Dear BA Modern Languages Student, Welcome to Exeter!

These instructions explain how to choose your modules for 2021-22 using the online module choice system. If, having read these instructions, you have any questions at all about your module choices; don’t hesitate to contact the admin team at [modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk).

On your UCAS form you were simply asked to say which languages you want to study with us. If you have changed your mind about the languages you want to study since filling in the UCAS form and haven’t informed Admissions in the meantime, please do not worry, we expect to be able to accommodate your new choice.

**How Does the BA Modern Languages Degree Programme Work?**

During the course of the BA Modern Languages programme, you accumulate credits in your language(s) and are awarded a degree title on graduation which reflects what you have studied (e.g. BA Italian, BA Russian and Spanish, BA French with German, BA Spanish with Proficiency in Mandarin Chinese). It is the modules taken over years 2, 3, and 4 which determine your degree title, so at level 1 you don’t need to worry too much about where you are headed **except that** if you hope to have a language named as a full degree subject you must take the relevant language module in each year, starting in year 1. In other words, it’s not possible to get a degree in ‘German and Spanish’ if you only start Spanish in year 2 or only take German culture modules.

All full-time students study modules to the value of 120 credits in each year. In practice, most of our students choose to distribute their first-year modules in one of two ways:

1. 60 credits in Language 1; 60 credits in Language 2
2. 90 credits in Language 1; 30 credits in another subject

In each case the credits for Language 1 or 2 include the core language module and optional modules. These patterns have the advantage that you study each language and culture in depth, allowing you to develop a high level of expertise and employability. In later years you will have the option of varying the proportions of the subjects, within certain limits, if you become stronger in one subject.

For the 30-credit ‘subsidiary’ subject in the 90/30 model above you are free to take any Level 1 modules in the university, provided you have the pre-requisite qualifications (e.g. A Level Psychology for Psychology modules) and provided it fits with your Modern Languages timetable. You cannot take more than 30 credits outside of Modern Languages. Modules taught by the Foreign Language Centre count as ‘outside’ Modern Languages because they are not part of our core degree programmes. In recent years, students taking a 30-credit subsidiary subject have typically taken either another arts subject like History or Theology, or TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). Ideally, you would continue to take the same subsidiary subject pathway in years 2 and 4, but if the 30-credit subject doesn’t work out in year 1, you have the opportunity to change it in year 2.

The 15-credit TESOL module ELC1801 is taught by colleagues in another department; you can find further information about it at: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/international/into/programmes/tesol/>, including the details about who to contact to register for a place. Students planning to teach during their Year Abroad or considering a career in teaching have recommended this module in the past.

A small number of students have been accepted on three subjects in combination (normally 45 / 45 / 30 credits). This can make good sense, e.g. if you need a particular combination of expertise for your intended career. Just bear in mind that you will study each subject in rather less depth (while being expected to get up to the same standard as other students).

It is possible to study three languages (no more) following the 45 / 45 / 30 model, provided Admissions have already confirmed your eligibility. If you have an offer for a three language degree please email [modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk) with your third language as you cannot select three languages on-line; you cannot study 3 languages in your 1st year if you were not offered a three language degree by Admissions.

Any core language modules you take should be from within the Department of Modern Languages, where you are taught alongside other linguists (rather than alongside non-linguists in the FLC). The only other language modules permitted are in languages not taught within the department e.g. Korean in the FLC.

If you are already considering MA or PhD study after the end of your BA, studying one language or two probably offers a better preparation for postgraduate study than three languages (because there is more academic essay-writing involved).

Whichever module pattern you choose, certain things apply to all of you:

* If you are a full-time student you are required to register for 120 credits per year; part-time students take 60 credits per year.
* Your module combination must include at least ONE language module
* It is not permissible for students to take two beginners languages.
* It is not permissible for students to take four languages.

For more detailed information on the BA Modern Languages Degree Programme please see <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/modernlanguages/undergraduate/degrees/bamodernlanguages/>

**So What Do I Do Next?**

Before you click through to the module choice system, you might want to look at the module descriptions for the modules listed below, which are available at <http://intranet.exeter.ac.uk/humanities/studying/undergraduates/modules/>.

Input **Modern Languages – Level 1** and **2021/22** from the drop-down menu to access.

These allow you to see what each module is about, how it is taught and how it is assessed.

Don’t worry if the optional modules involve subjects that you haven’t studied before (e.g. cinema, literature, or history). Lecturers are aware that students have done different subjects at A Level and the first year is a foundation year, which allows you to try out different subject areas without worrying that it will count towards your degree.

**Choose Your Language Module(s)**

When you click through to the module choice form, choose a minimum of ONE language module, or a maximum of TWO at the appropriate level. Please note that some language modules are for Beginners, others are post A Level (MLx1001): All language modules are worth 30 credits and will run across both Term 1 and 2.

If you are a native speaker of the language you intend to study or if you undertook your complete secondary education in a country where the language is spoken please make yourself known to [modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk) (with the subject line ‘Possible Exemption from MLx1001’). You may be considered for exemption from the core language module, which will free up credits to take optional culture modules instead. In the meantime, please sign up for the compulsory language module as normal to complete your 120 credits: if exemption is agreed you will then be asked to choose replacement modules.

**Choose Your Optional Modules From the Module Groups for Each Term**

Once you have entered your language modules into the system, you will choose from a range of complimentary modules. In most cases, you will find that your module choices are confirmed though occasionally we are unable to give students their first-choice option because options are subject to the availability of staff and timetable slots; in the unlikely event that you don’t receive your first choice and are asked to choose again, we ask for your understanding.

All ML modules are prefixed with ML (for Modern Languages) followed by the relevant letter for the language: French modules = MLF, German = MLG, Italian = MLI, Mandarin Chinese = MLM, Portuguese = MLP, Russian = MLR and Hispanic Studies (Spanish) = MLS. Some modules are prefixed with SML, and these are non-language specific. You will normally choose optional modules to complement your relevant language e.g. if you are a student of French, choose French optional modules. However, BA Modern Languages allows you to get a taster of other cultures even if you are not studying them as your main language. All complimentary modules are available to students with the relevant qualification e.g. if you have A Level French but are planning to study Spanish, you can still choose a French optional module if one interests you, or you may take a Mandarin Chinese or Portuguese option even without any study in the language. (Check the Module Descriptions for relevant pre-requisites).

Due to the large number of available degree programmes for ML students, and the large number of modules that we run, it is not possible to make all modules available to all students as there is insufficient time during the week to timetable all the classes involved. Modules are therefore placed into “groups”, which you will see when you click through to the module choice system. Modules within the same group are timetabled at the same time, making them mutually exclusive. It is not possible to choose more than one module from any one group as the classes will run concurrently.

You should choose an even number of optional modules from each term so that your timetable and work balance is spread throughout the year.

If you are taking most of your credits in one of the languages with smaller student numbers (Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese or Russian) you may find that you need to take all the modules available at year 1, but in years 2 and 4 your choices will expand. All options are worth 15 credits.

**\***Please note some modules have co-requisites, and can only be taken with a specific language module.

Two sets of teaching sessions will appear automatically when you make your on-line selection. These sessions are compulsory but are not attached to a particular module and do not carry credits (so don’t worry that they may contribute towards your 120 credits):

MLX1001 ML Language Lectures: these are sessions run by the Director of Language Teaching for students of all languages

MLX1905 Employability: these are a series of sessions which start you thinking about how to prepare yourself for employment over the course of your 4 years with us.

The University of Exeter values the ability for students to have the opportunity for open module choice where academically feasible. However, it may be the case that some module choices may not be compatible for scheduling purposes and students will be asked to re-choose to avoid clashes.

Finally, a reminder of our email address if any of this leaves you confused! – [modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:modernlanguages@exeter.ac.uk).