



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Modern Languages

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>BA (Hons) Modern Languages</i>
Final Award	<i>BA</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C2834F</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>4 years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2020 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Languages and Applied Linguistics</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-languages-and-area-studies/
Course webpage including entry criteria	http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/modern-languages-and-area-studies/ba-hons-modern-languages/
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>The optional MFL with Initial Teacher Training route is approved by the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL)</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>Levels 4, 5, 6</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To provide students with knowledge and understanding of the country/ies where their target language(s) is/are spoken using a range of appropriate disciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches.
- To provide students with a sound understanding of contemporary affairs in one (single) or two (combined) language areas, with opportunities for specialisation in historical studies (including social and cultural), politics and social science, or business and economics.
- To enable students to acquire an informed sense of the similarities and differences between areas, thus fostering cross-cultural and international perspectives.
- To provide students with a detailed understanding of the fields of communication and digital communication.
- To provide students with translation and interpreting skills
- To offer students the opportunity to be recommended for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) via the MFL with ITT pathway
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise careers and postgraduate study opportunities
- To provide all students with the opportunities to develop their linguistic and communication skills in accordance with their needs and with their overall programme objectives.
- To engage students in using their target languages for the purposes of understanding, expression and communication in written, oral and aural forms.
- To attain explicit knowledge of the language (grammar, idiom, registers, and vocabulary).
- To acquire knowledge of aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the language is used.
- To develop intercultural awareness and understanding.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below. The following are taken from the Languages, Cultures and Societies (LCS) Benchmark Statements

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Knowledge of the cultures, communities and societies where a language is used, including aspects of their literatures, cultures, history, politics and social or economic structures	Seminars, lectures, group work, independent study, placements, tutorials	Essays, portfolios, examinations, presentations
A2	An ability to use the target language for the purposes of understanding, expression and communication	Seminars, language labs work, group work, independent study, placements, tutorials	Portfolios, examinations, presentations, blogs, summaries, recordings, news broadcast, mock conferences, interviews.
A3	Intercultural awareness and understanding of the similarities and dissimilarities of the cultures, communities and societies where the languages are used in comparison with their own. This will normally be significantly enhanced by a period of residence in the countries of the target languages, or an equivalent experience.	Seminars, lectures, group work, independent study, placements, tutorials, project	Portfolio, report, essays, presentations
A4	Specialist knowledge in the area researched for the Research Project	Lectures, tutorials, workshops, placements, independent study	Research Project, draft research project (for formative purposes)
A5*	Approaches to the practice and theory underpinning language teaching, including learning styles and teaching styles and methods relevant to the subject content.	Lectures, seminars, observations, group work, independent study, tutorials, placements	Portfolios, commentaries, essays, presentations.

**Students who additionally take the optional MFL with ITT pathway will be able to demonstrate this Education-based learning outcome (A5), although this can also be met by students who do not take this pathway but choose certain optional modules, such as Introduction to Teaching.*

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Critically analyse and demonstrate detailed knowledge of the area, its history, culture, and society.	Lectures, seminars, group work, independent study, tutorials	Portfolios, examinations, presentations, summaries
B2	Use language creatively and precisely for a range of purposes and audiences	Seminars, language labs, interpreting suite, group work, independent study, tutorials, mock conferences	Portfolios, examinations, presentations, summaries, recordings, news broadcast, mock conferences, interviews, blogs.
B3	Demonstrate critical understanding of contributory disciplines and theories, and the capacity to assess & compare the merits of different approaches	Lectures, seminars, group work, independent study, placements, tutorials	Portfolios, essays, examinations, presentations, interviews, blogs.
B4	Construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement	Tutorials, seminars, independent study, presentations	Tutorials, seminars, independent study, library sessions, interviews
B5*	Deal with educational issues systematically and creatively using principal sources of educational information and data and make sound judgements based on information.	Lectures, seminars, workshops, group work, independent study, internship, placements, tutorials, observations	Portfolios, essays, commentaries, presentations, lesson planning.

**Students who additionally take the optional MFL with ITT pathway will be able to demonstrate this Education-based learning outcome (B5), although this can also be met by students who do not take this pathway but choose certain optional modules, such as Introduction to Teaching.*

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Appreciate the similarities and differences between areas of the world, thus fostering cross-cultural and international perspectives	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, placements	Portfolios, examinations, presentations, summaries
C2	Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in the target language with competent or native speakers of the target language in a professional context	Seminars, language labs, interpreting suite, group work, independent study, placements, tutorials, mock conferences	Portfolios, examinations, presentations, summaries, recordings, news broadcast, mock conferences, interviews, blogs.
C3	Become mature, independent learners who can demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time management attributes	Seminars, group work, simulations, presentations, independent study	Essays, presentations, portfolios
C4	Make specialised vocational use of their language skills, i.e. through studies of translating or interpreting	Seminars, language labs, interpreting suite, group work, independent study, placements, tutorials, mock conferences	Portfolios, examinations, translations, commentaries, interpreting tasks, mock conferences, interviews, blogs.
C5*	Improve their own teaching, by evaluating it, learning from the effective practice of others and from evidence. They will be motivated and able to take increasing responsibility for their own professional development.	Seminars, observations, teaching sessions, group work, independent work	Portfolios, presentations, essays, teaching practice, reflections.

**Students who additionally take the optional MFL with ITT pathway will be able to demonstrate this Education-based learning outcome (C5), although this can also be met by students who do not take this pathway but choose certain optional modules, such as Introduction to Teaching.*

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Gather, process and critically evaluate information from written, spoken and other sources	Seminars, language labs, interpreting suite, Learning Resources Centre, group work, independent study	Portfolios, presentations, recordings, news broadcast, mock conferences, blogs, magazine production.
D2	Communicate, present, and interact effectively and accurately, being able to gather, process and critically evaluate information from written, spoken and audio-visual sources.	Seminars, language labs, interpreting suite, group work, independent study, placements, tutorials	Presentations, recordings, news broadcast, mock conferences, interviews.
D3	Work with a significant amount of independence, demonstrated in self-direction, self-management and intellectual initiative both in learning and studying, and in time management	Group work, independent study, placements	Portfolios, essays, examinations, presentations, summaries, recordings, blogs.
D4	Develop cross-cultural awareness and intercultural communication skills	Seminars, language labs, group work, workshops, Global Café, placements	Portfolio
D5	Develop a range of relevant professional skills by engaging in simulated or authentic work-related learning	Simulations, seminars, workshops, placements	Portfolios, presentations, recordings, news broadcast, mock conferences, interviews, blogs. Opportunities for formative assessment are available at all levels.

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for Politics and International Relations; Languages, Cultures and Societies.
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth’s academic members of staff

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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