

LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

2017



UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

"I chose Aston for three reasons: firstly, it was the only course I could find that offered an entire French and Spanish degree taught in the target language; secondly, for the fantastic year abroad and thirdly, because I really loved the close-knit community feel that I experienced during my very first open day. The lecturers in the School of Languages and Social Sciences are fantastic and really supportive! They know you by name and their office doors are always open if you need them.

The best part of my degree has been my year abroad. I was so lucky that I got to split it in two, spending half of it in the gorgeous French Riviera working for an online web development and marketing company and the other half in Chile as an English Language Assistant in a university. The friends I made, the travelling I did and the work experience I gained all contributed to making the year absolutely amazing! I also returned to the UK pretty much fluent in two languages, which was such a great feeling!

I love the fact that almost everyone at Aston does a placement year because I think this is so important when it comes to job hunting. Employers are impressed by the range of work experience you have and the initiative and independence that you show. I really think this gave me a distinct advantage when I applied for the Teach First Leadership Development Programme."

Christina Codling
French and Spanish BSc

"The lecturers in the School of Languages and Social Sciences are fantastic and really supportive!"



Contents

- ▶ 4 Excellence in teaching and research
- ▶ 8 The Aston year abroad
- ▶ 12 Graduate careers
- ▶ 14 A green and sustainable campus
- ▶ 16 Birmingham
- ▶ 18 Degree programmes
- ▶ 19 Ab Initio (beginners) German and Spanish
- ▶ 20 French BSc
- ▶ 22 German BSc
- ▶ 25 Spanish BSc
- ▶ 28 Translation Studies BSc
- ▶ 30 International Relations & Modern Language BSc
- ▶ 32 French/German/Spanish and English Language BSc
- ▶ 33 French/Spanish and Sociology BSc
- ▶ 34 BSc French/German/Spanish School Experience
- ▶ 36 International Business & Modern Languages BSc
- ▶ 38 Teaching and assessment
- ▶ 39 Student support
- ▶ 40 Languages for All
- ▶ 42 Applying to Aston
- ▶ 43 Come and see us

the facts

Home to the **first dedicated undergraduate translation programmes in the UK**, established in 1997

We have a contemporary and applied focus, with a **high level of teaching in the target language**

We offer a **fully integrated year abroad** with extensive preparation and support offered and a wide range of professional placements

Spanish at Aston is ranked **in the top 20** for student satisfaction in 2016 Complete University Guide

French at Aston received **95% Overall Satisfaction** satisfaction in the **2015 NSS**

German at Aston is **top 5 in the UK** for student satisfaction (Complete University Guide 2017)

Modern Languages at Aston are ranked in the **top 20 UK universities for Graduates** in a graduate level destination, in the **Guardian University Guide 2017**



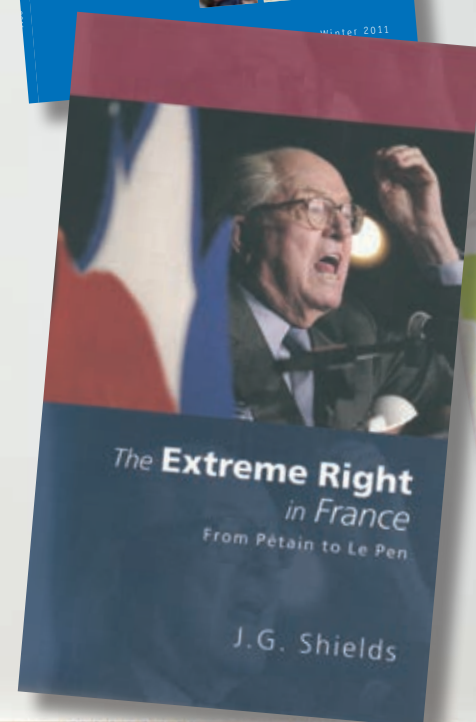
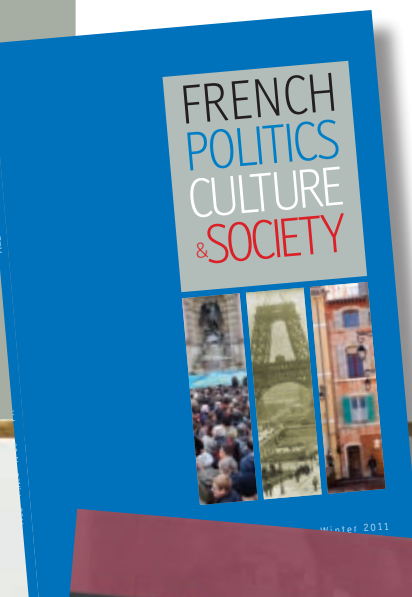
Excellence in teaching and research

Welcome to Languages and Translation Studies at Aston!

"Thank you for your interest in studying Languages and Translation Studies at Aston University. With our long-standing national reputation for innovative teaching by a dynamic team of staff, many of whom are research-active experts in their field, we promise you a challenging, demanding and rewarding experience that will turn you into a highly competent communicator. You will learn to work in and across different cultures, to research, critically analyse and present information on a range of key issues, in writing and orally, all to near native speaker competence that will make you a linguistically versatile global citizen – and highly skilled, highly employable graduate. Add to this a programme of visiting speakers to challenge your intellectual journey, a supportive team of tutors and a dedicated International Placements Team – all of which adds up to a life-changing experience. Don't take our word for it, ask our students!"

Dr Stefan Manz

Head of Languages and Translation Studies

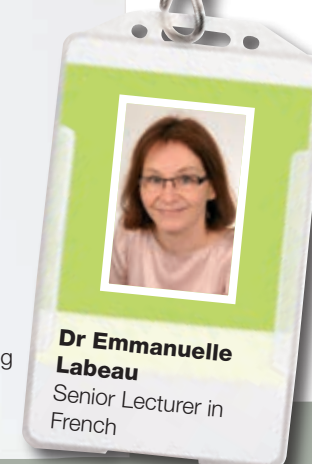


"My own particular research specialism is French party politics, with a focus on the far right. The research I do in France – covering elections, attending political meetings, interviewing political figures – allows me to bring a strong personal perspective to my modules on contemporary French politics. As a prominent media commentator on France, I can also invite my students to watch or listen to television and radio broadcasts in which I talk to a wider public about some of the issues we analyse in the classroom. This highlights the 'real-world' relevance of the modules I teach and, importantly, confirms that they are being taught by an expert who can address an audience of millions as readily as a small seminar group."



"I started at Aston University as a language assistant and the difficulties my students encountered with some aspects of French grammar spurred me into starting a part-time PhD on the acquisition of French past tenses by Anglophone learners. I was able to feed back my research into my teaching and therefore become a more effective French language tutor. This constant interaction between research and teaching is a hallmark of my academic career. For instance, the overuse of the imperfect tense by my students led me into studying what differentiates the way they use French from the way native speakers do. Conversely, the authentic language data I work on gives me an excellent grasp of actual contemporary language that is sometimes quite different from what grammar books state! I can therefore make my students aware of the complexity of language use, its evolution and its variation."

I also greatly enjoy getting my students to participate in my research and awakening their linguistic curiosity. Through my Contemporary French module, my students are introduced to methods of data collection, and I use their field work in my research: my students do proper linguistic research, not just another assignment! Over the years, I have had the privilege of inspiring talented students into taking up postgraduate research, and even academic careers."



Excellence in teaching and research

I am Professor of Translation Studies at Aston University and serves as the Associate Dean Marketing and International Recruitment for the School of Languages and Social Sciences. Prior to coming to Birmingham, I was the director of the Translation Studies program at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

My main research interests include multilingual political discourse analysis as well as the link between translation and technology. I have an MA in Translation Studies (with German, English, and Spanish) and a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and have held academic positions at the Universities of Heidelberg and Mainz in Germany. I am also a former Fulbright fellow at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA.

My publications include the monograph *The Great American Scaffold - Intertextuality and Identity in American Presidential Discourse* (Benjamins 2014), *Electronic Tools for Translators* (St. Jerome 2001), *Übersetzen im Informationszeitalter* (WVT 2001), *Humanities Education and the Challenge of e-Learning* (2000, with D. Apollon), and *Learning Theories and Practice in Translation Studies* (2008, with J. Kornelius), as well numerous articles and book chapters in the field of translation studies as well as discourse studies.

"My role as a researcher is to share my ideas beyond the group of scholars in my field to the larger community of my students. The structure of all my modules, from Hispanic and European film to language skills, reflects my focus on generating meaningful intellectual exchanges in the classroom. My main objective is to challenge students to become independent thinkers. Why does Laura Mulvey speak about the male gaze in film? Do Spanish women filmmakers subvert the male gaze or do they perpetuate it? Is poetic language 'male'? How have Spanish women poets dealt with language to subvert its masculinity? How are stereotypes of ageing created, contested and sustained in Spanish culture? These questions are essential to my own research in Spanish poetry, women's studies, cultural studies, and, more recently, representations of ageing and dementia across cultures. My work on representations of Alzheimer's disease in Spanish film and poetry tackles ageing and dementia from different disciplines such as feminism, film studies, discourse analysis, gerontology and dementia studies. The insightful comments of my students and their fresh and perceptive views have inspired many of the research questions my work seeks to answer."

Professor Frank Austermühl
Associate Dean International Recruitment and Professor of Translation Studies

Dr Uwe Schütte
Reader of German

Dr Raquel Medina
Senior Lecturer in Spanish

Translation Practices Explained

ELECTRONIC TOOLS FOR TRANSLATORS

Frank Austermühl

Raquel Medina

EL SURREALISMO EN LA POESÍA ESPAÑOLA DE POSGUERRA (1939-1950)



Raquel Medina Barbara Zocchi (Eds.)
Sexualidad y escritura (1850-2000)

DE CULTURA Y DIFERENCIA
FEMINISMO, LINGÜÍSTICA, POSTMODERNISMO, UTOPIA

ANTHROPOS

"At Aston, our range of research interests encompasses the entire spectrum of academic enquiry. My expertise is in German-language popular culture and literature. I focus mostly on East German drama, poetry, Austrian literature and contemporary fiction and the interface between aesthetic and political radicalism. My students benefit from the all-round knowledge about German history, society, economy and culture that I need to have as a literary critic. Apart from my literary pursuits I am also a dedicated fan of German popular culture, especially electronic music. As a Kraftwerk scholar I often use the pioneers of techno music in class to teach aspects of German cultural history. Beats and academia don't need to be mutually exclusive, and my students inevitably love it when I crank up the volume in class."



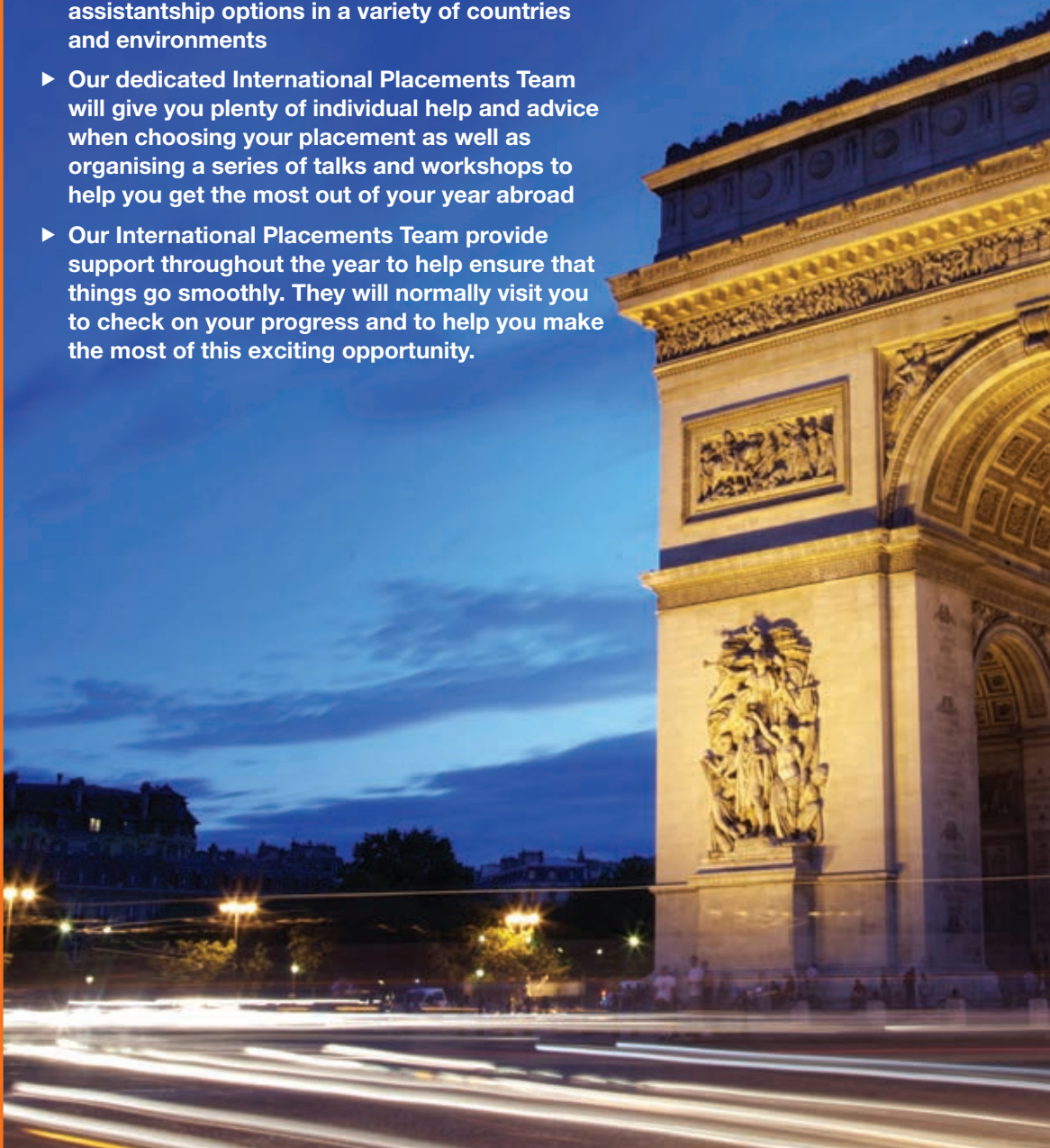
UWE SCHÜTTE
Interventionen.
Literaturkritik als Widerspruch
bei W.G. Sebald



The Aston year abroad

Key Benefits

- ▶ We offer a flexible range of work, study and assistantship options in a variety of countries and environments
- ▶ Our dedicated International Placements Team will give you plenty of individual help and advice when choosing your placement as well as organising a series of talks and workshops to help you get the most out of your year abroad
- ▶ Our International Placements Team provide support throughout the year to help ensure that things go smoothly. They will normally visit you to check on your progress and to help you make the most of this exciting opportunity.



"For my year abroad, I spent six months in Paris working at HSBC on the Champs-Elysees and six months in Pau working for Total. The year abroad was without a doubt the best year of my life! It was the most difficult, yet rewarding experience I have ever had. It has really enhanced my CV and it's always a great talking point with future employers.

Aston has definitely confirmed my love for languages, as well as my passion for travelling. Thanks to Aston's Career Centre and the great contacts they have with so many companies worldwide, I have no doubt that my experience at Aston will be highly recognised by employers.

I finished my Masters and secured a junior translation project manager position in a small company just outside of Birmingham."

Tanya Bain
BSc Translation Studies & French



"The year abroad was without a doubt the best year of my life!"



The Aston year abroad

The year abroad

The third year of your course is spent abroad in a French, German or Spanish speaking country, increasing your fluency in your language(s), immersing yourself in an exciting new culture, and adding value to your degree. The year abroad is an integral, assessed part of your studies at Aston, fully supported by us, and of direct relevance to your degree programme.

First class support

We are extremely proud of the level of support and preparation that we provide for the year abroad. We have a full-time dedicated International Placements Team who will give you plenty of individual help and advice when choosing your placement, as well as organising a series of talks and workshops to help you get the most out of your year abroad. Final year students who have just returned from their year abroad are also on hand to give up-to-date information and informal advice. During the year abroad, we will normally visit you to check on your progress and to help you make the most of this exciting opportunity. Our International Placements Team will provide support throughout the year to make sure that things go smoothly.

Flexibility

A distinctive feature of our year abroad is the flexibility that we offer. You will be able to choose between undertaking a work placement with a company abroad; working as a teaching assistant in a school or studying at one of our partner universities abroad.

You may even choose to combine several of these different options! If you are studying two languages you will normally divide your time equally between the two countries where each of your languages are spoken.

Work abroad

A work placement in a company abroad offers you the chance to gain valuable professional experience as well as improving your language skills. We have long established links with a range of employers in France, Germany, Spain and Latin America and you will be able to take advantage of these links – which are built on the reputation of Aston students – in obtaining a paid work experience placement for your year abroad. You will also benefit from special CV workshops and individual mock interview practice sessions run by our International Placements Team to ensure that you have all the necessary skills to secure a great position for your year abroad. Recent students have undertaken work placements at Air France, Amadeus, PricewaterhouseCoopers Chile, Continental, IBM and Kühne + Nagel.

All work placements are approved by our International Placements Team to ensure that they are relevant and really add value to your degree.

Study abroad

Another possibility for your year abroad is to study at one of our prestigious partner universities in Europe. We currently enjoy excellent links with highly regarded universities in Europe such as the Instituts d'Etudes Politiques in Lille, Bordeaux and Rennes, Université Paul-Valéry (Montpellier), Universitat de València, Universität Leipzig and Universität Wien. You also have the opportunity to travel further afield and study at one of our partner universities in Chile or New Caledonia! If you do a study placement, you can choose your own modules in the foreign language and there will be an individual learning agreement between you, us and your exchange university. This ensures that the courses you take are relevant to your degree at Aston.

Questions about the year abroad?
Why not get in touch with our International Placements Team who will be happy to help:
internationalplacements@aston.ac.uk



Examples of recent year abroad placements

- ▶ Air France (Paris and Toulouse)
- ▶ Black and Decker Deutschland GmbH (Idstein)
- ▶ HSBC (Paris)
- ▶ Deloitte (Switzerland)
- ▶ PricewaterhouseCoopers (Chile)
- ▶ New York Times Syndicate (Paris)
- ▶ Deutsche Bank (France, Germany and Spain)
- ▶ Continental (Germany)
- ▶ Norbert Zänker & Kollegen (Berlin)
- ▶ Teaching Assistantship at an International College in Buenos Aires
- ▶ British Council Language Assistantships in France, Canada, Spain, Austria and Guadeloupe
- ▶ The Phoenix Project (Ecuador)
- ▶ Study placement at prestigious institutions including: Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Rennes, l'Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, Université Paul-Valéry (Montpellier), Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona), Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla, Universität Leipzig, Universität Paderborn and Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder).

Teaching assistantship abroad*

Spending the year abroad as a paid language teaching assistant is not just for those interested in teaching as a potential career. Whatever your plans after graduation you will undoubtedly benefit from the improved confidence, interpersonal and communication skills that our students gain from undertaking a teaching assistantship. Such skills are highly valued by the employers who regularly recruit Aston graduates, regardless of the career path that you choose after graduation. Recently our students have enjoyed British Council language assistantships in schools in France, Canada, Germany, Guadeloupe, Austria, Spain and Argentina.

* Please note that this option is not available to students on the IBML programme. See page 36.

Graduate careers

Positive placements and Year Abroad programmes

Aston has been a leading University for graduate employability since its foundation in 1966. We have fantastic career focused degree courses, high quality teaching, strong industry partnerships and we are dedicated to equipping students for success in the global market/workplace. A placement year spent with an employer has been proven to enhance graduate employment prospects and degree performance.



“THE EMPHASIS AT ASTON IS ALSO ON ‘LEARNING BY DOING’ AND THIS LEFT ME CONFIDENT TO PITCH, PRESENT AND NEGOTIATE IN GERMAN VERY QUICKLY”

Ben Young
BSc International Business
and Modern Languages

Aston Careers Service – supporting Aston’s outstanding graduate employment record

Aston University’s dedicated Careers and Placements team provides quality careers guidance and placement support to enhance the employability and capability of all of our students and recent graduates.

Our relationships with employers are extremely important, and we place a high value on their input to our activities. We support our students in pursuing their career and employment goals by:

- ▶ Creating excellent business links with recruiters, and promoting the benefits of Aston students and graduates in placement and graduate roles within their organisation. Facilitating their contact with students and encouraging their participation in on-campus activities
- ▶ Advertising graduate opportunities, placements and vacation work via our bespoke online jobs portal, Aston Futures
- ▶ Arranging and publicising employer led presentations, drop-ins, recruitment fairs and specialist careers events and workshops. Providing online and in person guidance in preparation for the world of work, further education, business start-up or whatever their plans may be for life after university.

Find us online at: www.aston.ac.uk/careers



Modern Languages at Aston are ranked in the top 30 overall in the UK, in the Guardian University Guide 2017

The Complete University Guide 2014 ranked Iberian (Spanish) Languages at Aston joint 2nd for Graduate Prospects (80%) out of 51 universities

German at Aston is ranked in the top 20 for graduate prospects in the UK in the 2015 Sunday Times University Guide

French at Aston received 95% Overall Satisfaction in the 2015 NSS



“Aston University prepared me well for the world of work due to the fact that I had, as part of my course, done a placement year. I got a lot out of my year abroad and, after having graduated, Aston gave me the confidence, drive and enthusiasm to take on new challenges in business.

My placement year was really worthwhile in terms of acquiring new knowledge and understanding how the world of business operates. I worked for a logistics company in Kufstein, Austria, where I was part of the French Marketing team. I was in charge of searching for new clients in France and organising the transport of their goods all over Europe. It was daunting to begin with but the company trained me ever so well. With time, I was given the opportunity to grow and build my own client base; in a way, it was like running my own business. Thanks to the valuable experience gained during my placement year, I am now CEO of my own Language Training company (Hyvärinen Language Training), operating in Switzerland and Russia.

Aston was so international. Culturally, I learned a lot from the people I studied with and befriended. Furthermore, my International Relations programme helped me to develop my analytical and observational skills for my future work. This is important for me to mention as I am currently based in Russia and have been working in Moscow for the past 7 years. The current political and economic climate in the country leaves much to be desired; however, one can see the bigger picture if the analytical and observational skills are put into practice. This approach has taken me a long way in Russia and I have my teachers at Aston to thank for that.”

**Katherine Hyvärinen,
BSc International Relations and German**

A green and sustainable campus

Students from over 120 countries study at Aston University each year, living in a lively, safe, close-knit and friendly atmosphere.

Aston University's location is unique. Our attractive green campus is set in the centre of Birmingham – just a five minute walk from its first-class social, shopping and cultural attractions.

Our self-contained campus gives Aston University students the best of both worlds: a green, well-equipped, friendly campus in the heart of a vibrant city.

We are improving our facilities all the time with a number of ongoing projects to improve our sustainability and reduce our environmental impact.

Our commitment to sustainability has been recognised in the 2015 'People and Planet Green League' where we are ranked 12 out of the 151 UK universities and Higher Education institutions for our environmental performance.

Other achievements include:

- ▶ reducing CO2 emissions by installing smart LED lighting; solar PV panels systems; and increasing sustainability awareness
- ▶ a combined heat and power plant delivers low carbon electricity and heat
- ▶ we recycle or compost 91% of our waste
- ▶ 'Go Green Week' is held every year to promote sustainability
- ▶ a Fairtrade University since 2007
- ▶ 'Carbon Week' (launched 2015) where all second year students learn about climate change and how it will affect future careers.



People and Planet Green League

Aston has been awarded 'First Class Honours' for our ranking at number 12 out of the 151 UK universities and Higher Education institutions (People and Planet Green League 2015).



Platinum EcoCampus Award

We have achieved the Platinum EcoCampus award for our Environmental Management System, one of only 7 universities to have reached this level.



Fairtrade

Aston has also been a Fairtrade accredited university since 2007.



Birmingham an amazing place to live

Birmingham is internationally recognised as a leader in leisure, entertainment, shopping and sport. Birmingham is an international centre for business, commerce and industry, housing numerous UK and overseas banks, law firms and Europe's second largest insurance market. Birmingham attracts 25 million visitors each year and contributes billions to the national economy through manufacturing and engineering.

Easily accessible Whether by road, rail or air, travelling to and from Birmingham is easy. The University campus is central to an extensive network of motorways and railways. The location of the campus and pedestrianised city centre means walking is easy

Nightlife With over 70,000 students, Birmingham is one of Europe's liveliest cities. Having more than 100 bars, clubs and pubs, Birmingham has something for everyone.

Europe's shopping capital With the Bullring shopping mall in the city centre, you will only be a short walk from shops and restaurants, including the iconic Selfridges store and the new flagship John Lewis store.

Entertainment, sport and leisure Birmingham has one of the highest concentrations of live theatre outside of London's West End. A number of fine art collections can be found at the City Museum and Art Gallery, and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. The LG Arena (NEC), the Barclaycard Arena and the Birmingham O2 Academy host music to suit all tastes. Birmingham is at the heart of sporting action. Football clubs, including Aston Villa and Birmingham City, have their home grounds within the city. Warwickshire County Ground at Edgbaston provides International Test and County Cricket games. Athletics events are held in the City at the Alexander Stadium and at the Barclaycard Arena.

To find out more, visit: www.aston.ac.uk/birmingham



Discover Birmingham on Twitter

#bullring
#birmingham
#mailbox
#brumlife

Degree programmes

All courses are 4 year full-time with a fully-integrated year abroad. See page 8 for the year abroad.

Single Honours Modern Languages

French	R120
German	R220
Spanish	R410

Joint Honours Modern Languages

French and Spanish	RR1K
French and German	RR12
German and Spanish	RR2K

BSc French/German/Spanish including School Experience

BSc French including School Experience	R111
BSc German including School Experience	R213
BSc Spanish including School Experience	R214
BSc French and German including School Experience	R111
BSc French and Spanish including School Experience	R123
BSc German and Spanish including School Experience	R211

International Relations and Modern Language

International Relations and French	LR2C
International Relations and German	LR2G
International Relations and Spanish	LR2K

Modern Language Combinations with English Language/Sociology

French and English Language	QR31
German and English Language	QR32
Spanish and English Language	QR34
French and Sociology	LR41
Spanish and Sociology	LR34

Translation Studies

Translation Studies: French	R110
Translation Studies: German	R210
Translation Studies: Spanish	R400
Translation Studies: French and German	RRC2
Translation Studies: French and Spanish	RR14
Translation Studies: German and Spanish	RR24

International Business and Modern Languages (IBML)

International Business and French	NR11
International Business and German	NR12
International Business and Spanish	NR14
International Business, French and German	NR33
International Business, French and Spanish	NR44
International Business, German and Spanish	NR24

Ab Initio (beginners) German and Spanish

UCAS codes and entry requirements:

Course	UCAS code	A-Level requirements	A-level Language Requirements
BSc French and Spanish	RR1K	ABB - BBB	A-Level French B. Spanish can be taken at beginners level.
BSc French and German	RR12	ABB - BBB	A-Level French B. German can be taken at beginners level.
BSc German and Spanish	RR2K	ABB - BBB	Either A-level German B OR A-level Spanish B. ONE of German or Spanish can be taken as a beginner.
BSc International Relations and German	LR2G	ABB - BBB	None
BSc International Relations and Spanish	LR2K	ABB - BBB	None
BSc English Language and German	QR32	ABB - BBB	None
BSc English Language and Spanish	QR34	ABB - BBB	None
BSc Sociology and Spanish	LR34	ABB - BBB	None

GCSE English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C (or a University approved equivalent) are required for all of the above courses.

Applicants for ab initio German or Spanish are not required to have any previous experience of language learning but we would anticipate that applicants receiving an offer would demonstrate a clear commitment to studying languages via the UCAS Personal Statement. Applicants with GCSE Spanish or German are welcome to apply for the ab initio programmes. Applicants with AS would normally be interviewed and may receive an offer for the ab initio programme or for the post A-Level programme depending on the level of language demonstrated at interview.

Programme Structure

As an ab initio student, you will take an intensive 40 credit language module in year one and two and will be taught separately from those students who already have an A-level to ensure that your language skills progress rapidly. You will spend your third year in a German/Spanish-speaking country in order to allow for maximum exposure to the language and culture, and can choose between an approved study programme at a partner exchange university, a work placement or a post as a Teaching Assistant in a school (see p8 for the year abroad.) If you are studying two languages (including one language ab initio) you will normally divide your time equally between the two countries where each of your languages are spoken. After the Year Abroad, students who studied Spanish/German ab initio are taught with those who started university with an A-level and take the usual final year modules, including modules taught in the target language. For details of modules available please see our website.

French BSc

(Single or Joint Honours with Spanish/German)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS codes:

French R120

French and Spanish RR1K

French and German RR12

Typical offer level:

A-level: ABB-BBB (grade B in language(s))

IB: 32-33 points

Other qualifications see page 42.

Specific subject requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: Grade B in language(s)

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

Our French studies course is designed to develop your linguistic skills to near-native proficiency and fluency. We stress the development of your practical command of French, emphasising language as a means of communication and mutual understanding. Our programme is also designed to develop your understanding of French culture and society – its traditions, its complexities, its underlying ideas – and to develop your critical, analytical and collaborative skills. Language classes are supplemented by a series of thematic modules, also taught in French, which focus on contemporary French society, and particularly on French politics, history, socio-linguistics, media, film and literature. You will be taught by research experts with international reputations in their fields, all in a lively, friendly, experienced and enthusiastic department.

Course structure

French can be studied as a Single Honours subject, or combined with a selection of other subjects as a Joint Honours programme (see page 18 for course list). Whichever combination you choose, the course builds each year on your key language skills – listening, oral, reading and writing, and of course your accuracy and understanding of grammar – to encourage you to express yourself with increasing sophistication, fluency and complexity.

The thematic modules focus on politics and society, media, cultural studies and linguistics. Each year you will develop your knowledge, understanding and analytical skills. The Third Year is spent abroad on a work placement, at an exchange university, or on an assistantship. On returning to Aston in your Final Year, you can take an independent study module (dissertation) on a subject of your choice.

Typical modules

The modules below are indicative only. When an offer is made, students will receive a detailed programme specification which forms part of our terms and conditions. Our modules are taught in French.

Year 1

French Language Skills, Introduction to French-Speaking Countries, Introduction to Film Studies; International Business Environment (France).

Year 2

French Language Skills; Politics and Society (French-speaking countries); Culture and Conflict (French-speaking countries); International Business Environment (France) II; Migrant and Transnational Cinema.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

French Language Skills; La France d'Outre Mer; French Technology: Inventing Progress and Disaster; French Research Dissertation; Advanced Translation French-English; Introduction to Interpreting; Vichy France: Occupation, Collaboration, Liberation; Contemporary French; Representations of Minorities; International Business Environment (France).

Single Honours students have the chance to learn a new language, taking Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, German, Spanish, Portuguese or Japanese.

For more detailed module descriptions visit www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate

A selection of typical modules

Year 1

French Language Skills

This module is designed to improve your language skills and to develop your fluency and accuracy in both written and oral production. Relevant texts will be studied in order to enhance your language skills and increase your awareness of French culture, economy and society. Key areas of focus include the revision and reinforcement of grammar, and the ability to communicate and argue in a structured and appropriate format.

Introduction to French-Speaking Countries

This module offers an introduction to the study of French history and culture. Starting with the Revolution of 1789, it provides an overview of major events and processes which have shaped the course of modern French history, examining the enduring significance of the past for contemporary France. Key historical events and personalities are considered against a historical backdrop of political turbulence, regime change and the continuous debate over what constitutes the French 'value system'.

The second part of the module will provide you with a basic grounding in French culture. Amongst a range of different texts, we focus on contemporary literature (looking at writers such as Camus and Ernaux) and on the cinema of La Nouvelle Vague. Group activities centre on text analysis and discussion, with particular emphasis on the themes of alienation and protest or contestation. Above all, the module aims to provide you with the tools to analyse, discuss and enjoy aspects of contemporary culture.

Year 2

French Language Skills

This module aims to develop your proficiency in spoken French to a standard which enables you to communicate effectively and confidently with French native speakers and sustain a work or study placement in a French-speaking country, as well as to broaden your knowledge of contemporary French society and culture.

Politics and Society (French-speaking countries)

This module examines social conflicts and issues that have been critical in the making of contemporary France. It considers how such conflicts and issues have changed with the evolution

of French society, from those that defined France in the post-war years (economic modernisation, demographic change, new employment patterns, the 'rural exodus' etc) to those that define France today (national identity, immigration, religion, the banlieues, law and order, unemployment, gender etc). The module looks closely at a number of fault lines and fractures in French society and seeks to assess how social 'conflict' and 'consensus' are negotiated in France today.

This module will also discuss France's political institutions and political culture. It focuses on the key concepts, events, political figures and ideas that continue to shape France today: the Fifth Republic, presidentialism, De Gaulle, the Algerian War, May 68, the left in power, Mitterrand, Sarkozy.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

French Research Dissertation

This is an independent study module, for which you devise, research and write a dissertation on a topic of your choice, related to France or another Francophone country. The module develops your analytical and evaluative skills as well as your linguistic fluency and accuracy. Independent study is supplemented by small group classes and/or one-to-one consultations with your dissertation supervisor, enabling you to develop your presentational and communication skills.

French Technology: Inventing Progress and Disaster

This module introduces you to a range of critical discourses about technology in France since 1945, examining utopian and dystopian views of technology's influence in the writings of a range of French intellectuals. Classes focus on atomic technology, cyberculture, the influence of speed, and the impact of technology on social, political and cultural life in the past and in the future.

Contemporary French

This module presents the French language through its use in authentic documents, as opposed to representations in grammars. More specifically, it focuses on how particular linguistic forms lose or develop functions over time. The module is split between presentation of areas of contemporary language variation and change and a group research project.

German BSc

(Single or Joint Honours with French/Spanish)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS codes:

German R220

French and German RR12

German and Spanish RR2K

Typical offer level:

A-level: ABB-BBB (grade B in language(s))

IB: 32-33 points

Other qualifications see page 42.

Specific subject requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: grade B in language(s). See also p19 for details of beginners German courses

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

By the end of our programme you will be able to work effectively in a professional German-speaking environment. Our focus is on the practical application of a range of skills within their wider context. Your linguistic skills will reach near-native proficiency, acquired through a combination of up-to-date modules and a well structured and supervised year abroad. You will also acquire transferable skills such as teamwork and independent research. These will be essential for any of the career choices the course will open up for you. Teaching is conducted in a stimulating environment by internationally renowned experts in their field. Almost all courses are taught in German and provide in-depth insights into current affairs. Subject specialisms include German society, film studies, socio-linguistics, translation studies, popular culture, literature, history and politics, and business studies.

Single Honours students have the chance to learn a new language, taking Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, Spanish, Portuguese or Japanese.

German at Aston is ranked in the top 20 for graduate prospects in the UK in the 2015 Sunday Times University Guide.

Typical modules

The following module lists are indications only – the modules on offer and the content of the modules is subject to change. Our modules are taught in German.

Year 1

German Language Skills, Introduction to German-Speaking Countries, Introduction to Film Studies; International Business Environment (Germany) I.

Year 2

German Language Skills; Politics and Society (German-speaking countries); Culture and Conflict (German-speaking countries); International Business Environment (Germany) II; Migrant and Transnational Cinema.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

German Language Skills; Global Germany; Cultural Identities in the German-speaking countries; Advanced German Translation; International Business Environment (Germany) III; Introduction to Interpreting, Representations of Minorities

For more detailed module descriptions visit www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate



Typical modules

Year 1

German Language Skills

This is the core language skills module for first-year students, providing a solid linguistic basis for the coming years of study. The module consists of two parts: a) communication and grammar skills seminars, practising written and oral language skills with group work, whole-class work, and individual study; and b) an e-learning component comprising listening skills, vocabulary, and general knowledge of the German-speaking areas.

Introduction to German-speaking countries

This module aims to give students a basic knowledge of German culture, politics, society and economy as well as an understanding of the principal events and processes which have shaped modern German-speaking countries, demonstrating the ways in which historical traditions have influenced political structures and public debates in contemporary German-speaking countries. By the end of the module, students will have developed a critical approach to German-speaking culture and society.

Year 2

Politics and Society (German-speaking countries)

This module aims to provide students with an advanced insight into political structures and societal change in German-speaking countries and guides them in critical discussion and evaluation of public debates and social movements in these regions.

Culture and Conflict (German-speaking countries)

Expanding the knowledge and skills acquired in the first year, this module aims to provide students with an advanced insight into the cultural achievements in German-speaking countries. Students will study various forms of cultural and linguistic expression and their social and historical contexts.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

Cultural Identities in the German-speaking countries

This module will focus on and analyse specific cultural manifestations in the German-speaking world. It will provide a variety of material to enhance knowledge of historical, social, linguistic, technological and literary contexts, among others, as well as of specific key events. It will also discuss their implications at a historical, social and cultural level.

German Research Dissertation

This module runs through the whole of the final year and draws together the skills you have acquired throughout the programme. It involves choosing a research topic from the areas of German history, politics, economics, language or culture; researching this; and writing it up in an extended essay in academic German. The written project is complemented by an oral defence of the project in German. Students attend seminars on research skills and individual supervision tutorials.

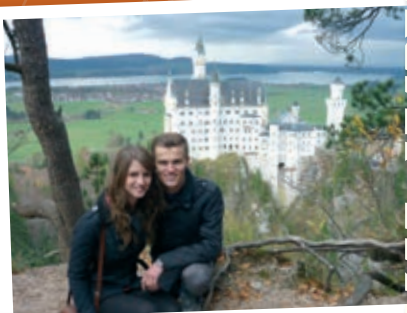
Global Germany

In this module students will analyse and evaluate to what extent Germany's current position in the world as a political and economic player has been shaped by longer-term developments. Over the last 150 years Germany has engaged with the wider world in a number of different – and often radically shifting – ways. These include formal and informal colonialism, military expansion, trade, migration, and integration into transnational structures (e. g., EU, NATO). Students will thus gain an advanced understanding of the effects of globalisation on modern-day Germany.

"On my year abroad, I worked as a British Council Language Assistant in two 'Realschule' in Bavaria, Germany. Within this role I taught lessons, gave presentations about England and prepared the older pupils for speaking exams through conversation classes. Whilst I've learnt I don't want to become a teacher, I really did learn so much from my time in the school and have become more confident. The pupils were always so friendly and were really pleased to have a native English person there to help them improve."

Whilst on my year abroad, I spent most weekends travelling with my girlfriend. We visited lots of cities in Germany, as well as many cities in other European countries. I really enjoyed experiencing a different culture and the whole year abroad has significantly improved my language skills as well as my general understanding of Germany. It has been such a great experience."

Marcus Begley
German BSc



"During my year abroad I worked as a British Council Language assistant in two German Gymnasium for 9 months. I lived in a small university town in central Bavaria and got really involved with both of my schools and the international students living in my town. One of the best parts of my year abroad was the amount of travelling I was able to do. I was able to explore all the major cities in Germany, as well as some in Austria, Czech Republic, Spain and France! Doing a year abroad has without a doubt improved my confidence, organisation and independence. It has also made me realise the amount of opportunities now available to me in the future; I can't wait to explore them!"

Lois Perkins
German BSc



Spanish BSc (Single or Joint Honours with French/German)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS codes:

Spanish R410

French and Spanish RR1K

German and Spanish RR2K

Typical offer level:

A-level: ABB-BBB (grade B in language(s))

IB: 32-33 points

Other qualifications see page 42.

Specific subject requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: grade B in language(s). See also p19 for details of beginners Spanish courses.

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

Spanish is spoken by more than 400 million people worldwide, so the global market has a huge demand for people with a knowledge of the language and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The Spanish programme at Aston is committed to equipping you with the tools, skills and knowledge necessary to operate effectively in this global, multilingual and multicultural world. We are devoted to the study of Spanish in context and therefore we consider the understanding of the diverse cultures and societies of the Spanish-speaking world to play an essential role in understanding the world in which we live. This means that along with near native proficiency in written and spoken Spanish, you will also graduate with an in-depth understanding of the issues that shape contemporary Hispanic cultures and societies.

First and only Cervantes Accredited Centre in the UK

Aston's Spanish section is the first and only Cervantes Accredited Centre in the UK. The Spanish section will be hosting a range of Spanish Cultural Events sponsored by the Cervantes Institute.

Single Honours students have the chance to learn a new language, taking Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Portuguese or Japanese.

Typical modules

The modules below are indicative only. When an offer is made, students will receive a detailed programme specification which forms part of our terms and conditions. Our modules are taught in Spanish.

Year 1

Spanish Language Skills, Introduction to Spanish-Speaking Countries, Introduction to Film Studies; International Business Environment (Spain).

Year 2

Spanish Language Skills; Politics and Society (Spanish-speaking countries); Culture and Conflict (Spanish-speaking countries); International Business Environment (Latin America) II; Migrant and Transnational Cinema.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

Spanish Language Skills; Cultural Studies in the Spanish-speaking countries; Political Landscapes in Spain and Latin America; International Business Environment III (Spain); Representations of Minorities.

Typical module descriptions on page 26.



Typical modules

Year 1

Spanish Written and Spoken Language Skills

In this module you will work on different skills involved in language learning: from listening and speaking, to reading, writing, and translating. Relevant texts will be used in order to increase your awareness of Hispanic culture, economy, history and society in an attempt to learn the language in the context in which it is produced. You will have two hours per week of scheduled interactive seminars and one hour of oral classes for this module.

Introduction to Spanish-speaking countries

Taking an area studies approach, this module aims to give students a basic knowledge of Spanish and Latin American culture, politics, society and economy as well as an understanding of the principal events and processes which have shaped modern Spain and Latin America, demonstrating the ways in which historical traditions have influenced political structures and public debates in contemporary Spain and Latin America. By the end of the module, students will have developed a critical approach to Spanish and Latin American culture and society.

International Business Environment (Spain)

To enhance their employability later on, students have the option of taking this module focusing on Spanish economic and business contexts. Starting with the recent financial crisis, students will also gain a deep understanding of the fluctuations of growth since the Spanish civil war, as well as key current macroeconomic issues. A number of business case studies will be studied as a means to reflect on the rise of Spanish multinationals and ongoing changes in business strategies.

Year 2

Spanish Written and Spoken Language Skills

This module aims to develop your proficiency in written and spoken Spanish to a standard that enables you to communicate effectively and confidently with Spanish native speakers and sustain a work or study placement in a Spanish-speaking country. You will work on the different skills involved in language learning: from listening and speaking to reading, writing, and translating. Relevant texts will be used, in order to increase students' awareness of Hispanic culture, economy, history and society to learn the language in the context in which it is used.

Politics and Society (Spanish-speaking countries)

This module will provide students with an advanced insight into political structures and societal change in Spain and Latin America. It will guide them in critical discussion and evaluation of public debates and social movements in these regions in relation to current affairs and recent history. Having studied this module, students will be very well placed to understand the countries where they go on placement, whether Spain or one of the South American countries.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

Spanish Research Dissertation

In this module you will research a chosen topic, agreed with the supervisor. The research may be on any subject considered appropriate for research at Final Year level within the Spanish Studies programme. You will be expected to identify your own topic and approach. We positively encourage individual initiative and research, while supervisors will encourage the exchange and construction of ideas, the development of your research question, and will give advice on dissertation organisation and presentation.

Political Landscapes in Spain and Latin America

This module will lead students to analyse specific political, geographic and economic features of Spain and Latin America. Students will study a variety of material from various sources to enhance knowledge both of context and of specific events, while developing critical analysis skills. The module will also discuss the implications of such events and contexts at political, historical, economic, and social level.

For more detailed module descriptions visit www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate

"During my course I have been taught by some of the best academics in the field - it's impressive when a lecturer adds their own book to the module reading list! As well as having strong academic support, the lecturers are also very approachable.

In my third year I spent eight months teaching English in Extremadura, Spain. I also got a part-time job teaching in a private academy, which meant that I had enough money to travel to some fantastic places, including Barcelona, Granada and even Brussels in Belgium. Over the summer I was an au pair for a French family, in the south of France. I took my own car, giving me the freedom to explore the country. Before the year abroad I had never lived away from home, so this was a huge step for me. However, after managing to negotiate Spanish bureaucracy, and living and driving in a foreign country, everything else now seems like a breeze!

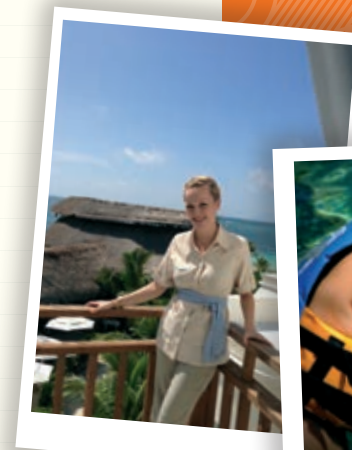
My year abroad definitely set me in good stead for a teaching career, and this September I'm starting a PGCSE course in Worcester, and have secured a Schools Direct placement in a secondary school in Bromsgrove."

Faye Marie Higgins
French and Spanish BSc

"My year abroad definitely set me in good stead for a teaching career... I have secured a Schools Direct placement in a secondary school."

"I spent 5 months of my year abroad studying in Spain and the last 6 months working in a hotel in Mexico in their Human Resources department. The biggest benefit of working/studying abroad was definitely being pushed out of my comfort zone. Only this way was I able to really put myself out there and improve my Spanish. Other huge benefits include, the life experiences had and the different cultures experienced. Aston has definitely helped me in defining what I want to do with my future."

Caroline Davis
Psychology and Spanish BSc



Translation Studies BSc

(Joint Honours with French/German/Spanish)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS codes:

Translation Studies French R110

Translation Studies German R210

Translation Studies Spanish R400

Translation Studies French and German RRC2

Translation Studies French and Spanish RR14

Translation Studies German and Spanish RR24

Typical offer level:

A-level: ABB-BBB (grade B in language(s))

IB: 32-33 points

Other qualifications see page 42.

Specific subject requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: grade B in language(s)

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

Our Translation Studies programmes combine the study of French and/or German and/or Spanish with professional and theoretical aspects of translation. The programmes are designed to prepare you for a successful career either in translation or in allied professions. By the end of the programme your language skills will have reached near-native proficiency and you will also have developed competence in translation and intercultural communication. The programmes focus on French, German and/or Spanish language, culture and society. They also develop insights into the wider socio-cultural context of translation.

Course structure

Each of our Translation Studies programmes follows a clear progression, building upon your initial level and developing your full potential over the course of your studies. In each year of study, core modules in language and society are complemented by modules that focus on translation-relevant topics. The third year is spent abroad on a work placement (including work in a translation company), at an exchange university, or on an assistantship. In the final year, you will have the opportunity to practice your translation and interpreting skills and develop specialised translation competence in a subject area of your own choice. You will graduate as a confident speaker of French, German and/or

Spanish with excellent intercultural and translation competence. Students also have the opportunity to gain certification in TRADOS translation software, as well as experience of using MemoQ, AntConc and other associated programmes.

Typical modules

The modules below are indicative only. When an offer is made, students will receive a detailed programme specification which forms part of our terms and conditions. Almost all our modules are taught in the target language.

Year 1

French/German/Spanish Language Skills; Introduction to Language & Communication; Translation: theory and practice; modules in French/German/Spanish film, culture, media, history, politics.

Year 2

French/German/Spanish Language Skills; Communication Across Language and Cultures; Translation & Technology; modules in French/German/Spanish film, culture, media, history, politics.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

Core French/German/Spanish Language Skills; Contemporary Translation Theories; Specialised LSP Translation; Advanced Translation French/German/Spanish into English; Introduction to Interpreting; French/German/Spanish film, culture, media, history, politics.

Typical module descriptions on page 29.

For more detailed module descriptions visit www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate



Typical modules

Year 1

Introduction to Language and Communication

Language and communication determine the way we interact with one another, shape our personal relationships and create an image of ourselves. On a larger scale, language and communication are among the main factors which shape societies and distinct forms of culture. This module offers an introduction to the basic concepts of language and communication. Linguistics, the science of studying language, languages and communication, offers a variety of tools and methods to analyse phenomena such as bilingualism, computer-mediated communication, language and globalization etc.

Translation: theory and practice

This module introduces you to translation as a professional activity. You will be familiarised with key theoretical concepts of translation and their application in practice, so as to develop skills in translating. You will learn to produce translations into English that are appropriate for your specified purpose and readers, and learn to explain your own translation decisions.

In the second semester you will work through a range of translation tasks including summary translation, song translation, subtitling, liaison interpreting and translation editing. The class uses various language combinations and involves intensive small-group preparation.

Year 2

Communication Across Languages and Cultures

This module highlights the significance of intercultural and textual competence. You will learn to identify and evaluate potential problems in cross-cultural communication. By means of a variety of cross-cultural analyses of communicative settings and textual genres, you will be familiarised with communicative conventions in English, German, French and Spanish. With special relevance to translation, the module will thus develop an insight into the significance of these conventions for effective (written and oral) communication. In addition, you will be introduced to particular historical case studies, in the form of a short formal lecture, a student group presentation, and related discussion exercises, so as to get insight into the wider political, cultural and ethical contexts of translation.

Translation and Technology

This module introduces a selection of electronic tools that assist the professional translator. You will carry out practical translation exercises using translation memory systems, machine translation, terminology databases, subtitle editors and localisation tools. The knowledge gained in this module will be particularly useful for potential work placements with translation companies during the year abroad.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

Contemporary Translation Theories

This module will further consolidate your understanding of translation as a complex activity within a wider context. You will acquire knowledge of contemporary translation theories and cover topics such as children's literature in translation, gender and translation, and the translation process. The seminars are based on discussion exercises, presentations, and a variety of practical case studies.

Advanced Translation French/German/Spanish – English

In this module, you will consolidate and extend your skills in French/German/Spanish – English translation at a professional level. Classes are held in English, in a workshop format based on individual preparation of high-level texts from a range of genres, such as tourist leaflets, business texts and comics. Particular attention is paid to research skills and awareness of professional issues.

Introduction to Interpreting

This module introduces you to different types of interpreting and you will learn how to mediate between speakers of French/German/Spanish and English. You will practice unilateral and bilateral liaison interpreting, learn note-taking techniques, and cover a wide range of topics and contexts, such as conference interpreting and public service interpreting.

International Relations & Modern Language BSc (Joint Honours French/German/Spanish)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS codes:

International Relations and French LR2C
International Relations and German LR2G
International Relations and Spanish LR2K

Typical offer level:

A-level: ABB-BBB (grade B in language(s))

IB: 32-33 points

Other qualifications see page 42.

Specific subject requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: grade B in language(s). See also p19 for details of beginners German/Spanish courses.

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

This programme highlights the benefits of an interdisciplinary course of study. A combination of courses reflecting the current state of global affairs, with a particular European focus, allows you to maximize your understanding of political institutional arrangements and practices while honing your chosen language skills and focusing on topics of contemporary social and political interest. You will begin your course of study acquiring a sound knowledge of domestic and international politics. Upon completion you will have a detailed understanding of the nature of global and European and domestic political institutions, which, when combined with the year abroad component of this degree programme, will set them on a strong career path further developing the language and critical thinking skills acquired during your four years at Aston University.

For detailed module descriptions visit
www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate



Typical modules

The modules below are indicative only. When an offer is made, students will receive a detailed programme specification which forms part of our terms and conditions.

Year 1

International Relations: Introduction to International Relations; Modern Europe and the World; Information Skills; Introduction to the European Union.

Modern Language: French/German/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); introduction to French/German/Spanish-speaking countries.

Year 2

International Relations: Research Methods; EU Politics/Policies; International Relations: Theories and Issues; Security Studies.

Modern Language: French/German/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); modules in politics and society, culture and conflict.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

International Relations: Research Dissertation.

Options from: Regions and Regionalism in Europe; Contemporary Political Theory; Religion and Politics in Contemporary Europe; Immigration and Citizenship in Western Europe; Political Leaders: Case Studies and Comparative Perspectives; The International Politics of East Asia; Nationalism and Political Power in Europe; The Politics of Post Soviet Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Modern Language: French/German/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); choice of modules in French/German/Spanish film, culture, media, history and politics.

"Part of the Translation Studies programme at Aston involved spending a year working or studying abroad. I opted for two six-month work placements, with the first six months spent working for Daimler in Stuttgart and the other half of the year at Spincontrol in the idyllic city of Tours in central France. Both placements allowed me to gain a wide variety of skills and knowledge, all of which still help me in my day-to-day working life.

After graduation, I returned to Daimler's Corporate Language Management department in Stuttgart and continued translating owner's manuals and highly technical computer-based training programs before being headhunted in 2011 by the Anglokom Institut, one of Daimler's long-standing language service providers based in the nearby Waiblingen where I currently hold the position of Office Manager. In my role I continually apply the theories which were taught during my studies at Aston.

My reasons for choosing to study at Aston included the feeling of being part of the tightly-knit community that is Aston's campus and the University's more scientific approach to language learning. The practically-oriented teaching methods at Aston allowed me to develop both the theoretical and practical skills required in this field of work – I was well-prepared for my year abroad and thus in turn well-prepared for real working life. I have fond memories of Aston and particularly value the quality of the teaching I received, which is why I'm always keen to stay in touch with LSS and offer both graduate and undergraduate translators the chance to work with us and gain the valuable experience needed in translation."

Stuart Brown
Translation Studies – French and German BSc

Stuart now works as an Office Manager at the Anglokom Institute.



"When I was at Aston I was lucky enough to spend my year abroad on two work placements: I spent the first half of the year in the translation department of SAP, a large international software company based in Waldorf, Germany, and then I went to work for Air France in Toulouse, where I taught English and ran the language centre there. I started back at Aston in 2010 on the MA Translation in a European Context and it was during that year that I found out about and applied to my current employer.

I've been living and working in Würzburg, Germany, since October 2011. I work as a Teaching Fellow at a private higher education institution that trains translators and interpreters. I teach 24 classes a week across all three years of the undergraduate program. My teaching focuses mainly on general and specialised translation from German into English."

Melissa Sadler
Translation Studies – French and German BSc

Melissa now works as a Teaching Fellow at Wuerzburger Dolmetscherschule.

"In my role I continually apply the theories which were taught to me during my studies at Aston."

Modern Language and English Language BSc (Joint Honours with French/German/Spanish)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS codes:

French and English Language QR31
German and English Language QR32
Spanish and English Language QR34

Typical offer level:

A-level: ABB-BBB (grade B in language)
IB: 32-33 points
Other qualifications see page 42.

Subject specific requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: grade B in language(s). See also p19 for details of beginners German/Spanish courses.

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

Our Modern Languages (French, German or Spanish) and English Language courses produce highly employable, multi-skilled graduates, able to pursue successful careers in business and industry, in government and elsewhere in the public sector, or in education and teaching. Our students are in demand from a wide range of employers who value their understanding of different cultures and societies, their communication skills and motivation for team work.

Course structure

In each year of study your language classes are supplemented by a series of thematic modules, which focus on contemporary society, and particularly on politics, socio-linguistics, media, film and literature. Your third year will be spent abroad, undertaking a work placement with a company, working as a teaching assistant in a school or studying at one of our partner universities abroad.



Typical modules

The modules below are indicative only. When an offer is made, students will receive a detailed programme specification which forms part of our terms and conditions.

Year 1

Modern Language: French/German/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); introduction to French/German/Spanish-speaking countries.

English Language: Introduction to English Language: Contexts, Modes and Media; Language in Society; Grammar and Meaning; Academic Communication Skills.

Year 2

Modern Language: French/German/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); modules in politics and society, culture and conflict.

English Language: Variations of English; Research Methods in Language and Communication; Working With Language Data. Options from: Language in the News Media; Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL); The Language of the Law; Computer Mediated Communication; Language at Work; Short Placement.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

Modern Language: French/German/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); choice of modules in French/German/Spanish film, culture, media, history and politics.

English Language: Research Dissertation (on an agreed topic of your choice); Spoken Discourse Analysis. Options from: Corpus Linguistics: Language as Evidence; Linguistics of the Individual; Multimodal Analysis; Leadership and Management Communication.

For detailed module descriptions visit
www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate

Modern Language and Sociology BSc (Joint Honours with French/Spanish)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS codes:

French and Sociology LR41
Sociology and Spanish LR34

Typical offer level:

A-level: ABB-BBB (grade B in language(s))
IB: 32-33 points
Other qualifications see page 42.

Subject specific requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: grade B in language(s). See also p19 for details of beginners Spanish courses.

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

Our Modern Languages (French, German or Spanish) and Sociology courses will provide you with an in-depth understanding of social processes, organisational dynamics and inter-group relationships, whilst developing your linguistic skills to near-native proficiency and fluency. Strengths of the programme include its focus on key contemporary social issues, social policy and decision making, and international comparisons of social structures and policies. The modern languages strand of the course stresses the development of your practical command of French/Spanish, emphasising language as a means of communication and mutual understanding. Our programme also aims to develop your understanding of French/Hispanic culture and society – its traditions, its complexities, its underlying ideas – and to develop your critical, analytical and collaborative skills.

Course structure

In each year of study your language classes are supplemented by a series of thematic modules, which focus on contemporary society, and particularly on politics, socio-linguistics, media, film and literature. Your third year will be spent abroad, undertaking a work placement with a company, working as a teaching assistant in a school or studying at one of our partner universities abroad.

For detailed module descriptions visit
www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate

Typical modules

The modules below are indicative only. When an offer is made, students will receive a detailed programme specification which forms part of our terms and conditions.

Year 1

Modern Language: French/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); introduction to French/German/Spanish-speaking countries.

Sociology: Identities and Inequalities; Research Methods I; Social Theory I.

Year 2

Modern Language: French/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); modules in politics and society, culture and conflict.

Sociology: Embodiment and Feminist Theory; Research Methods II; Sociology of Racism; Social Theory II; Global Society; CSI: Crime, Subversion and Injustice.

Year abroad

Compulsory year abroad. See page 8.

Final year

Modern Language: French/Spanish Language Skills (written & spoken); choice of modules in French/German/Spanish film, culture, media, history and politics.

Sociology: Dissertation. Options from: Racism, Class and Gender; Contemporary Power in a Globalised World; Sociology of Religion; Tattoos, TV, Trends: Understanding Popular Culture.



BSc French/German/Spanish including School Experience

3 years full-time with period of work experience abroad

UCAS Codes:

BSc French including School Experience	R111
BSc German including School Experience	R213
BSc Spanish including School Experience	R214
BSc French and German including School Experience	R111
BSc French and Spanish including School Experience	R123
BSc German and Spanish including School Experience	R211

Typical Offers:

All students selected for this course will be required to attend an interview prior to an offer being made.

A Levels: ABB - BBB from 3 A-levels, including the relevant language(s) at Grade B. General Studies accepted.

IB: 32-33 points in the IB diploma including TOK/ Bonus points, including the relevant language(s) at Higher Level 6.

Specific subject requirements:

GCSE English Language and Maths Grade C.

Native Speakers:

Consideration will be given to applicants who are native speakers as long as s/he meets the general academic entry requirements outlined above. Evidence of Language competency may be assessed via interview and/or written test.

Professional Skills Tests:

All applicants to Initial Teacher Training need to pass both Numeracy and Literacy tests. Further details will be sent to successful applicants with your offer letter.

Disclosure and Barring Service checks :

Students enrolling onto these courses at Aston University will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. All positive checks will be reviewed and certain disclosures may result in the withdrawal of an offer. Annual self-declarations will be required during the course. In addition, the School reserves the right to request further Enhanced Disclosure Barring Service checks during the course of the programme. Any new conduct issues may be referred to the Programme Director/Associate Dean Undergraduate for review.

Students for this course are required to pay for any DBS checks undertaken. Further information regarding DBS checks will be sent to you once you have firmly accepted an offer.

Tuition fees 2016/17:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit: www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Course outline

This innovative new programme enables you to study one or two languages (French, German, Spanish) to honours degree level within three years, while acquiring a foundation of professional experience in schools in order to prepare you to apply for initial teacher training after graduation. The great strength of this programme is that it develops language skills and builds up knowledge of classroom and school practices throughout the three years of the degree.

In year one of the course you will study core modules in your chosen language(s), which develop your key language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing, and of course your accuracy and understanding of grammar – alongside thematic modules focused on politics and society, media, cultural studies and linguistics. In addition to your Language modules, you will also undertake a school-based module lasting eight weeks (roughly two hours per week), which aims to provide you with an initial experience of observation in the secondary school classroom.

In year two you will spend the first teaching period (September – January) at Aston, developing your fluency, accuracy and confidence in your language skills. You will also undertake another school-based module (two hours a week) designed to promote reflection about modern language teaching. The second teaching period (January – June) is then spent at one of our specially chosen partner universities: Tours, Montpellier, Paderborn, Barcelona (Pompeu Fabra) or Santiago (Instituto Chileno Británico), followed by a work placement in the summer period (June – August.) Students who are taking two languages will normally undertake a University placement in a country where their first language is spoken, followed by a work placement in a country where their other language is spoken.

In the final year of your course, you return to Aston undertaking a range of core and optional modules in your chosen languages(s) and a French/German/ Spanish research dissertation on a subject of your choice. In this year, you will also undertake a final school-based module (two hours a week in the first semester), designed to promote reflection about teaching and especially about the nature of pupil progress.

It is also possible to opt to do a further work placement in your third year and return to Aston to complete the final year described above.

For detailed module descriptions visit www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate



International Business & Modern Languages BSc

(Joint Honours French/German/Spanish/Mandarin Chinese/Arabic/

Portuguese)

Key facts

4 year full-time with integrated year abroad.

UCAS code:

International Business and French	NR11
International Business and German	NR12
International Business and Spanish	NR14
International Business, French and German	NR33
International Business, French and Spanish	NR44
International Business, German and Spanish	NR24

Typical offer level:

A Level: ABB-AAB

IB: 32-34 points

Other qualifications see page 42.

Specific subject requirements:

GCSE: English Language Grade C and Maths Grade C.

A-level: grade B in language(s).

Fees per year for 2017 entry:

For the latest information on tuition fees visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/tuition-fees/

Programme overview

More and more companies are competing in the global market place, which means there is a growing demand for managers with an international outlook. Graduates with knowledge of foreign countries and their business cultures, that are proficient in foreign languages, have an edge. This degree has been created to produce graduates, capable of fast-tracking into senior management.

Many degree programmes treat language and business as two separate entities. In contrast the Aston degree focuses on the integrated study of advanced level French, German or Spanish, or a combination of two of these languages, with Business Management. You also have the option to include the study of either Chinese (Mandarin), Portuguese or Arabic as a minor subject within your degree programme. Your language skills are improved by the teaching of all language classes, and many of the management classes, in the foreign language(s) that you are studying. The emphasis is on understanding the country, their business environment and developing relevant vocabulary, and not literary studies.

For detailed module descriptions visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate

Course structure

The first year gives you an introduction to management whilst developing your language skills. You will extend your language knowledge into new areas, building on your oral and written language skills and becoming familiar with a variety of vocabularies. You will learn about changes in the environment of business in the UK and worldwide, specialising in the business environment of France, Germany or Spain. These subjects are taught in the foreign language to ensure that you make progress in the language and business simultaneously, preparing you for the year abroad.

In the second year you will cover the main functional areas of management and will study the worldwide environment of business, specialising further in the business platform of France, Germany or Spain. You will also continue to develop your foreign language skills. In the Final Year you will address two main business themes as well as continuing to develop your language skills.

Typical modules

The modules below are indicative only. When an offer is made, students will receive a detailed programme specification which forms part of our terms and conditions.

Year 1

Modules taught in English:

- ▶ International Business Environment (worldwide)
- ▶ Organisational Behaviour
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Quantitative Techniques
- ▶ IT for Business
- ▶ Financial Accounting.

Modules taught in the target language:

- ▶ International Business Environment (France/Germany/Spain and Latin America)
- ▶ French/German/Spanish Language
- ▶ Introduction to French/German/Spanish-speaking countries, or Arabic Language (beginners)/Chinese Language (beginners)/Portuguese (beginners).

Year 2

Modules taught in English:

- ▶ International Business Environment (worldwide)
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ Operations Management
- ▶ Data Analysis
- ▶ Management Accounting
- ▶ Strategic Finance.

Modules taught in the target language:

- ▶ International Business Environment (France/Germany/Spain and Latin America)
- ▶ French/German/Spanish Language
- ▶ Politics and Society/Culture and Conflict (France/Germany/Spain and Latin America).

Year Abroad

Study and/or work in a French/ German/Spanish speaking country. This year offers a great deal of flexibility with the option of studying, working, or doing a combination of both. If you choose to do a study placement you will spend time in one of the prestigious Business Schools that we have exchange agreements with in Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Mexico and Spain.

The year is assessed by an essay in French/German/ Spanish, deriving from the work placement, or by examinations taken in the partner business school, or both.

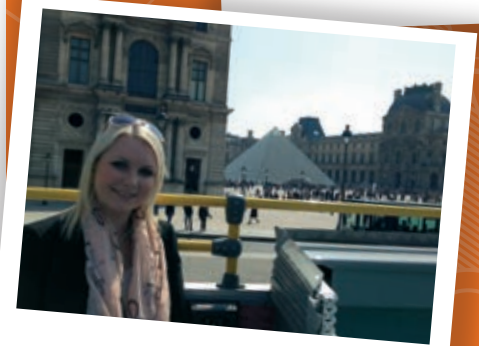
Final year

Modules taught in English:

- ▶ Strategy (Policy Analysis and Decision-making)
- ▶ International Marketing or International Operations
- ▶ International Finance
- ▶ International Economics
- ▶ Global Working.

Modules taught in the target language:

- ▶ International Business Environment France/Germany/ Spain and Latin America
- ▶ French/German/Spanish Language
- ▶ Choice of modules in French/German/Spanish culture, media, history and politics, or dissertation or Arabic Language (advanced)/Chinese Language (advanced)/Portuguese (advanced).



"The languages department at Aston is a real credit to the university and I saw this most when applying for internships for my placement year. The connections that Aston has established over the years with different partner universities, organisations and professionals are undeniably good; they have links with massive names all over the world. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to spend my year abroad in Paris, France and it was the best experience of my life. I split my year abroad into two placements and spent 6 months working for HSBC and then I worked for 6 months at BNP Paribas, which is a large, international French bank. Not only did I gain lots of practical experience from these two placements but I also gained so much confidence when speaking and practising my French. I also met many lovely people who I know I will stay in touch with for the rest of my life. It was an absolutely unforgettable experience. Aston University has prepared me for the real world and I have had no problem finding a job. In fact, I have secured a graduate job with Lloyds Banking Group in their Commercial Banking division as a Relationship Manager for when I graduate."

Leigh Dunkley
International Business and Modern Languages – French BSc

Teaching and assessment



How will I be taught?

You will be involved in: lectures, tutorials, seminars, e-seminars, small-group work, project work and independent study. Many of your modules will be in workshop format, alternating theoretical input with practical analysis, and allowing you to test out your understanding in discussion with other students and your tutor. There are also opportunities for group and collaborative work. Students undertake a major piece of independent research in Final Year.

For detailed programme specifications go to:
www.aston.ac.uk/programme-specifications

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a combination of exams, project-based coursework, essays, presentations and an extended dissertation during your Final Year. Exams take place in January and May/June.

For detailed programme specifications go to:
www.aston.ac.uk/programme-specifications

What is the Personal Tutor System?

You will be allocated a Personal Tutor when you join us and you will be encouraged to make regular contact with them throughout your studies. Personal Tutors are there to help discuss academic and, in some cases, personal issues. Personal Tutors can also often offer support by writing references for placement/graduate employment and academic research.

Programme Support Team

Our main aim in the Programme Support team for Languages and Social Sciences (LSS) is to ensure that our students receive the best support possible throughout their time at Aston.

We are often the first point of contact for students if they have any issues, whether academic, pastoral or anything else that is concerning them.

We are happy to talk to students one-to-one, over the phone or via email – whatever works best for the individual. We also offer a number of services that we encourage students to benefit from, including the Personal Tutor System and the Student Staff Committee (SSC).

Student support

Languages students at Aston have access to a wide range of resources for study and research, including thousands of online journals, books and databases.

The school has specialist software for computer assisted translation; subtitling; audio and video editing; NVIVO for analysing interviews and documents; corpus tools for analysing large collections of authentic texts.

There is a DVD library with films in French, Spanish, German and English, and an online archive of recorded television and radio (Bob National). Students can borrow audio recorders and video cameras, and support with learning and research software is available from a dedicated learning technologies support team.



Academic support

The School of Languages and Social Sciences Staff are on hand during specifically advertised 'office hours' to discuss any academic concerns you have about your studies and to offer academic support and guidance in any kind of issues, whether academic, pastoral or other. We talk to students one-to-one, over the phone or via email – whatever works best for the individual. We also offer a number of services, including the Personal Tutor System and the Student Staff Consultative Committee (SSCC)".

Library and Information Services

A well-resourced library is critical to your studies alongside knowledgeable and customer-focused staff. Aston's Library Services provides access to all essential readings as well as thousands of books, e-books and electronic journals for further research. The self-service facilities ensure that you can borrow books and laptops, or print your work at a time to suit you. In addition, the Library has long opening hours all year round and 24-hour access when you need it the most, providing the accessibility required to fit with your study patterns.



Other services

The University also provides a range of other services including:

- ▶ The Hub – student support and advice zone
- ▶ Health Centre
- ▶ Learning and Skills Centre
- ▶ Counselling Service
- ▶ Chaplaincy and on-site prayer room.





Learn Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese or Spanish for free during your first year of study at Aston University.

Languages are increasingly in demand from global businesses. Learning a new language can really develop your intercultural awareness and give you a head start in a global working environment.

Free language tuition is available to all eligible first year students* at beginners, intermediate or advanced level and our experienced language tutors will support you every step of the way.

*See our website for eligibility criteria.

Key benefits

- ▶ Learn a new language or improve your existing language skills
- ▶ Enhance your CV and increase your employability
- ▶ Excellent preparation for placements abroad
- ▶ Languages are increasingly in demand from global businesses
- ▶ Increase your intercultural awareness.



Choosing your language level

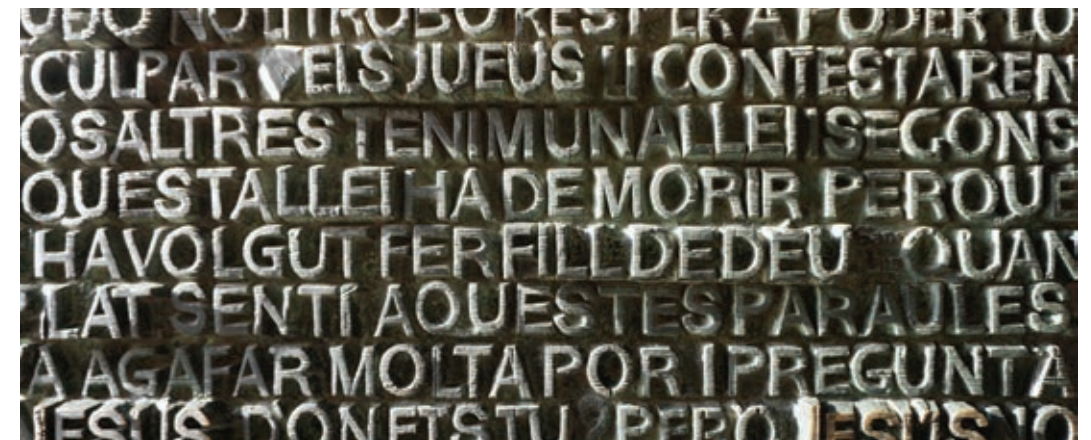
- ▶ **Beginners** – modules are designed for those with no knowledge of the language.
- ▶ **Intermediate** – you will need some prior knowledge of the language, usually a GCSE pass at grade C or above.
- ▶ **Advanced** – you will need a grade C or above in the same language at AS level, or an equivalent qualification.

It will be determined which level of study is appropriate for each student (beginners, intermediate or advanced) based on the information that you supply on your application form.

Classes take place during the standard university teaching day and are structured around undergraduate timetables. They are two-hour sessions usually held late in the afternoon or in the early evening. Assessment is by a short oral presentation and discussion, a 30-minute class listening test and a two hour examination. The exam includes grammar and vocabulary exercises, reading and written comprehension, and written composition. Feedback is given for learning purposes throughout the module in the form of informal, verbal comments on weekly activities; both formative and summative feedback are provided on the oral presentation; written feedback is also given as part of the marking process for the exam.

For more information contact:
Languages for All Co-ordinator
Tel: **0121 204 4290**
Email: languages_for_all@aston.ac.uk

www.aston.ac.uk/languagesforall



Applying to Aston

When you apply

Your UCAS form will be carefully considered by our Admissions Tutor. We treat each application to our courses individually and take a range of criteria into account when making offers, including:

- ▶ Evidence of commitment and motivation to studying the subject – the UCAS personal statement
- ▶ Predicted grades
- ▶ Past performance – e.g. GCSEs
- ▶ School/college reference
- ▶ Relevant experience
- ▶ Extenuating circumstances
- ▶ Interview performance (if required in a small number of cases).

University and programme codes

The UCAS code, ASTON A80, should be entered clearly on your application form. UCAS codes for degree programmes are listed throughout this prospectus and on the UCAS website.

Choice of university/college

You may apply to five institutions/courses on the UCAS form, but are not obliged to use all five choices. You can enter your choices in any order.

When to apply

For entry in Autumn 2017 you can apply from mid-September 2016 but the last date for the receipt of applications, to qualify for full and equal treatment, is 15th January 2017. Although you should make every effort to let us have your application by 15th January 2017, we are still able to consider applications throughout the year.

Other qualifications

For information on the suitability of other qualifications please contact the Admissions Office and we will be happy to assist.

Welsh, Scottish and Irish qualifications

Aston regularly receives and welcomes application from Wales, Scotland and Ireland for all our degree programmes. Welsh applicants can include a pass in the Welsh Baccalaureate as one of their A2 levels. Scottish applicants will normally be required to complete the Advanced Higher or equivalent qualification. As a guide, UCAS Tariff points required for A-Levels will normally equate to similar points from Scottish and Irish Highers. Please contact us if you would like any further guidance.

EU/International qualifications

We welcome well-qualified applicants who hold European or International Qualifications. Prospective students are encouraged to contact our Admissions Office for detailed advice and guidance on the suitability regarding their qualifications.

Students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties

We welcome applications from students with disabilities and aim to enable you to make the most of your time at the university, whether you have a medical condition, physical, sensory or hidden disability, mental health or specific learning difficulty. **Your application will be considered solely on academic merit** but it is helpful if we know in advance about any support needs you may have. We strongly advise

you to notify us of any disability or support needs via your UCAS form. A copy of your application will then be sent to the Disability Co-ordinator, who may ask you for additional information relating to disability issues only. We may invite you for an interview so you can see the campus and discuss arrangements in advance. A recommendation for your support requirements will then be made to the School. Please contact the Disability Co-ordinator for further advice or information: **0121 204 4711** or **disabilityteam@aston.ac.uk**

Deferred entry accepted

At Aston University, we recognise the advantages that some students can gain from a 'gap year', and our Admissions Team will be happy to discuss deferred entry with you. If you do want to apply to Aston but defer entry, you should indicate this on your UCAS form. It is also recommended that you outline briefly on your personal statement your reason(s) for choosing deferred entry.

For further advice or information:
Email: **lss_ugadmissions@aston.ac.uk**
Tel: **+44 (0) 121 204 3777**



Come and see us

Open days before you apply

We hold three major open days each year in June, September and October for applicants to visit us before they apply. Details are available at: **www.aston.ac.uk/prospective-students/opensdays**

Open days after you apply

If you apply to us on your UCAS form and we make you an offer of a place to study with us (an 'Unconditional Offer' or a 'Conditional Offer'), you will be personally invited to one of our open days. These events provide lots of opportunities to ask questions and meet staff and students. You will also be able to go on a campus and accommodation tour and to look around the department (including our e-learning centre and Cadbury room). We also have a placements Question and Answer Panel where our current students who have just returned from placement tell you all about their fantastic placements experiences!

Independent campus tours

If you are unable to attend one of our scheduled open days and would like to look around the department independently please contact us to arrange a visit. Detailed maps and directions can be found at:

www.aston.ac.uk/about/directions.

Contact us

School of Languages and Social Sciences
Aston University
Aston Triangle
Birmingham
B4 7ET
UK

Email: **lss_ugadmissions@aston.ac.uk**
Tel: **+44 (0) 121 204 3777**

Terms and conditions

The information contained in this prospectus is relevant for applications to postgraduate programmes in the academic session September 2017 - June 2018 and is supplemental to the Terms and Conditions of Enrolment which will form part of any offer made by the University. The Terms and Conditions of Enrolment are available on request. The information in this prospectus is correct at the time of going to press (July 2016).

All students who accept a place at Aston University will be required to abide by, and to submit to Aston University's policies, rules and regulations. A copy of the policies, rules and regulations is available on request from the Registry. [The policies, rules and regulations that apply to a student throughout his or her time at the University are the policies, rules and regulations in place at the time the student accepts his or her place.]

Where placements form part of a programme of study, the University makes every effort to help its students find suitable placement opportunities. However, as the availability, duration, nature and content of placements are outside the University's control, we cannot guarantee that suitable placements will always be available.

The University does not warrant or guarantee that its position in any league table, survey or poll will be maintained throughout a student's course, enrolment on any particular programme will automatically result in graduation and/or that a student successfully completing a course will receive any offer of employment.





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When you have finished with
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