Welcome to Multilingual Studies

Aims of Multilingual Studies degree programmes

Lists of Multilingual Studies core and option courses running in 2015-16

Structure of Multilingual Studies degree programmes

Language courses

French pathway

German pathways

Italian pathways

Spanish pathways

The Period of Residence Abroad (PRA)

Progression and award requirements

Welcome to Multilingual Studies

Multilingual Studies is a four-year degree programme designed for students whose central focus of interest and primary aim is to reach an advanced level of linguistic competence in three of the four languages offered at Royal Holloway: French, German, Italian, and Spanish (the last two of which are available from beginner level upwards). Thus, if you have chosen this degree programme, three-quarters of your studies on campus will be devoted explicitly to language learning, leaving one quarter for you to devote to studying one or more of the three cultures which express themselves in the target languages. The third year is spent abroad, in one or more of the language areas being studied and progress made during this period is accredited and fully integrated into the classification system of the degree. Multilingual Studies students may not take more than one language at beginners’ level, and it is therefore an entry requirement to this programme that students already have two of the School’s four languages at A2 level or equivalent.

Two different degree paths in Multilingual Studies with PIR or Multilingual Studies with Philosophy are also available. This programme will enable students of the Multilingual Programme to widen their degree path by choosing to do a minor unit in the Politics and International Relations Department or from a selection of Philosophy courses. This will enable students to add to their linguist competence a knowledge of world affairs and politics, which will look attractive to potential students with both a gift for languages at academic and specialist level and an interest in international affairs and relations. The degree path will be described later on in this document.

Return to Multilingual Studies contents

Aims of Multilingual Studies degree programmes
Educational Aims of Programme

- To enable students to develop (a) high levels of competence in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding in three modern European languages; (b) a good grasp of key theoretical issues relating to language competence and learning.
- To provide an appropriate educational background for students wishing to follow careers in Europe (in EU institutions or in multinationals), or to progress to PGCEs and become language teachers.

Programme Outcomes

In general terms the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding

The programme is designed to allow students to develop and demonstrate these aspects of the discipline:

a. High levels of competence in the four key linguistic areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in three modern European languages.

b. Familiarity with a range of texts (including print and television journalism, cinema, and literature).

c. Awareness and understanding of a range of current theoretical approaches to language and language learning, which they can apply to their own language development and that of others.

d. Awareness and understanding of the sociohistorical and cultural context of the language areas studied, which will inform their use of the three languages spoken there.

Return to Multilingual Studies contents

Lists of Multilingual Studies core and option courses running in 2015-16

PLEASE NOTE: Lists of Multilingual Studies core and option courses running in 2015-16 are linked in each case to the relevant Course Unit Specification, are available for consultation on-line via the School website at Royal Holloway, University of London: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Return to Multilingual Studies contents

Structure of Multilingual Studies degree programmes

This is based on the course-unit system common to the whole College, whereby students take 4 whole course (or an equivalent number of half units) units per year in their first, second, and final years. In common with all modern language degree programmes (except minor language with non-language major), a further two course units are attributed to the PRA (see below).

In each year of study and for each of your three languages, you will take one whole or two half units in each of the three languages you are studying (please see below the pathway for German native speakers). Each language has specific regulations on the minimum pass requirements for progression and eventually for the award of the degree, all of which you can find in this Handbook and in the Programme Specifications on the College website (page currently under construction).

Since the full-time load for a student is 4 course units, this leaves one each year (or more
for native speakers of German) to devote to some aspect of the culture, history, or linguistics of the language areas. Most of these options are available in half-unit form, enabling you to cover up to 6 topics (10 for native speakers of German) beyond the core language element of the degree programme in your three years on campus, in addition to the options you take up for year-abroad work. You have a free choice as to whether to use these units to specialize in the culture, history, and linguistics of one of your three languages, or to take a broader sweep and cover aspects of two or all three. See the course lists on the School’s web site at Royal Holloway, University of London: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures for further information about option courses.

Students in Multilingual Studies with PIR or Multilingual Studies with Philosophy will take their extra unit in PIR or Philosophy throughout their degree programme. They will also be strongly encouraged to use their PRA to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their minor subject by choosing specific related courses, if going to university.

Language courses
French pathways
French offers language teaching only for post-A level students.
**First-year**
All students take one full unit in language:
FR1009 Pratique du français I

**Second-year**
All students take one full unit in language:
FR2009 Pratique du français II

**Final-year**
All students take one full unit in language:
FR3009 Pratique du français III

German pathways
German has two language pathways, one for post-A2/AS level non-native speakers and one for the native speakers.
**First-year**
All students must take courses to the value of 1 unit:
Post-A2/AS level non-native speakers:
GM1009 German Language I (full unit)
Beginners: GM1010 Intensive German Beginners
Native speakers will be assessed and directed to appropriate courses to the value of 1 unit.

**Second-year**
All students must take courses to the value of 1 unit:
Post-A2/AS level non-native speakers:
GM2009 German Language II (full unit)
Native speakers:
Native speakers take option courses to the value of 1 unit

**Final-year**
All students, including native speakers must take courses to the value of 1 unit:
Post-A2/AS level and native speakers:
GM3009 German Language III (full unit)

Italian pathways
Italian has two language pathways, one for beginners and one for post-A level students.
**First-year**
All students take 1 course unit in language:
IT1000 Intensive Italian for Beginners
Or IT1050 Advanced Italian, for post-A level

**Second-year**
Students who took IT1000 in their first year take IT2000 Advanced Italian II
Students who took IT1050 in their first year take IT2050 Advanced Italian II

**Final-year**
IT3009 Advanced Italian III

**Spanish pathways**
In the first two years of the programme students are divided into three separate streams: beginners, post-A2/AS level, and native competence. In the final year the groups are fully integrated.

**First-year**
All students take 1 course unit in language:
SN1010, Intensive Spanish I [beginners]
Or SN1001, Spanish I [post-A2/AS-level]
Or SN2001 Spanish II [native competence]

**Second-year**
All students take 1 course unit in language:
SN2010 Intensive Spanish II [beginners]
Or SN2001 Spanish II [post-A2/AS-level]
Or SN2011 and SN2012 Principles & Practice of Translation [native competence]

**Final-year**
All students take 1 course unit in language: SN3001 Spanish III

Brief descriptions and detailed specifications for language courses can be accessed via the School’s web site at Royal Holloway, University of London: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Return to Multilingual Studies contents

**The Period of Residence Abroad (PRA)**
The PRA is an integral part of Multilingual Studies. You may choose between studying at one or more approved institutions in one or more of the language areas, or, if English is your mother tongue, you may opt to apply for a work placement as an English language teaching assistant or for some other suitable work placement (for which it is not necessary to be a native speaker of English). The accreditation of the PRA consists of a total of 2 course units, which will either be wholly attributed to one language area or divided between two if the academic year was split. If you wish to spend time in your three language areas, you can devote one or both of the two summers on either side of the academic year to living in one of the three and one semester of the academic year to living in each of the other two. The assessment will relate to the language area(s) in which the academic year was spent.

FR2501/02 Oral Examination in French: accredits progress made in the spoken language (full/half unit)

GM2501/02 Oral Examination in German: accredits progress made in the spoken language (full/half unit)

IT2501/02 Oral Examination in Italian: accredits progress made in the spoken language (full/half unit)

SN2501/02, Oral Examination in Spanish: accredits progress made in the spoken language (full/half unit)
language (full/half unit)

FR/GM/IT/SN2401/02, Study Abroad: accredits university study (full/half unit)

FR/GM/IT/SN2201/02, Work Placement Project: accredits what has been learnt through an assistantship or some other work placement (full/half unit)

Once you are abroad, you will be expected to keep in regular contact with your Personal Adviser at Royal Holloway (by e-mail or post), who will provide advice as far as (s)he is able on all matters arising. A designated administrative assistant within the Languages team is responsible for updating records on the whereabouts of students abroad and sending out relevant material (for example, reading lists for the final year, preregistration documentation where applicable).

Full details are to be found in the on-line PRA Handbook on the School’s web-pages at http://www.rhul.ac.uk/mllc/informationforcurrentstudents/handbooks.aspx

Return to contents page

Progression and award requirements

In order to progress through the programme and graduate at the end, students must pass courses to a value of at least 3 course units per year, including their language courses.

The classification of the degree is based on a weighted average of the marks for courses taken in second year and year abroad, and final year, where final-year marks are given double the weight of the earlier ones.

Return to contents page