

Open days 16 and  
17 June 2023

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School of Modern  
Languages and  
Cultures

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	<b>9-30-10.30</b>	<b>10.50-11.50</b>	<b>12.10-13.10</b>	<b>13.30-14.30</b>	<b>14.50-15.50</b>
<b>Modern Languages &amp; Cultures (33)</b>	General presentation and Q&A		General presentation and Q&A		General presentation and Q&A
<b>Language specific sessions</b>		Arabic (117)	Arabic (117)		
		Chinese & Japanese (101)	Chinese & Japanese (101)	Chinese & Japanese (101)	
		French (106)	French (106)		
		German (123)	German (123)		
			Hispanic Studies (113)	Hispanic Studies (113)	
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<b>Visual Arts &amp; Film (124)</b>		General presentation and Q&A	General presentation and Q&A	General presentation and Q&A	

# This session

- 20-minute overview of degrees
- Student ambassador
- Q&A

# Why study languages?

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- Engage with different languages, ideas, and cultures
- Enjoy a year abroad in at least one other country
- Communicate with others in their native language, at home or while traveling
- Gain access to a world of ideas and experiences in an additional language
- Build resilience and communication skills through the experience of language learning

# And some more reasons...

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- Gain a competitive edge in your job search through fluency in at least one additional language
- Unlock more professional opportunities in your chosen field
- Engage thoughtfully with international colleagues and peers
- Build your professional network beyond your native language

# Nick Gibb MP, 16 April 2021

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Studying a foreign language can be very rewarding, provide an insight into other cultures and open the door to travel and enhance future employment opportunities. We know that languages are increasingly important to equip young people in business and trade to make sure we can compete in the global market.

# ‘Where are all the jobs? A sector guide for students’, Financial Times, 25 March 2023

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“What you need to show is interest or an aptitude’

Jessica Hamilton,  
recruiter and co-founder of career consultancy FincSelect

She recommends learning languages such as Mandarin, Arabic, French, and Spanish.

# Why Durham?

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# Some league tables

- Durham 6<sup>th</sup> overall in Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023
- Durham 6<sup>th</sup> overall in *The Complete University Guide* 2023
- Durham 6<sup>th</sup> overall in *Guardian University Guide* 2023
- Durham Modern Languages 6<sup>th</sup> in *Guardian University Guide* 2023
- French 5<sup>th</sup> in *The Complete University Guide* 2023
- Italian 4<sup>th</sup> in *The Complete University Guide* 2023
- Hispanic Studies 6<sup>th</sup> in *The Complete University Guide* 2023
- 8<sup>th</sup> in UK for research power (REF 2022)
- World Top 100 in *QS World University Subject Rankings* 2022



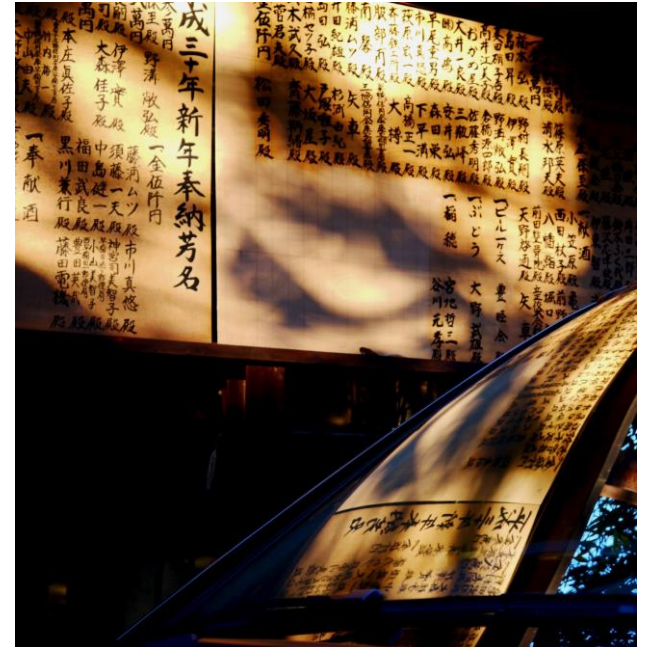
## James Baldwin, 'A talk to teachers' (1963)

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'The purpose of education, finally, is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself, to make his own decisions, to say to himself this is black or this is white, to decide for himself whether there is a God in heaven or not. To ask questions of the universe, and then learn to live with those questions, is the way he achieves his own identity. [...] his is the only hope society has. This is the only way societies change.'

# Our Degree Programmes

- BA in Modern Languages and Cultures
- BA in Chinese Studies
- BA in Japanese Studies
- BA in Visual Arts and Film [separate session]
- BA in Modern Languages & History
- BA in Liberal Arts
- Combined Honours in Social Sciences



# Combination of languages and cultures

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- High-level language skills in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Russian.
- Advanced understanding of the cultures in which your chosen languages are spoken.
- Intercultural competence means you can operate effectively in the target culture(s) and move between them.



# China-Britain Business Council

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UK businesses can face challenges because of a lack of inter-cultural understanding and knowledge of languages.

# Cultural modules

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- Wide range of choices across film and visual culture, cultural history, politics, thought, translation, and literature.
- <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/modern-languages-cultures/undergraduate-study/courses/>
- Click on language choice; click on 'Modules' (right-hand side of page)

# Student testimony

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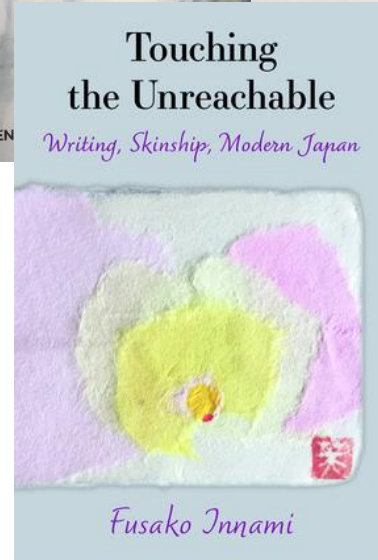
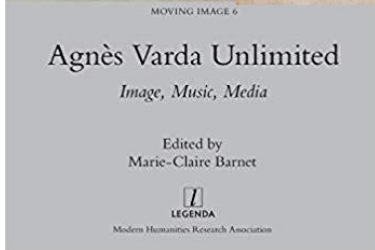
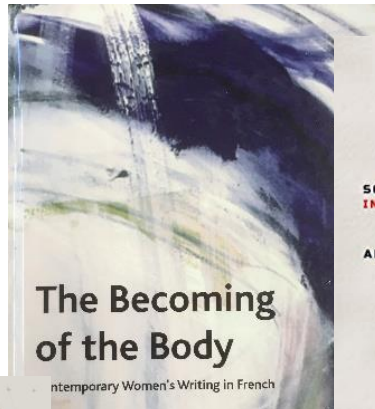
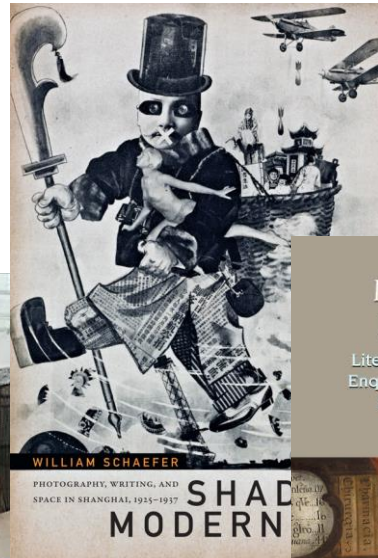
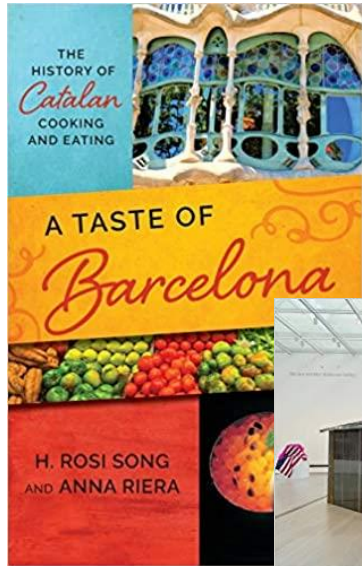
“The course provides a huge element of flexibility - I have been able to study a breadth of subjects and cultures, many of which I never would have considered studying before coming to Durham.”

Eleanor Ivey

“Every member of staff I’ve come across has been so lovely and always willing to help.”

Rebecca Cabrera

# Research-led teaching





# Year 1

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- Core language classes
- Optional / cultural modules
- Aim: to equip you with skills and knowledge

Anna Akhmatova





# Some first-year modules

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- Introduction to Middle Eastern Cultures
- Introduction to Chinese Culture
- The Invention of France
- Identity and Politics in the German-Speaking Countries
- Italy and the Arts
- Introduction to Japanese Culture
- Conflict and Violence in the Spanish Speaking World
- Understanding Russia: Arts and Ideology

# Year 2

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- Language classes
- Cultural modules
- Aims: to deepen and broaden your knowledge; to hone your skills; to develop your voice

Mati Diop



# Year abroad: teaching

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- Teaching in a school as a British Council language assistant.
- Option available to those studying French, German, Italian or Spanish.



TEACH

ABROAD

 BRITISH  
COUNCIL

# Year abroad: studying

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- Exchanges with universities in EU countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain
- Established links with universities in Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Chile, Colombia, China, and Japan
- <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/modern-languages-cultures/undergraduate-study/study-abroad/>





# Year abroad: work placement

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- Wide range of existing placements advertised through the School.
- Possibility to source your own placement, subject to approval.
- Recent examples: law internship; banking; real estate; computer development; translation agency; refugee support.



# Year 4

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- Language classes
- Cultural modules
- Dissertation on subject of your choice (8,000 or 12,000 words)
  
- *Spirited Away* (Studio Ghibli)

# Recent and current dissertations

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Gen Z and language use in Morocco

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Representations of hippies in German visual culture

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*Bridgerton* and the romanticisation of the Regency

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Putin's persona(e) in a historical context

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Sudanese women and writings of exile

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Indigenous languages and identities in Québec

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Marie-Antoinette, erotica, and the French Revolution

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The Changing Perception of Stalin in Russian print media from 2005 to 2015



Create your  
pathway: an  
example  
from French  
Studies

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Invention of France

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The Francophone Imaginary

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Year abroad / Target language  
research project

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Listening to French subcultures /  
The performing black body

Create your  
pathway: an  
example from  
Hispanic  
Studies

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Introduction to Hispanic Literature  
and Culture

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Icons and Myths of the Hispanic  
World

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Year abroad / Target language  
research project

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Sex and Society in Spanish Literature  
to 1700/ Gender in medieval Spain

# BA in Modern Languages and Cultures

- Four-year course (Year 3 spent abroad)
- 6 languages:
  - Arabic (plus Persian), French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish (plus Catalan)
- Very flexible
  - One, two, or three languages in Year 1; maximum of two thereafter
  - Wide range of beginner languages in Year 1
- Six modules per year in Years 1, 2, and 4
  - Core language
  - Cultural modules (culture, history, politics)
  - One or two modules outside of MLAC if doing single honours

## Typical Offers:

- **A level:** AAA
- **BTEC:** DDD
- **IB:** 37

# BA in Chinese Studies

# BA in Japanese Studies

- Four-year course
- No language entry requirement
- Combining language and culture with other disciplines (history, international relations, art history, economics, etc.)
- Three thirds system: one third language; one third culture/history; one third other options
- Year 3 abroad: study at university in China or Japan
- Double module dissertation

## Typical Offers:

- **A level:** AAB
- **BTEC:** DDD
- **IB:** 36

# BA in Modern Languages & History

- Four-year course
- Joint honours programme taught in collaboration with the Department of History
- Combines the study of History with one post A-level or beginners' language from: French, German, Hispanic Studies (Spanish), Italian, Russian
- Year 3 abroad

## Typical Offers:

- **A level:** AAA
- **BTEC:** DDD
- **IB:** 37

# BA in Liberal Arts

# Combined Honours in Social Sciences

- Four-year course
- Bespoke degree programmes
  - Study two, three, or four subjects (can be narrowed down as you progress)
  - This can include a language, or two in the case of Liberal Arts
  - Liberal Arts: Arts and Humanities-focused
  - Combined Honours: Social Sciences-focused
- Year 3 abroad

## Typical Offers:

- A level: A\*AA
- BTEC: D\*DD
- IB: 38

# Languages beyond the classroom

Regular language cafés, giving you the chance to practise your language skills with native speakers in an informal setting.

Buddy schemes, pairing you with visiting students who are native speakers of the languages you study.

Student-led conferences, social events and societies (Spanish tapas, Italian cookery lesson, ballet classes in French).

**Joint 3rd for graduate income levels 5 years after graduation**

**Occupational areas** include: law, business and finance; politics; cultural sector; management consulting; publishing; academia; marketing; translation; teaching.

**Employers:** a wide range in both the public and private sector including Deloitte; Ernst and Young; Goldman Sachs; British Council; Grant Thornton; Proctor and Gamble; Bloomberg; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; NHS; Natural History Museum.

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# Your career after Durham





# Helen Sharp Scholarship

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- To help with tuition, living costs and any other associated costs of study; maximum of **£4,000 per annum** for up to **four years**.
- To be eligible, you must:
  - Be in need of financial assistance at the time of application
  - Have been educated at a state-maintained UK school, college or other secondary education provider for the whole of your education
- Deadline **late March 2024**
- <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/modern-languages-cultures/undergraduate-study/scholarships/helen-sharp-undergraduate-scholarship-in-modern-languages/>

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