Programme Specification (Undergraduate) FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2023/24

Date created: 22/03/2023 **Last amended:** 23/04/2026 **Version no.** 3

1. Modern Languages BA and code:

Modern Languages (R900)

a) HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100329	100%

b) UCAS Code (where required)

R900

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

Modern Languages BA

The normal period of registration is four years, including a full academic session abroad in the third year (three years, in exceptional circumstances, without year abroad).

The maximum period of registration six years

5. Typical entry requirements

A Level: ABB at A2 level including French/Italian/Spanish (depending on programme of study). 128 points from 3 A levels with a minimum of 40 points in French/Italian/Spanish. General Studies accepted as one of the three A2 levels.

International Baccalaureate: Pass diploma with 30 points, including 6 in Higher Level English and evidence of capacity in a foreign language, usually at A2 grade B or IB grade 6 higher level.

European Baccalaureate: Pass with 77% overall, including French/Italian/Spanish at grade 7 (or equivalent).

Access to HE Courses: Pass relevant Access to Higher Education course with 45 level 3 credits including 30 at distinction. Also evidence of A2 level capacity in a foreign language.

Other national and international qualifications welcomed. Mature students welcomed. Alternative qualifications considered for mature students.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims

The programme aims to*:*

- Equip students with a high degree of proficiency in the use of French, Italian and Spanish as media for expression and communication, both written and spoken, through a programme of progressive tuition based on authentic documentation (press and broadcast media), French, Italian and Spanish literature and film, academic texts and exposure to native speakers.

- Promote explicit knowledge of the languages studied through an awareness of language systems.

- Provide students with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the cultures, communities and societies where French, Italian and Spanish are used, through approaches which draw key ideas, concepts and methodologies shared with other disciplines, including literary, cultural and film studies, historical, social and political.

- Promote intercultural awareness and understanding through the lived experience of time spent abroad and through the development of analytical skills of comparing, contrasting and mediating between cultures and societies.

- Equip students with subject-specific and transferable skills in preparation for employment in a wide area including teaching, academic research, marketing, journalism, law, trainee management, publishing, translating, administration, media and the arts, travel and tourism, leisure industry, hotel and catering, social work.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Knowledge of the structures, registers and varieties of the target languages.	Spoken and written language classes including video laboratory classes. Online grammar practice. Summer programmes and year abroad in target countries.	Weekly assignments, including exercises marked on line, examinations, role-plays and presentations in the target language.
Knowledge and critical understanding of the cultures and societies of target countries.	First year cultural studies programmes, requirement to watch TV news from target countries, lectures and seminars throughout course.	Essays, portfolios, presentations, examinations.

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Understanding of the principles of phonology, syntax and discourse required to analyse the target languages.	Language classes from years one to final.	Tests and examinations.
Techniques for translating between target and source languages.	Specific translation sessions within language classes.	Contextualised translating and interpreting tasks.
Techniques for the analysis of texts (literary, filmic, journalistic).	Textual analysis classes, film sequence analysis in film modules, language classes.	Essays, seminars and presentations, sequence analysis-based assessment.

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to analyse through appropriate methodologies aspects of the literatures, cultures, linguistic contexts, history, political and social structures of target countries.	Lectures, seminars, independent reading and research.	Essays, seminar presentations, examinations, contributions to discussion.

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to give a presentation in the target languages on a topic of cultural or sociopolitical interest.	Seminar presentations, oral classes	Assessed presentations, oral examinations.
Ability to present coherent arguments based on research and personal synthesis of material.	Essay, presentations and learning skills sessions; seminars and practical classes.	Assessed essays, presentations, examinations.

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to synthesise and evaluate relevant literature and internet material on the subjects studied.	Research tasks, portfolios.	Assessed research projects, portfolios.
Awareness of cultural and political reference systems in target countries.	Lectures, seminars, independent reading, requirement to watch news in target language.	Essays, examinations, reporting back on news in spoken language classes.

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Intercultural awareness and understanding.	Seminar discussion, study of literature, cinema, current news, role-play and drama, periods of residence in target country.	Seminar presentations, essays, role- play, year abroad research project.

b) Transferable skills

i) Oral communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Fluent, accurate and appropriate communication in target languages.	Spoken language classes, language laboratory sessions, residence abroad.	Role-play exercises and simulations, oral examinations.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to give well-structured and effective oral presentations demonstrating awareness of audience.	Seminar presentations, oral examination practice followed by feedback.	Assessed seminar presentations, oral examinations.
Ability to mediate and interpret between target and source cultures.	Translating tasks.	Assessed translating tasks.

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Production of texts of various types demonstrating accuracy and appropriate discourse conventions.	Weekly language assignments including register exercises, study of and practice in reproducing discourse features of a variety of text types.	Assessed language tasks, examination.
Ability to produce accurate translations between target and source languages.	Translation classes.	Assessed translation tasks, examination.
Ability to produce written argumentations and critical analyses.	Lectures, seminar and essay writing skills sessions.	Essays, assessed analyses and reviews.

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to use IT effectively both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning.	On-line grammar practice and other language activities, bulletin boards in target languages, use of internet for research, use of IT to present material.	On-line exercises as requirement, critical appraisal of internet material in presentations.

iv) Numeracy

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to use basic statistical methods in carrying out a research project.	Sessions to introduce concepts in data gathering and analysis in language classes and in cultural modules.	Statistical element in year abroad project, language and cultural modules projects.

v) Team working

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Team-management and group- working skills, collaborative planning.	Pair and group tasks in oral classes and group projects in cultural modules, including video productions and group presentations.	Assessed group tasks, self-assessment of group-working skills.

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to identify, describe and analyse problems and to devise appropriate strategies for their resolution.	Assignment tasks involving increasing levels of critical engagement as course proceeds, error analysis through use of marking system.	Coursework assignments, examinations, research projects, ability to self-correct language work.

vii) Information handling

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Understanding of information and referential structure of texts.	Language classes, comprehension exercises.	Assessed comprehension tasks.
Ability to produce summaries and translation in the target language and between target and source languages.	Work on summary and translation in language classes.	Assessed summaries and translations.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to make a personal synthesis of information gathered from paper, audio-visual and online sources in target and native languages.	Research tasks, seminar presentations, oral examinations based on dossier of material.	Essays, presentations, class assignments.

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Strategies for self-monitoring and continued maintenance and development of skills in target languages.	Development of metalinguistic awareness through language classes, tasks designed to expand target language repertoire.	Language assignments, ability to self- correct.
Effectiveness and self-awareness as an independent learner.	Research tasks, independent, critical and analytical reading and viewing.	Essays, research projects.

10. Progression points

This programme follows the standard Scheme of Progression set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes relevant to the year of entry.

The following additional progression requirements for this programme have been approved:

- All core language modules must be passed in order to progress to the following year of the programme and must be passed at Honours level (40%+).
- Final Year core language programmes must be passed at Honours level in order to graduate.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course

a) Course transfers

This degree programme follows the University's rules on course transfers set out in Senate Regulations 2.

Students transferring from within the University of Leicester or into the University of Leicester are required to have language proficiency equivalent to the year they are transferring into.

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of undergraduate award and classification set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of *Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

12. Special features

- Consolidation of linguistic skills and opportunity for cultural enrichment at an early stage of the course through a summer programme in target country at end of Year 1, involving tuition from native speakers at a University linguistic immersion through accommodation with local families.
- Opportunity for total immersion in the target language and culture by the provision of one semester spent in each of the target countries during the third year (two out three of the target countries for the three-language pathway).
- Opportunity for the development of study skills in target country universities following a guided programme of learning for the period spent abroad.

13. Indications of programme quality

External examiners' reports consistently emphasize the quality of the student learning experience and the high standard of teaching and of assessment. They also favourably comment on the careful design of our modules' intended learning outcomes and their meeting the requirements of the QAA benchmark statements in all its key elements. Modern Languages at Leicester achieves regularly very high scores in the National Student Survey. In the 2017 NSS Modern Languages achieved an overall satisfaction score of 92%. Students' comments praise in particular the vibrant and supportive student-staff community within Modern Languages. Modern Languages at Leicester was ranked 10th nationally in the Guardian university league table 2020. 95% of the research in Modern Languages at Leicester is recognised internationally.

14. External Examiner(s) reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exam-papers [log-in required]

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Modern Languages BA

1. Students begin the programme with either two or three languages (French, Italian and Spanish). Only one of these languages can be started at ab initio level. All three can be studied over the duration of the programme or the student can drop one language at the end of Year 2 to focus on two languages in the final year.
2. There are two main routes through the language modules on this programme: One for students with well-developed abilities in a language other than English and their native language, and one for students without such abilities. The former group of students take the programme with advanced language skills; the latter group of students take the programme *ab initio*. For example, an advanced French student will take FR1010 Advanced French Language in year 1, followed by FR2010 Post-Advanced French Language in year 2. A beginners level student will take FR1020 French Beginners and FR1021 French Beginners in year 1 followed by FR2018 French Post-Beginners in year 2. These students will be taught together in final year language groups. The same pattern applies to other languages. Please see the diagrams below.

Notes:

1. *Optional modules are listed at the end of each year; they may be subject to change from year to year* ***and will not run if under-recruiting****.*

2. Students whose native language is either French, Italian or Spanish, and who wish to study this language as part of their degree programme at Leicester, will normally be required to substitute 30 credits of ELTU modules from the range EL2001-EL2024 for the core language modules (FR1010 or IT1010 or SP1010). Students with native speaker fluency in both English, and the language they wish to study as part of their degree programme at Leicester, will be required to substitute 30 credits of cultural modules taken from the range on offer in the relevant language or ML modules for the relevant core language modules.

FIRST YEAR

Students are required to attend a compulsory two-week summer school (**ML2007: Modern Language Summer School**, 0 credits), organised by the School of Modern Languages and in one of the languages they are studying, during the long vacation at the end of the first year**.** Students studying at beginner's level must go to the summer school in that language.

Level 4/Year 1 2023/24

Credit breakdown

Two language option taking one Advanced level language and one Beginner level language

Status	**Year long**	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
Core	30 credits	45 credits	15 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	30 credits

120 credits in total

Credit breakdown

Two language option taking two Advanced level languages

Status	**Year long**	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
Core	60 credits	30 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	n/a	30 credits

120 credits in total

Credit breakdown

Three language option taking two Advanced level and one Beginner level language

Status	**Year long**	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
Core	60 credits	30 credits	15 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	15 credits

120 credits in total

Credit breakdown

Three language option taking three Advanced level languages

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	90 credits	15 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	n/a	15 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	FR1010	French Language Advanced	30 credits
Year long	IT1010	Italian Language Advanced	30 credits
Year long	SP1010	Spanish Language Advanced	30 credits
Sem 1	FR1020	French Language Beginners 1	15 credits
Sem 2	FR1021	French Language Beginners 2	15 credits
Sem 1	IT1021	Italian Language Beginners 1	15 credits
Sem 2	IT1021	Italian Language Beginners 2	15 credits
Sem 1	SP1020	Spanish Language Beginners 1	15 credits
Sem 2	SP1021	Spanish Language Beginners 2	15 credits
Sem 1	FR1050	Introduction to French Studies	15 credits
Sem 1	IT1028	Introduction to Italian Studies	15 credits
Sem 1	SP1022	Introduction to Spanish & Latin American Studies	15 credits

Notes
FR1050/IT1028/SP1022 must be aligned with language 1 or 2

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	FR1014	Twentieth-Century French Literature	15 credits
Semester 2	FR1027	Introduction to Francophonie	15 credits
Semester 2	IT1027	Authors and Genres	15 credits
Semester 2	IT1029	Italy since 1945	15 credits
Semester 2	SP1031	Latin American Literature & Film	15 credits
Semester 2	SP1041	Spanish Literature & Film	15 credits

Notes
Option modules must be aligned with language 1 or 2

For students taking three languages: Students' choices here must comprise one from each of two of the three languages. A cultural studies module for the remaining language must then be chosen in Year 2

A student registered on the three-language option may choose to drop a language and move to the two-language option at the end of Year 1 or 2. The modules FR1050, IT1028 and SP1022 are not deemed a compulsory element of Year 1 for a student who chooses to switch to the two-language option.

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

Level 4/Year 2 2024/25

Credit breakdown

Two language option taking either one Post-Advanced level and one Post-Beginner level, or two Advanced level languages

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	60 credits	n/a	n/a
Optional	n/a	30 credits	30 credits

120 credits in total

Credit breakdown

Three language option taking either two Post-Advanced level and one Post-Beginner level, or three Advanced level languages

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	90 credits	n/a	n/a
Optional	n/a	15 credits	15 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	FR2010	French Language Post- Advanced	30 credits
Year long	IT2024	Italian Language Post-Advanced	30 credits
Year long	SP2010	Spanish Language Post-Advanced	30 credits
Year long	FR2018	French Language Post-Beginners	30 credits
Year long	IT2005	Italian Language Post-Beginners	30 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	SP2005	Spanish Language Post-Beginners	30 credits

Notes
n/a

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	FR2030	Politics, Technology, and Ecology in Francophone Culture	15 credits
Semester 1	FR2042	Challenging Perspectives: Conflict and Relations in French Culture	15 credits
Semester 1	IT2011	Italian Linguistics	15 credits
Semester 2	IT2016	Italian Society and Culture under Fascism	15 credits
Semester 1	SP2023	The Spanish Civil War in Literature and Film	15 credits
Semester 1	SP2035	Contemporary Mexican Cinema	15 credits
Semester 2	SP2070	Latino/a Literature & Culture in the United States	15 credits
Semester 2	FR2032	Introduction to French Linguistics	15 credits
Semester 2	FR2045	Media and Cultural Practices in France	15 credits
Semester 1	IT2012	History of Italian Cinema	15 credits
Semester 2	SP2022	The Mexican-US Border: History, Culture and Identity	15 credits

Notes

Option modules must be aligned with language 1 or 2
For students taking three languages: One of these two Cultural Studies modules must be aligned with the language not represented in the equivalent choices in year 1 (eg if an FR-coded module and an SP-coded module were selected in Year 1, an IT-coded module must be selected from Modern Languages Cultural Studies list in Year 2). This is to ensure that a Cultural Studies module for each of the three languages is chosen across the first two years of study.

A student registered on the three-language option may choose to drop a language and move to the two-language option at the end of Year 1 or 2. The modules FR1050, IT1028 and SP1022 are not deemed a compulsory element of Year 1 for a student who chooses to switch to the two-language option.

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

Level 4/Year 3 2025/26

Two language option

Students are required to spend a full academic session abroad between the second and final years, following approved courses at a university in France, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, Spain or Latin America (Mexico, Colombia), or alternatively as an assistant in a school in one of those countries. Students also have the option of doing a work placement, subject to departmental approval.
Students studying a language from ab initio are normally expected to spend at least one semester in a country where that language is spoken.

Credit breakdown

Students taking two languages spending one semester in each country

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	60 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Credit breakdown

Students spending the year in one country only (approval required)

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	30 credits	45 credits	45 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Three language option

Students are required to spend a full academic session abroad between the second and final years, following approved courses at a university in France, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, Spain or Latin America (Mexico, Colombia), or alternatively as an assistant in a school in one of those countries. Students also have the option of doing a work placement, subject to departmental approval.

Students must normally spend a minimum of one semester in each of two countries, as aligned with two of their three languages. If a language is being studied ab initio, then it is expected that one of these semesters will be in a country aligned with that language. Students also are encouraged to spend an additional shorter period, either side of these semesters abroad, in a country aligned with the remaining of the three languages being studied.

Credit breakdown

Students taking three languages spending one semester in each country

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	60 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Credit breakdown

Students taking three languages spending the year in one country (approval required)

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	30 credits	45 credits	45 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	ML3030	Year Abroad Placement Evaluation: Study or Work (Semester 1)	15 credits
Sem 1	ML3031	ML3031 Year Abroad Placement Evaluation: Study or Work (Semester 2)	15 credits
Sem 2	ML3033	Language Skills (Semester 1) (45 credits)	45 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	ML3034	Language Skills (Semester 2) (45 credits)	45 credits
Year long	ML3032	Year Abroad Placement Evaluation: Study or Work (Year-long)	30 credits

Notes
n/a

Level 4/Year Final 2026/27

Credit breakdown

Two language option, both Proficiency level

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	60 credits	n/a	n/a
Optional	n/a	30 credits	30 credits

120 credits in total

Credit breakdown

Three language option, all Proficiency level

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	90 credits	n/a	n/a
Optional	n/a	15 credits	15 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	FR3111	Final Year French Language (Proficiency)	30 credits
Year long	IT3010	Final Year Italian Language (Proficiency)	30 credits
Year long	SP3010	Final Year Spanish Language (Proficiency)	30 credits

Notes
n/a

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	ML3008	Final Year Language Project	15 credits
Semester 1	ML3043	Film and Social Change	15 credits
Semester 1	ML3042	Multilingual Professional Interpreting	15 credits
Semester 2	ML3018	Thinking Revolution and Conflict in Europe and Beyond	15 credits
Semester 2	ML3041	Migration, Borders, Belonging. Approaches and Representations	15 credits
Semester 2	ML3176	Extended Project	15 credits

Notes

Language specific options (coded FR/IT/SP) can only be taken by students studying that language. ML-coded optional modules can be taken by students studying any language.
Students wishing to undertake an extended project (ML3176 Extended Project) in final year should note that this is available by successful application to the Section Coordinator only. Selection will be based on the student's prior academic performance and the strength of the research plans that they are able to present. Students may not take both ML3008 and ML3176.

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See undergraduate module specification database [login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).