Modern Languages

See also Arabic page 58, Comparative Literature page 74, French page 96, German page 100, Italian page 116, Persian page 134, Russian page 144, Spanish page 148

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

The School of Modern Languages offers a wide range of degree programmes in one, two or three languages, or in one or two languages and a non-language subject or subjects. French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish all offer a Single Honours degree programme, while both Arabic and Persian can be studied as part of a two- or three-subject degree. Arabic, German, Italian, Persian, Russian and Spanish are all available from beginners’ level. The School also runs a well-integrated Comparative Literature programme. Our programme structures are amongst the most flexible in the UK.

MA (Single Honours Degrees)

FrenchW  
GermanW  
ItalianW  
RussianW  
SpanishW

MA (Honours Degrees)

- **TWO or THREE of the following Languages**: Arabic, French, German, Italian, Persian, Russian, Spanish
- **COMPARATIVE LITERATURE and ONE or TWO of the following Languages**: Arabic, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish or Comparative Literature - Persian
- **TWO of the following Languages (in most cases*)**: ArabicFRG, French, GermanLG, Italian, Persian, RussianENN, SpanishE and one of Ancient History INR, Classical StudiesS, EnglishE, Greek (Ancient)KINR, International Relations, LatinS, ManagementGENR
  * See also the individual language pages (noted above) for details of combinations of languages with other subjects that are possible.

Entrance Requirements

Obtaining the following grades will not guarantee you a place as we consider all aspects of every application, including the Personal Statement.

**SQA Highers:** AAAB  
**GCE A-Levels:** AAB  
**International Baccalaureate Points:** 36

For full Faculty Entrance Requirements, see page 53.

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher Entrance Requirements determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific Entrance Requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see:  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international)

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject?

Only French requires previous qualifications. All other languages may be studied without prior knowledge.

Subject enquiries

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E: modlangs@st-andrews.ac.uk

Features

- We offer a broad range of subject choices and combinations.  
- Arabic, German, Italian, Persian, Russian and Spanish can be taken from scratch.  
- French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish can be taken as a Single Honours degree.  
- We offer a range of study abroad opportunities and work placements.  
- Our Multimedia Centre houses a high-technology digital language laboratory.  
- The School is a friendly environment with skilled and dedicated teachers.  
- We have a dynamic student community and a range of language societies.  
- Our staff include a high number of native speakers.  
- Our staff are leading researchers with expertise in subjects spanning the mediaeval period to the present day.  
- Our programmes help you develop a wide range of transferable skills.
The study of modern languages is of critical importance in an age of rapidly growing contacts between nations of the world. Knowledge of another language enables the individual to become immersed in the culture, in the broadest sense, of those languages, the society they reflect, the history and literature of their speakers. The resulting familiarity with other peoples and cultures not only broadens one’s own horizons, but also paves the way to becoming a full member of the international community. Frequently, students also discover a love for a given language in and of itself, and every modern language has a rich cultural heritage through which the student can explore it further.

The School of Modern Languages includes the Departments of Arabic (also the home of Persian), French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. All these subjects can be studied through to the final year for the MA Honours degree, or else for one or two years. The detailed individual subject entries show the various ways in which these languages can be studied, either by themselves or in combination with other languages or non-language subjects. There is a wide range of such subjects available for combination with any one or two of the seven languages within the Arts Faculty. The School of Modern Languages is also home to a degree programme in Comparative Literature (see page 74).

Whether you begin studying a language in St Andrews or join non-beginners classes, our programmes are designed to move through progressively sophisticated stages in preparation for Honours. Core language programmes at 1000 and 2000 level are structurally equivalent in all six departments but their non-language course content may vary from language to language. This might include the study of literature, history or elementary language-specific linguistics. All language programmes place emphasis on accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar in the target language and in English.

Once admitted to Honours, language students continue to follow core language modules in each language. Depending on whether you are following a one, two or three language programme into Honours, you will also take a variety of modules in literature, culture or society. Further details are on the relevant subject pages.

Facilities and resources
The School has a Multimedia Centre with the latest electronic technology to enhance the learning and practice of oral and aural skills. In Honours, content modules, such as literature courses, have a seminar format in most departments.

Study abroad
Most Language students spend a year abroad after their second year of study. How and where this time is spent will depend on whether you are taking a four-year or five-year degree course. The School makes final decisions on pathways during the second year of study, when you apply for your preferred option, irrespective of the degree intention declared on the original application to St Andrews. If you are taking a four-year degree, you may apply to spend all or part of your third year as an Erasmus+ exchange student at one of our partner universities (for arrangements for students of Arabic, Persian and Russian see subject entry). You may also apply to the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 46.

With Integrated Year Abroad programmes
If you opt to take Honours degrees With Integrated Year Abroad (WIYA) in French, German, Italian, Russian or Spanish, you may spend your third year in a country in which the relevant language is spoken. With the help of the relevant department, UK students are usually placed in a school through the British Council’s Language Assistantship scheme (for Russian WIYA see page 144). You may organise an alternative work placement with the approval of your Department. Placements are not guaranteed and students are responsible for securing an approved placement. If students are unsuccessful, they will be moved onto a four-year programme. WIYA programmes are not currently available for Arabic or Persian.

Typical class sizes and teaching information
First Year: lectures 20 - 120, seminars 5 - 20
Second Year: lectures 10 - 100, seminars 5 - 20
Honours: groups of 20 or fewer

Core teaching of languages (grammar and translation) is conducted in classes that are kept as small as possible. Native speakers conduct small oral/conversation classes and also teach core modules in Honours as well as first and second years.

Typical methods of assessment
All our modules are assessed by at least 40% coursework. The balance is made up by further coursework or written examinations.

Careers
Modern Languages graduates have an extremely good record of employment after graduating. Many of our graduates find employment as language teachers, translators or interpreters, or in other jobs requiring advanced language skills. Their chosen careers also extend beyond the linguistic sector, and include banking and financial services, international development, media, human resources and administration. For details on careers pursued by graduates of specific languages, see the entries elsewhere in this Prospectus. For more information: http://bit.ly/sta-modlangs-careers

See also page 36 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.

“Studying French and German at St Andrews has not only allowed me to hone my written and oral skills, but also to immerse myself in the cultural side. From modules on German cinema to French philosophy, there are lots of options to choose between in your final two years that make the languages come to life. Add to that the year abroad, which I spent working in Paris, and you have a truly diverse degree.”

Verity (Stamford, Lincolnshire, England)
School President 2015-2016