

OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

THE LITTLE BOOK OF
**APPLIED
LANGUAGES
AT BROOKES**





What will I study?

In year 1 you will choose a primary foreign language (post-A level or equivalent) and a secondary language to learn from scratch. You will also take modules in your chosen specialist professional pathway.

In year 2 you will develop your language skills further, and you'll combine this with more modules that allow further study of your specialist pathway, whilst preparing you for year 3 – your placement year!

In year 3 you will carry out a work placement and perfect your language skills whilst being immersed in the culture of the country where your primary language is spoken. You can choose to continue with your secondary language by going on a study placement at one of our partner universities.

When you return to Oxford for your **final year** you will have the opportunity to choose modules which concentrate further on specific aspects of your specialism, work experience, culture, and language that you uncovered and developed during your period abroad.

You will use this year to focus on your strengths.

You can choose to reduce or expand your specialist pathway, and you can opt to drop your second language. You will also complete a research project in your primary language based on your work placement.

Our friendly, close-knit team will help you get the most out of the course. You will have your own academic advisor from within the languages team and all lecturers have scheduled office hours where you'll be encouraged to talk outside of the classroom to discuss your work and ideas.



Which languages can I study?

Primary language: French, Spanish or English as a foreign language. You'll usually be expected to graduate with a C1 European Common Framework of Reference level of proficiency in your primary language.

Secondary language: German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, or French. All can be studied from beginners' level, but you can study French or Spanish at the same level as your primary language. You can choose to drop your secondary language at the end of Year 2 or continue until Year 4.

You will have lots of opportunities to explore issues in greater depth, practice your language skills with a native speaker, and improve your **linguistic and interpersonal skills.**



LIBRARY

A blurred photograph of a library entrance. The word "LIBRARY" is printed in large, black, sans-serif capital letters at the top left. Below it, a white wall features a directional sign with an arrow pointing right. Two people are walking past the wall, their figures blurred to convey motion. The floor is a grey carpet.

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“The resources on offer at Oxford Brookes include something for everyone, and are constantly being improved. Without the support of Oxford Brookes, I would not have had the skills or the professional experience to be able to apply for such a competitive work placement.”
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PIPPA HAGGART, GRADUATE
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Which specialist pathways can I follow?

You will follow your specialist pathway throughout your course alongside your languages and can choose from many different subject areas:

Business

Education

Publishing

Media and Culture

**International
Relations/Politics**



You will be taught by tutors and researchers who are experts in their field. The specific style of teaching varies between modules and specialisms but is likely to include a mix of seminars, lectures, tutorials and group work.



BUSINESS

In today's interconnected world there is a growing need for people with both foreign language fluency and business skills. On this pathway you will **develop the skills and understanding you need to succeed in a wide range of business careers.**

Focus on human resource management, marketing, or business strategy.

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“The year abroad has been the most valuable experience of my university career. Not only did it significantly better my Spanish ability, it introduced me to a completely new culture and through working in Santiago de Chile, I acquired a worthwhile insight into the functions of a nationally renowned business”

HENRY EDWARDS, ON HIS YEAR ABROAD

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“I work in a boarding school in the French Alps, looking after the children in the residency and assisting in English and French classes. Working abroad has given me the opportunity to live in one of the most beautiful places on the planet, meet people from a totally different culture, and has opened my eyes to new ways of thinking.”

SUSANNAH RAE, ON HER YEAR ABROAD

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EDUCATION

Develop a broad and critical understanding of the principle features of education. You will **investigate contemporary issues and debates in education, and examine the values of education and its place in society.**

While this pathway does not train you to be a teacher, it introduces you to central aspects of education policy in the English context. Your studies will be related to broader forces of social change including economic, cultural, technological and political change.

For your placement year, there are opportunities to apply to be an English language assistant through the British Council scheme.



PUBLISHING

This pathway explores publishing as a business. By following this specialism alongside your languages, you will understand publishing principles and practice from author to reader, as well as sales and marketing.

Through Oxford Brookes you will be part of **The Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies**, the largest academic department in Europe and one of the leading centres for publishing education in the world.





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICS

Through this specialism you will study the critical issues of the modern world, including the changing nature of power internationally, nationally, and locally.

By combining languages with International Relations and Politics you will be well equipped to pursue an international career. Future careers could include working for a non-governmental organisations (NGO), international organisation or government.

Oxford has one of the highest number of NGOs outside London, including Oxfam - so you are in an excellent position to pursue career development opportunities in the region.



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“Thanks to my course I have become much more confident in my ability to speak a foreign language and I have improved my writing skills in both English and French. I have also learnt how to manage my time more effectively, and work alongside others and independently.”
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LUCY HUNT, GRADUATE
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Your placement year

In your third year you will fine-tune your language fluency, gain work experience, and be immersed in the culture of a country where your primary language is spoken.

You are strongly encouraged to **choose a work placement that combines your language skills with your chosen specialism**. For example, if you are following the Business pathway you may choose to work in marketing, while if on the Education pathway you may want to spend the year as an English language assistant.

There are two options for the way you spend your year.

- Spend your full 24-week work placement in a country where your primary foreign language is spoken.
- Split your time between two countries. Spend 12-weeks on a study exchange where you will improve your proficiency in your second language, and carry out a 12-week work placement in a country where your primary foreign language is spoken.

Students have undertaken placements at Air France, Alcatel-Lucent telecommunications, Go Fluent language schools, Christie's Auction House, and KCD fashion public relations.

The language skills, cultural awareness, and experience you gain will make your CV shine.



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“I spent my year abroad in Grenoble,
in the French Alps. It was a brilliant
year, something that I’d definitely
repeat if given the option. Not only
did my French greatly improve but
I also met people from all around the
world and enjoyed experiences that
I will never forget. My highlight was
being able to ski every weekend!”

CHRIS STONE, GRADUATE
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“You gain great hands-on experience in the world of work as well as an insight into another culture that goes way beyond any tourist guide or textbook. For anyone thinking about going abroad, my advice would be **JUST DO IT** and say ‘yes’ to any opportunities offered to you. Live outside your comfort zone for a year and you’ll be surprised at just how much you’ll miss it when you’re back home.”

EMILY TEBBETT, ON HER YEAR ABROAD

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Studying Languages in Oxford

Oxford is one of the UK's top cities for culture and has a worldwide reputation for academic excellence. The city's two universities attract 40,000 students from around the world, so it's a truly multicultural place to learn a language, as well as being rich in heritage and entertainment.

Oxford remains a small enough city to feel welcoming and accessible, but also contains one of the highest concentrations of NGOs outside of London, so it's a fantastic location to get some work experience and build your future career.

In your final year you will have access to Oxford University's Bodleian Library, an incredible and unique resource that you can use to complete your final research project.





Research and language expertise

You will be taught by tutors who are active researchers with strong international reputations. They draw on their own research to create a programme that is stimulating and enjoyable, whatever language and specialist pathway you choose to take.

We encourage you to become a researcher in your own right in your time at Brookes, and by designing and undertaking your own research you will develop excellent analytical and independent study skills, adding weight to your CV.

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**Department of English and
Modern Languages**

For more information about
Applied Languages:

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