse as business, translation, lexicography, education management, international recruitment, tourism, research and development, bilingual administration, teaching, international sales, speech therapy, NGO management and retail, as well as a range of postgraduate courses, including MAs in Translation and Interpreting, International Business and European Cultural Studies and Security Studies.

In addition to the expertise available within the School of Arts and Humanities, the University has a comprehensive careers service open to all students to assist in securing employment.

<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/careers>

14. Course standards and quality

Course standards are monitored in a variety of ways:

- A course committee, which includes undergraduate students at all levels of study, monitors student feedback about the course and individual modules
- Student evaluation of modules is sought via module feedback questionnaires;
- You will be provided with feedback on all assessed work;
- The course has a range of External Examiners from other UK Universities who submit annual reports on the standards and quality of the course;
- The subject benchmarks of the Quality Assurance Agency have been incorporated into the course's learning outcomes.

- The quality of courses is regularly reviewed by the University as part of its quality assurance and enhancement processes. The latest review of courses within the School of Arts and Humanities was in December 2015.

15. **Assessment regulations**
 This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

16. **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	Various partner universities in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, China and Latin America
Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:	Languages, Cultures and Societies, 2015
Course recognised by:	
Date this course specification approved:	

Any additional information:

The following awards are available within the Joint Honours Modern Languages course:

RP19	BA (Hons) French and Communication & Society SW
RP13	BA (Hons) French and Film & TV SW
RR12	BA (Hons) French and German SW
RV11	BA (Hons) French and History SW
RL12	BA (Hons) French and International Relations SW
RR13	BA (Hons) French and Italian SW
RQ11	BA (Hons) French and Linguistics SW
RT11	BA (Hons) French and Mandarin Chinese SW
RL16	BA (Hons) French and Media SW
RV15	BA (Hons) French and Philosophy SW
RR14	BA (Hons) French and Spanish SW
RX11	BA (Hons) French and TESOL SW
RV21	BA (Hons) German and History SW
RL22	BA (Hons) German and International Relations SW
RQ21	BA (Hons) German and Linguistics SW
RT21	BA (Hons) German and Mandarin Chinese SW
RR24	BA (Hons) German and Spanish SW
RX21	BA (Hons) German and TESOL SW
LR93	BA (Hons) Italian and Global Studies SW
RV31	BA (Hons) Italian and History SW
TQ13	BA (Hons) Mandarin Chinese and English SW

TL19	BA (Hons) Mandarin Chinese and Global Studies SW
L2T1	BA (Hons) Mandarin Chinese and International Relations SW
TQ11	BA (Hons) Mandarin Chinese and Linguistics SW
RT12	BA (Hons) Mandarin Chinese and TESOL SW
RP49	BA (Hons) Spanish and Communication & Society SW
RQ43	BA (Hons) Spanish and English SW
LR94	BA (Hons) Spanish and Global Studies SW
RV41	BA (Hons) Spanish and History SW
RL42	BA (Hons) Spanish and International Relations SW
RR43	BA (Hons) Spanish and Italian SW
RQ41	BA (Hons) Spanish and Linguistics SW
RT41	BA (Hons) Spanish and Mandarin Chinese SW
RP43	BA (Hons) Spanish and Media SW
RV45	BA (Hons) Spanish and Philosophy
RX41	BA (Hons) Spanish and TESOL SW