

School of Modern Languages

Undergraduate
Degree Programmes 2025



CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

“ **Learning languages** broadens the mind, increases tolerance, enhances professional and personal development, has **long-term beneficial effects** on one’s health and is fun.

Professor Catriona Seth, Fellow of the British Academy

Home to **Cardiff’s Confucius Institute**, the **Spanish Embassy Education Office** and **Goethe Institut London**.

“ If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. **If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.**

Nelson Mandela



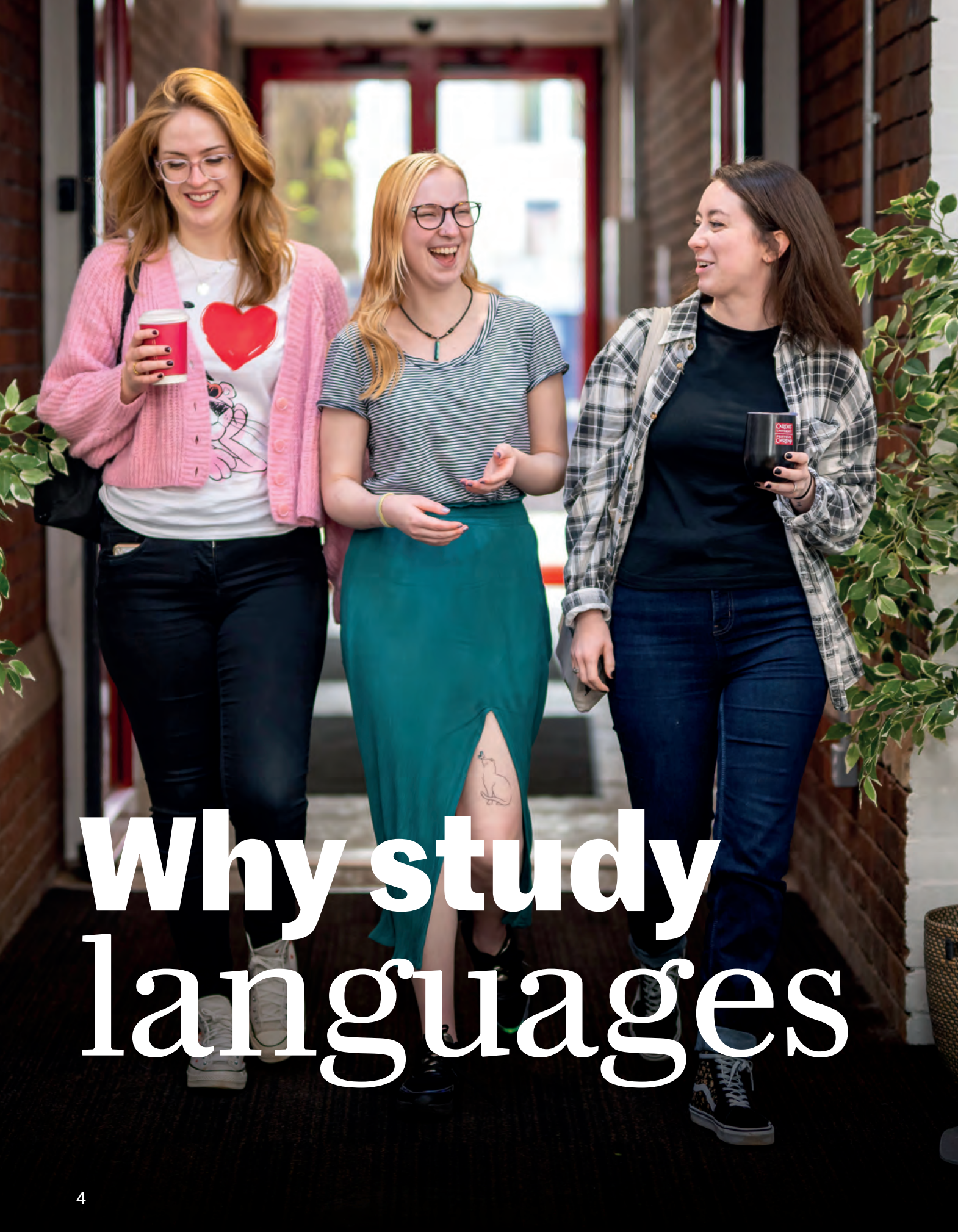
At the School of Modern Languages, our teaching sets us apart.

All our programmes are offered through a transnational lens, which gives us the opportunity to address a range of questions that are of relevance to you, our potential students, who live, work and learn in societies characterised by increasing diversity and ever greater global connectivity.

Our transnational curriculum will allow you to explore the place of the languages and cultures you chose to study in the wider world. I hope this brochure provides you with a snapshot of life at the School of Modern Languages and encourages you to come to meet us at an Open Day and join us when the time comes. I look forward to meeting you in the future.

Professor David Clarke
Head of School





Why study languages



You've probably heard about how studying languages can open doors and unlock opportunities and at the School of Modern Languages, we see this a lot.

Our graduates tell us their degree in languages has taken them on adventures and given them career opportunities.

Studying languages also helps you to build relationships and connections with communities across the world and to understand the cultures of those communities.

When it comes to our degree programmes, we've designed them to meet the demand for language skills in many sectors of the job market. They'll equip you with strong modern foreign language skills and will develop other skills such as communication, problem-solving and teamworking too which open doors to lots of different career paths.

So, what are you waiting for? Come and start your modern languages adventure with us.



The teaching staff are extremely supportive.

Not only are they there to help you with your studies, but you have the reassurance that your wellbeing is constantly being supported. The personal tutor scheme has been extremely helpful, as it takes the perspective outside of individual modules and looks at your overall progression as a person during your time at university.

Nabil El Bark
Current student



Cardiff is a fantastic student city, the University has so much

to offer; supportive classes, a wealth of knowledge, and so many extracurricular clubs and societies.

Ellena Harrison
Alumnus



Careers

Studying a modern languages or translation degree can lead to careers in many different industries.

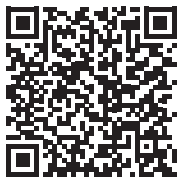
Of course, a degree in modern languages or translation is great for careers in teaching and translation but don't forget there's a whole host of other careers also available to you.

These include working in fields such as international business, travel and tourism, finance, sales and marketing, publishing, engineering, technology, the civil service, and sport.

We know that choosing your future career can be daunting and that's why we're here to help you every step of the way. As a student with us, you'll have access to the Student Futures service which will help you prepare and plan for life after university.

And that's not all. We have lots of exciting opportunities for you to get involved with while you study with us which will help develop your skills and strengthen your CV. One of these opportunities is becoming a student mentor with our Modern Foreign Languages Student Mentoring Scheme. This is a scheme where you, along with undergraduates from Cardiff, Swansea, Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities, will be placed into local schools to mentor pupils and encourage them to consider modern foreign languages when choosing their GCSE options.

For those of you who want to work in the world of education, our Student Teaching module is for you. This module is a great way of gaining experience in teacher training. As part of this module, you'll go into local secondary schools and teach pupils who are learning foreign languages. Not only that but you'll also observe lessons, take part in classroom activities and make new learning materials.



Find out more



After graduating, I went straight into employment at Cardiff City FC as a Player Liaison Officer where I used my language skills every day.

This involved activities such as translating team-talks for our first team players to planning trips for our scouts to go and find the next big players. Without a doubt, my time at Cardiff has been instrumental in helping me along my career path.

Callum Davies
Alumnus



Study abroad

Languages lead to adventure.
Where will they take you?

During your third year, you'll have the opportunity to spend a year abroad, either studying and/or working. Living abroad will allow you to develop your language skills, through speaking with native speakers, and to immerse yourself fully in the culture of the country you'll be living in. The year abroad is a fantastic way of meeting new people and making friends, exploring new places and making memories that will last a lifetime. You could find yourself sampling Spanish tapas, the pastries of Paris or the pasta of Pisa or you could be exploring sites such as Machu Picchu and the Brandenburg Gate.



Find out more



Reflecting on my study abroad experience, I have so much gratitude for the personal growth and preparation it has provided me for my future.

The memories created, the friendships formed and the lessons I learned have become an integral part of who I am today. It was an incredible experience, and I wish I could do it all again!

**Asha Dein
Alumnus**



To me, learning a language isn't limited to the grammar, the vocabulary and the syntax – it's about the culture, the people, and everything in between.

During my year abroad, for example, whilst I enjoyed the education side of things, the real joy came in meeting French people and learning their values, history and ways of life.

**Gethin Bennett
Alumnus**





Our programmes



Modern Languages (BA)

4 years

UCAS code = R750

Modern Chinese (BA)

4 years

UCAS code = R751

Translation with a Placement Year Abroad (BA)

4 years

UCAS code = Q912

Translation (BA)

3 years

UCAS code = Q910

We also offer a number of joint honours programmes with other humanities subjects.

Please see page 10 for more details.

Our Modern Languages programme is designed to give you the best of all worlds.

As well as improving your language skills through our language classes, you'll also learn about the social, political, historical and cultural contexts of the languages you're studying from a global perspective.

If you choose to study our Modern Languages (BA) programme, you'll develop high-level communication and critical-thinking skills, and foster resilience and independence through time spent in immersive foreign language contexts. Our aim is for you to become a 'global citizen' who thinks critically, understands cultural diversity and has a wealth of transferable skills.

If you choose to study our Modern Languages (BA) programme, you'll be able to choose to study 1 or 2 of the following language pathways: **Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish.**

** Please note: Chinese cannot be studied with another language.*

Whether you've studied your chosen language at A level or not, don't worry, we've got you covered. If you're already studying your chosen language, you can follow our Upper Elementary pathway, or, if you're a complete beginner to your chosen language, you can follow our Elementary pathway.



Find out more including entry requirements for all our programmes



Joint Honours

You might be wondering if there's a way of studying modern languages with another humanities subject. The good news is, yes, you can!

Studying one of our joint honours programmes will give you the chance to study 2 subjects of interest to you. You'll study these subjects in equal proportion throughout your time with us.

We offer the following joint honours programmes:

English Literature and a Modern Language (BA)

– 4 years (UCAS code = R754)

History and a Modern Language (BA)

– 4 years (UCAS code = R752)

Linguistics and a Modern Language (BA)

– 4 years (UCAS code = R755)

Music and a Modern Language (BA)

– 4 years (UCAS code = R753)

Politics and a Modern Language (BA)

– 4 years (UCAS code = R756)

Welsh and a Modern Language (BA)

– 4 years (UCAS code = R757)

If you choose to study one of our joint honours programmes, you'll be able to choose to study one of the following language pathways: **Chinese, French, or Spanish.**

Chinese

Get ready to learn about the history, tradition, culture, and cuisine of one of the most widely-spoken languages in the world.

Studying on our Chinese pathway will see you study in Cardiff for the first 2 years of your degree where not only will you learn the language but its culture and history too. You'll spend the third year abroad at one of our partner institutions in China, before heading back to Cardiff for your final year of study.

Or choose our Modern Chinese (BA) course where you'll study in Cardiff during years 1 and 4 and will spend years 2 and 3 in China. You'll graduate with 2 degrees with this programme.



French

French language and culture have been centre-stage in European and world affairs for centuries.

On completion of studying our French pathway, you'll have a high level of proficiency in French, as well as a thorough understanding of key aspects of modern and contemporary French and Francophone culture. During your third year, you'll be offered a fantastic opportunity to live, study and/or work in a French-speaking environment.

German

German is one of the key languages in international business.

German language skills are highly desirable for employers in international business in a wide range of fields including finance, marketing, translating, teaching, media, arts, publishing, and civil service.

Our German pathway is taught by native speakers and provides comprehensive language training combined with the opportunity to explore the cultures, literatures, and intellectual histories of German-speaking countries.





Italian

Italy is the home of the design and fashion industries as well as being one of the world leaders in the arts, cinema, architecture, and music.

Our Italian pathway offers you the chance not only to learn the language to a high level of proficiency, but also explore the culture that has shaped the social landscape of this inspiring country. You'll have the opportunity to investigate how Italy shaped Europe, and how Italy has intersected with other cultures, diasporas, and nations.



Japanese

A modern Asian language shaped by ancient customs and culture.

By the end of studying on our Japanese pathway, you'll be proficient in the language, as well as having an excellent understanding of life and culture in Japan. You'll also understand how Japan has shaped and been shaped by its relations with other cultures.

During your third year, you'll have the opportunity to spend time in Japan where you'll be able to immerse yourself fully in Japanese culture and language. Please note, due to Japanese visa restrictions, those who enrol onto the Japanese pathway are unable to work in Japan during their year abroad. Instead, you'll spend time studying at a Japanese university.

Portuguese

One of the world's most widely-spoken languages, especially important for international business and politics.

On our Portuguese pathway, you'll learn about the vibrant cultures and societies of the contemporary Portuguese-speaking world, from Europe to Latin America, Africa, and Asia. You'll have contact with native speakers who will support you to become more fluent and aware of different forms of Portuguese and you'll also explore the intersections between different Portuguese communities and their relationships with other languages and cultures.





Spanish

A language with a global reach, shaped by a culturally diverse heritage.

By the end of your course, you'll have a near-fluent command of the Spanish language as well as an in-depth understanding of Hispanic culture and society, in Europe and across the Hispanic world.

During your third year, you'll have a fantastic opportunity to improve your spoken and written language, immerse yourself in another culture or gain work experience in a Spanish-speaking country.



I would say that one of the most valuable skills I have developed is confidence.

Before coming to university, I was quite a shy person, but during my degree, and especially after my year abroad, I have become more open to new opportunities and better at communicating with people I don't know well.

**Peta Jarvis
Alumnus**



Translation

Study translation with modern languages and learn professional translation skills.

We offer specialist translation programmes that provide you with theoretical, vocational, and practical translation skills. As well as receiving practical and in-depth language tuition, you'll be given translation-specific skills not available on traditional language courses. These skills will allow you to carve out a particular career path and act as an excellent foundation for a foothold in the translation industry.

Translation with a Placement Year Abroad (BA)

4 years

UCAS code = Q912

You can choose to study on either our 3 or 4 year translation programmes. If you choose to study on our 4 year translation programme, you'll spend your third year studying and/or working abroad.

Translation (BA)

3 years

UCAS code = Q910

You can choose to study 1 or 2 language pathways on our translation programmes. If you choose to study 2 language pathways, you must be able to study at least one of your language choices at Upper Elementary level.

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2025 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in July 2024. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website at:

www.cardiff.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here.

Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

This brochure is printed on paper obtained from well managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this prospectus and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified.

The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

This prospectus can be made available in alternative formats, including large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts:
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**To find out more about
the School of Modern
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our website:**



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