



Department of
Modern Languages

Undergraduate studies in

Modern Languages

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Welcome to the Department of Modern Languages

We are a dynamic, welcoming community and your successful development is our main focus. We rank 1st for Feedback, 1st for Added Value and 3rd overall in the UK for the subject of Languages and Linguistics in the Guardian University League Table 2024.

At the Department of Modern Languages, we offer a range of courses in French, Spanish, German and Italian, either as single or joint honours degree programmes. We are one of only a handful of universities in the UK offering you the opportunity to combine the study of three languages, even from beginners' level. You can also combine your language study with a wide range of other subjects such as International Relations, Law, Business, English, Creative Writing, Drama and Theatre, and History.

Across the four years of your BA in Modern Languages, you will develop into a professional linguist, graduating with high-level proficiency in your language(s) of choice. We place particularly strong emphasis on employability and the value of developing language skills for professional life. As a result of our targeted work in this area our graduates go on to successful careers in a wide range of settings across the globe. Complementing your focused language study, you can choose to follow specialist option modules, designed to deepen your knowledge of national and transnational topics in society and culture. Our teaching is informed by our high-quality research, and our innovative approach to teaching and assessment makes language learning at Aberystwyth an engaging, empowering, and exciting experience for all our students.

You will participate in the Year Abroad scheme in your third year of study: studying, teaching English with the British council, or undertaking work and volunteer placements. The Year Abroad provides opportunities to become fully immersed in the languages and cultures you are studying. When you return to Aberystwyth for your final year as an undergraduate you will be equipped with invaluable insights, knowledge, and confidence, that will make you an exceptionally valuable future employee with demonstrable skills and qualities that are highly-prized in the workplace. We will support you throughout the experience, from preparing you for your time abroad to welcoming you back to Aber all, because we know that enabling our students to make the most of this central feature of our degrees ensures that they graduate as global citizens ready for the future.

We are delighted to invite you to visit us, and I look forward to welcoming you to the Department. Come and join us in our unique location in beautiful West Wales and let us tell you more about our degrees, and introduce you to our vibrant, close-knit, and welcoming community of lecturers, scholars and students.

Arrivederci / À très bientôt /
Hasta pronto / Bis bald,

Professor Louise Marshall, Head of School



Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (March 2025) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.

My experience

as a language student at Aberystwyth...

Erykah Williams-McIntosh

French and Spanish (RR14)

"Growing up in Walsall, I always knew languages were my passion. I initially applied to university for French and English Literature, but upon arriving at Aberystwyth, I switched to French and Spanish within the first week. Although I was initially worried about my Spanish, the support from lecturers and friends quickly boosted my confidence, and I never looked back.

The teaching at Aberystwyth was exceptional. My lecturers were approachable, engaging, and supportive. Even after graduation, they remained invaluable resources whom I can always contact for advice and support. Film and Cultural Studies were my favourite modules, sparking a deep love for the subject which became the focus of my Master's dissertation, and would be my academic specialism if I decide to return to academia. Even courses I was initially doubtful about – such as Business French – turned out to be enjoyable, thanks to inspiring lecturers.

My Year Abroad, during the pandemic, was challenging but transformative. Studying at Sorbonne Université in Paris and Universidad de Córdoba in Spain allowed me to build lifelong friendships, immerse in new cultures,

and gain the confidence to speak fluently. Aberystwyth's vibrant social scene—bonfires on the beach, nights at Pier, and lifelong friendships—also left lasting memories.

After earning a First-Class degree, I continued my studies with a Master's at the University of St Andrews. Since then, I've grown even more passionate about languages – wishing I'd also studied German at Aberystwyth, as so many friends spoke highly of it.

Today, I'm proud to work as a 'Black Queer and Thriving' Project Officer, using French, Spanish, and other languages more than English in my role. I also run a successful online tutoring business. Reflecting on my journey, I'm incredibly grateful for the teaching and experiences that have shaped me."



Carys Davies

French and Spanish (RR14)

"Studying French and Spanish at Aberystwyth proved to be a life-changing experience that exceeded my expectations. I was instantly drawn to the Modern Languages department in Aberystwyth because of the passion and knowledge demonstrated by the lecturers. Not only did I develop my linguistic ability in French and Spanish, but I also deepened my understanding of Francophone and Hispanic cultures which is a credit to the department as they were extremely dedicated to supporting students during their studies. The close-knit community was a huge factor when choosing Aberystwyth, and this was proven to me during my studies as the lecturers would provide detailed feedback and were always happy to answer any questions.

The Year Abroad was undoubtedly one of my personal highlights. I studied at the Université Bordeaux-Montaigne for the first semester and at the Universidad de Sevilla for the second. During my time in both universities, I studied translation which prompted me to want to choose translation as a pathway for Master's. Both Bordeaux and Sevilla were outstanding cities that were both rich with history and culture. I was able to fully immerse myself in the languages and culture as I visited Saint-Émilion, the wine capital of Bordeaux, several times and expanded my knowledge on wine culture. In Sevilla, I had the most amazing time experiencing the Semana Santa with my friends and going to the Feria de Abril, dancing flamenco with local people. I have made so many amazing friends and until this day we organise reunions, and have visited several countries together.

I couldn't have asked for a better student experience at Aberystwyth, so I returned for a Master's in Professional Translation Studies. I have translated some articles and even poetry from French and Spanish to Welsh. Thanks to contacts established between the two institutions, I currently have the opportunity to take a teaching position in Rennes for one year. Living in Brittany has always been a dream of mine, and I am very grateful for this opportunity."



Languages taught in the Department

French

French is hugely important in the world of international relations today. It is used in a large number of international institutions such as the United Nations, and it is the official language of 29 countries with 220 million native speakers.

Why study French at Aberystwyth University?

French is spoken across the globe as a native or second language by up to half a billion people. The French-speaking world extends across the globe from Europe to Africa, Asia and the Americas. French is more important than ever before and the ability to communicate in the language is an invaluable skill.

At Aberystwyth, studying French will enable you to develop your linguistic competencies further but at the same time explore and develop your knowledge of French culture, literature, art, film and the practical use of language in a business context. Our wide range of modules for you to choose from will develop your communication and analytical skills, which are highly desired by multinational organisations worldwide.

Upon completion of a four-year course in French, you will have acquired a high level of proficiency in the French language, as well as a critical understanding of key aspects of modern and contemporary French and Francophone culture.

German

German is the language of business and finance and is the most widely spoken language within the European Union.

Why study German at Aberystwyth University?

Language, culture and history are inseparable, and studying German at Aberystwyth University will show you that there is more to German culture, language and history than you might have expected.

German language skills are highly desirable for employers in international business in a wide range of fields including finance, marketing, translating, teaching, media, arts, publishing and the civil service. There is an alarming shortage of people in the UK with the ability to speak one of the ten most important foreign languages for the country's prosperity and global standing. To speak German will provide you with a real competitive edge in the job market.

Taught by native speakers, all our German courses provide comprehensive language training combined with the opportunity to explore the cultures, literatures and intellectual histories of German-speaking countries.

Spanish

Spanish is the mother tongue of an estimated 400-450 million people, making it the world's second most spoken language.

Why study Spanish at Aberystwyth University?

Spanish is one of the three most important international languages in the world, spoken as a first language in Europe, Latin America, Africa and increasingly in the USA.

At Aberystwyth University, you will have the opportunity to discover Spanish and Latin American culture and history through the variety of core and optional modules available to you during the four-year degree. By the end of the course, you will have a fluent command of the Spanish language as well as a solid grasp and knowledge of Spanish and Latin American culture.

There is a high demand for Spanish graduates from multinational employers who value the communication and intercultural skills that are developed through language degrees. A Spanish course can open up many exciting opportunities in fields such as international politics, business, finance, marketing, teaching and translation/interpreting.

Italian

Italian is a major European language and is spoken by approximately 85 million people. Its influence is widespread in the arts and in the food and luxury goods markets.

Why study Italian at Aberystwyth University?

Studying Italian provides you with the opportunity to explore careers within teaching, fine arts, banking, the media, tourism and law to name a few.

Italy is a major political partner in the European Union; it is a leading force in fields such as engineering and architecture. Italy is also the home of design and fashion industries. Understanding and developing fluency in Italian will mean that you can explore some of the major contributions to European cultural life, including film and literature, in their native language.

At Aberystwyth University, Italian can be studied from beginners' level. We apply our unique and innovative approaches and methodologies to our teaching, which include small group activities and the support of native Italian teachers and exchange students.

Teaching structure

A degree from the Department of Modern Languages will allow you to focus on three broad areas of development:

- a high level of proficiency in your chosen language(s) of study
- an in-depth understanding of the culture, society, politics, economics, history and literature of the countries where these languages are spoken
- exceptional transferable skills that include soft skills, problem-solving, exceptional written and oral communication, intercultural and analytical skills that will make you highly attractive to prospective employers

Our modules are taught using a combination of lectures, seminars and practical workshop sessions, providing you with core knowledge, up-to-date information, and opportunities to discuss important ideas in a small group environment.

Our language classes cover the following skills:

- listening
- grammar/writing
- translation
- conversation

The intensive language classes are taught in small groups, designed to ensure maximum impact on your linguistic development during the four years of your degree scheme. We have a higher number of language classes at all levels (at least 5 hours per week per language) than in most universities.

Our members of staff are passionate about their subject and are keen to share with students their enthusiasm and research-led knowledge. Their expertise spans a wide range of subjects, creating flexibility to specialise or mix-and-match options. Language provision is also supplemented by meetings with Language Assistants for further speaking practice, as well as opportunities to join one of our language societies.



Our courses

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French

BA (Hons) | R120 | 4 years

This degree is perfect for you if you're interested in the French-speaking world, and are driven to learn more in a collaborative environment.

You will be guided through various aspects, themes and periods of French language, socio-political history, literature, film and culture. No previous knowledge of the language is required as you can study from complete beginners' level to a high level of fluency. During the four-year degree scheme, your linguistic capabilities will be improved and enhanced through weekly classes in listening, reading/writing, translation and conversation, as well as grammar, translation and linguistics. In Year One, Beginners (without an A level or equivalent in French) follow an intensive language course. All students follow a module introducing them to key questions and texts of the history of France and French-speaking countries. You will also be able to choose from relevant cultural, literary and historical optional modules on literature (covering a range of genres as well as historical periods), film, the history of ideas and artistic movements, and current affairs.

Your year abroad

For all students, this is a highlight and will certainly be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We offer the following options:

- studying in one of our partner universities
- studying in a private language school
- undertaking an English Language Assistantship with the British Council
- undertaking a work experience placement in your chosen country that is relevant to the choice of language degree.

Key Facts



Typical offer:

UCAS tariff points: 120-104 to include B in A level French unless to be studied as a beginner

IB: 30-28 with 5 points in French at Higher Level unless to be studied as a beginner



Assessment weighting:

Approx 50% coursework and 50% exams

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Beginners French or
- French Language Advanced
- Introduction to French Studies

Second year:

- French Language

Third year:

- Year Abroad Assessment

Final year:

- French Language
- Dissertation (single Honours French)

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:

- Gender in Modern and Contemporary French Culture
- Humour and Literature
- Introduction to European Film
- Language, Culture, and Identity in Europe
- Narrating and Visualising French Colonialism
- Self-writing, 18th-21st Centuries
- History, Film, Memory: Representing World Wars in French Cinema
- Travel and Literature.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

Modern Languages

BA (Hons) | R990 | 4 years

Aberystwyth is one of a few universities in the UK that offers the opportunity to combine the study of up to three languages, none of which will require prior knowledge.

You can choose from French, Italian, German and Spanish. You will not only gain practical knowledge of and fluency in three languages, but you will also learn to understand the position of these languages in a wider global context. Beginners follow an intensive course in the first year, consisting of an intensive language module and a general introduction to European civilisation and culture. After the first year, all students on the beginners' course will join students in the advanced level class. If you are joining us at an advanced level, the first year will build on and further develop the principles taught at A level, preparing you for the next three years.

Your year abroad

For all students, this is a highlight and will certainly be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We offer the following options:

- studying in one of our partner universities
- studying in a private language school
- undertaking an English Language Assistantship with the British Council
- undertaking a work experience placement in your chosen country that is relevant to the choice of language degree.

If you are studying more than one language, your time on the year abroad is normally split between two countries to facilitate total immersion in more than one language and culture.

Key Facts



Typical offer:

UCAS tariff points: 120-104 to include B in a relevant A level language unless to be studied as a beginner

IB: 30-28 with 5 points in one relevant language at Higher Level unless to be studied as a beginner

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Beginners (French, German, Spanish, Italian) or
- Advanced (French, German, Spanish).

Second year:

- Language (French, German, Spanish, Italian)

Third year:

- Year Abroad Assessment

Final year:

- Language (French, German, Spanish, Italian).

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include those listed for French (R120) and Spanish (R401) as well as:

- Children's Literature in German
- Short Prose in German
- German-speaking Refugees from National Socialism in the UK
- Rethinking late 20th-century Italy
- Italian Cities



Assessment weighting:

Approx 50% coursework and 50% exams

Spanish and Latin American Studies

BA (Hons) | R401 | 4 years

This four-year degree scheme is designed to provide you with a profound practical knowledge of the Spanish language and will equip you with the much-needed tools to reflect on past and contemporary literature, society, cinema, translation and politics both in Spain and Latin America. No previous knowledge of the language is required as you can study from complete beginners' level to a high level of fluency.

This degree has two pathways in the first year only. All students follow a module introducing them to essential skills in Hispanic studies. Beginners (without an A level or equivalent in Spanish) follow an intensive language course, while advanced students follow a language module and a general introduction to Hispanic civilisation and culture.

Your year abroad

For all students, this is a highlight and will certainly be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We offer the following options:

- studying in one of our partner universities
- studying in a private language school
- undertaking an English Language Assistantship with the British Council
- undertaking a work experience placement in your chosen country that is relevant to the choice of language degree.

Key Facts



Typical offer:

UCAS tariff points: 120-104 to include B in A level Spanish unless to be studied as a beginner

IB: 30-28 with 5 points in Spanish at Higher Level unless to be studied as a beginner

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Beginners Spanish *or*
- Spanish Language Advanced
- Study and Research Skills.

Second year:

- Research Project
- Spanish Language.

Third year:

- Year Abroad Assessment.

Final year:

- Spanish Language
- Dissertation (single Honours).

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:

- Introduction to European Film
- Language, Culture, and Identity in Europe
- Seeing Spain through Cinema
- The Cuban Revolution
- Spanish American Cinema
- The Spanish Avant-garde
- Hispanic Civilization
- Cuban Cinema of the Revolution
- Reading Late 19th Century Literature.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.



Assessment weighting:

Approx 50% coursework and 50% exams

Joint Honours and Major/Minor - language with another subject

Aberystwyth provides the opportunity to study Spanish, French or German alongside a variety of other subjects in a joint honours programme. This gives you the benefits of developing profound skills and knowledge in one of these languages alongside another subject you enjoy. No previous knowledge of your chosen language is required as you can study from complete beginners' level to a high level of fluency.

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
French	Business and Management	NR11	
	Drama and Theatre	RW14	
	English Literature	QR31	
	German	RR12	
	International Relations	1FRL	
	Italian	RR31	
	Law	RM11	
	Mathematics	GR11	
	Spanish	RR14	
German	French	RR12	
	History	RV21	
	International Relations	22LR	
	Italian	RR32	
	Law	RM21	
	Spanish	RR24	
Italian	French	RR31	
	German	RR32	
	Spanish	RR43	
Spanish	Business and Management	NR14	
	Creative Writing	WR84	
	Drama and Theatre	RW44	
	Education		XR04
	French	RR14	
	German	RR24	
	International Relations	4FRL	
	Italian	RR43	
	Law	RM41	
	Marketing	NR55	

Year abroad and global opportunities

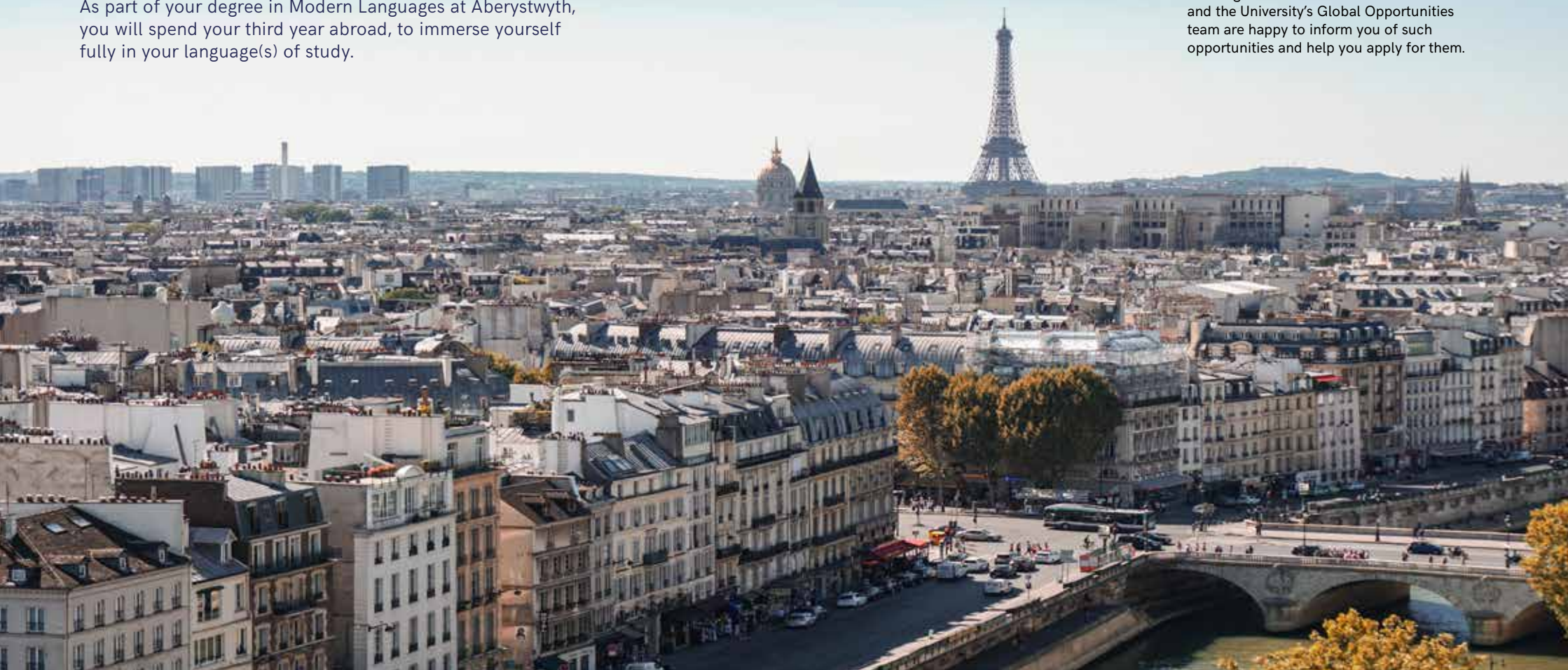
As part of your degree in Modern Languages at Aberystwyth, you will spend your third year abroad, to immerse yourself fully in your language(s) of study.

There are three options for your Year Abroad: you can study at one of our partner universities or at a language school; you can teach English as an Assistant for the British Council; or you can work or volunteer.

If you opt for studying abroad, you can choose from a range of options in France and Belgium (French), Germany and Austria (German), Spain and Latin America (Spanish), and Italy.

You will receive dedicated help and support in preparing for your Year Abroad and organising your stay or stays abroad. For each language, a dedicated member of staff is your Year Abroad coordinator, helping you to navigate your options, as well as the administrative and practical steps towards securing your placement. The experience of having spent a year abroad is highly valued by employers, who recognise the independence and resourcefulness that graduates have as a result.

The Year Abroad is not the only opportunity to enhance your learning through time spent abroad: our students can avail of regular short exchanges and residencies. Staff members and the University's Global Opportunities team are happy to inform you of such opportunities and help you apply for them.



Research

Our staff members are internationally recognised specialists in their fields. Their work is published with prestigious reviews and publishing houses, to critical acclaim, and impacts policies in Wales and in the UK. Their research forms the basis of the teaching in our rich range of cultural modules.

Anglo-Norman Dictionary

Dr Geert De Wilde and his team produce the Second Edition of the Anglo-Norman Dictionary (AND). Anglo-Norman is the form of French that was used in medieval Britain from 1066 until the 15th century and had a huge influence on the history and development of Modern English. The project team publishes, in stages and online, an expanded and fully revised version of the AND, and develops new and advanced search options.

Colonial Influencers?

This project, led by Dr Gábor Gelléri and funded by the British Academy, follows the previously unknown history of a group of elite female French students sent to colonial Indochina to witness the great deeds of colonialism and become its advocates. Through archival research and interviews with the descendants of the participants, it explores the many reasons why this project failed, and how local audiences (both French settlers and the colonised) reacted to the presence of these unusual visitors.

Creative Modern Languages & Creative Assessment

Led by Dr Alex Mangold, the Creative Modern Languages project is funded by the British Academy and aims to identify examples of artistic research and non-traditional "creative" assessments used in Modern Languages throughout the UK Higher Education sector. In its second phase, the project now looks at Creative Assessment as a productive tool for schools working with the New Curriculum in Wales, and for teachers working with creative forms of assessment throughout the UK.

Developing a Spanish language app

Funded by the Research Wales Innovation Fund, and developed in cooperation with the Department of Computer Science, this project, led by Dr Guy Baron, will create a new Spanish language revision app, which will be freely available to all students of Spanish to make it easier for them to revise and reinforce some of the essential elements of their course.

Medicine, Literature and Press

This project, led by José Goñi Pérez, analyses data extracted from Hispanic medical and public health periodicals published between 1850 and 1900. It studies discourses on illness, the transfer of knowledge, on medical policies that affected mothers and children, as well as fiction written by doctors in these periodicals.



Refugees from National Socialism in the UK

Professor Andrea Hammel explores the lives and works of those who had to flee from Central Europe due to the National Socialist dictatorship, with special focus on the Kindertransport and the experience of those resettling in Wales. This has resulted in books for academic and wider audiences and exhibitions which were shown, among others, at the Senedd and the Houses of Parliament at Westminster. She has presented her work at the Wiener Holocaust Library in London, the Hay Literary Festival and the German Bundestag.

Women & the Spanish Avant-Garde

Dr Jennifer Wood works on the often overlooked contribution of women to the Spanish avant-garde movement: much more than mere muses, they were creators and innovators in their own right. The project focuses on how they challenged gender norms, an area currently in the cultural spotlight as the Surrealist movement marks its centenary. Her recent work has focused on the creative friendship between the artist Maruja Mallo and the poet Concha Méndez, as well as on representations of the female form.



Employability

Modern linguists are statistically among the most employable graduates, and our degrees take our students across the world.

Employers appreciate the high-level language proficiency, but also the many transferable skills that you will earn during your degree: intercultural competence, efficient communication and problem-solving, organisational and leadership skills, and resilience. Our graduates enter diverse professions, including teaching, politics and the Civil Service, publishing and broadcasting, tourism, business, HR, marketing and management, social work, law and the non-governmental sector, and many more. After further specialist studies, you can also pursue careers in teaching, translation and interpreting, and academia.

Careers and Employability Service

The University offers a careers and employability service for all students and graduates. You can access careers information, explore your options and speak to a consultant who can advise you about opportunities relating to your degree or preferred field. The service offers guidance on CV preparation and job applications, and it is also a great opportunity for you to do some networking with top graduate recruiters at Careers Fairs and events.

In addition, if you're looking for work experience, the Careers Service can assist with planning and organising your placement.

The application process

- 1 Apply through UCAS.com**
 Check the UCAS deadline on UCAS.com. Aberystwyth University institution code: A40. **TOP TIP:** You'll be given a 10-digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as you'll be asked for it many times.
- 2 The University will consider your application**
TOP TIP: Use UCAS Hub to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within seven days.
- 3 The offer will show on UCAS Hub**
 The University's decision will show on UCAS Hub - if you've been made an offer, it will tell you what grades you need to achieve to secure your place.
- 4 Decide where to go**
 Once you've received all your offers, you'll need to decide which university you want to go to, within a set time. This is when you'll need to note which universities will be your Firm and Insurance choices.
- 5 Accommodation**
 Once you've chosen your Firm/Insurance choice you'll be invited to apply for accommodation.
- 6 Results day**
 UCAS Hub will tell you whether your place is confirmed at your Firm choice. If you don't get the grades you'd hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.
- 7 Start packing!**
 Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.

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