

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES AT ALL LEVELS

Name of Programme:		Modern Languages with Politics	
Final award (BSc, MA etc):		BA	
Awarding institution/body:	University of Buckingham	Teaching institution:	University of Buckingham
School of Study:	Humanities	Parent Department: (the department responsible for the administration of the programme)	Department of Modern Foreign Languages
Length of the programme: (please note any periods spent away from Buckingham, e.g. placements)	8 terms (2 years) or 9 terms	Method of study: Full-time/Part-time/Other	Full-time
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level (see Guidance notes, section D – External Reference Points)	FHEQ Level 6	Relevant subject benchmark statement (SBS) (see Guidance notes, section D – External Reference Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Languages, cultures and societies (rev. ed. 2015) Politics and international relations (rev.ed. 2015)
Professional body accreditation (if applicable):	None (not applicable)		
Criteria for admission to the programme:	Only non-native speakers of French and Spanish will be accepted onto this programme. Students must meet the university entry requirements for the degree programme and be in possession of a good A Level or equivalent (CEFR B1/B2), in one of the two languages.	Cohort(s) to which this programme specification is applicable: (e.g.from 2012 intake onwards)	January 2018 intake onwards
UCAS Code	R9L2		

Summary of Programme

This programme combines a vocationally-oriented Major with a Minor in a traditional academic interdisciplinary programme. It aims to develop linguistic competence in French and Spanish and intercultural awareness together with in-depth knowledge and understanding of aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where these languages are used and which cover a large part of the world population in Europe, Africa, Latin America and North America. The study of French and Spanish speaking countries and societies is combined with Politics, which involves the study of Political Science and Political Theory to allow students to evaluate political concepts and theories, providing understanding of the 'otherness' of people and societies around the world.

Successful completion of the programme equips students with a range of transferable and communication skills and encourage competencies directly relating to employability, as well as developing their critical and analytical academic skills. The Major/Minor combination is well integrated and designed for students who wish to work in a range of careers or pursue further studies within and international context or related to international affairs and institutions.

It is designed to develop key competences in speaking, listening, writing and reading the language studied, and to enhance communication skills in a variety of situations through interactively using the language in classes, language laboratory and in other forms including IT, internet and media. Languages are taught at Intermediate Level (stages 3-6) and Advanced Level (stages 5-8).

Students can enter the programme with knowledge of just one of the two languages (French or Spanish) as long as they are in possession of a good A level or equivalent in the language. These students will have to join the programme for a 9-term September start and will follow a fast-track foundation module in the language for which they have no previous knowledge.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme's key aims are to:

Modern Languages specific

- Develop skills for communicating fluently, confidently and effortlessly in both French and Spanish in a variety of social and professional environments and with a full range of intermediate/advanced grammatical structures of French and Spanish
- Equip students with a wide range of generalist and specialist French and Spanish vocabulary, including reference to different styles and registers of the language
- Develop knowledge of sociocultural, political and economic issues of the countries where French and Spanish are spoken, leading to increased cultural awareness
- Apply analytical skills to the study of political institutions and sociocultural norms in the countries where the languages are spoken through the use of up to date media and academic resources from the French and Spanish speaking countries
- On completion of the programme, students will have achieved a CEFR C2 level in the language for which they had previously gained an A level and a CEFR C1 level in the other language (beginners or students with a GCSE on entry)
- Provide a basis for further development of linguistic skills at advanced/postgraduate level
- Provide skills enabling students to operate professionally in French and Spanish to their full potential

Politics specific

- Ensure that students acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of appropriate areas of political theory
- Provide understanding and analysis of contemporary political systems and institutions in Europe and USA
- Introduce students to different approaches to international relations

Modern Languages (French and Spanish) with Politics

- Enable students to understand and analyse with the appropriate academic framework the socio-political and cultural structures from different countries and to use the language in context
- Encourage cross-fertilisation between students' knowledge of the structures, societies and mores in French and Spanish speaking countries and their critical understanding of politics and international relations
- Enable students to analyse and contextualise the French and Spanish perspectives on international political issues through media and academic resources in French and Spanish on related topics
- Provide contexts for the development of intercultural awareness
- Provide opportunities for rigorous discussion and debate, encouraged in a tutorial environment
- Competencies directly relating to employability:
 - high-order conceptual, literacy, and communication skills
 - intellectual skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of the international scene
 - high-level, fluent, and accurate writing skills
 - excellent IT skills both in research and presentation of written and spoken content

Programme Outcomes

<p><u>Knowledge and understanding of:</u> <i>On successful completion of their studies, students will be able to</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate explicit knowledge and understanding of the French and the Spanish languages orally and in writing 2. Display significant cultural and intercultural awareness and understanding 3. Understand the sociocultural, political and economic issues and institutions of the countries where French and Spanish are spoken 4. Demonstrate the ability to interact in different general and professional situations whilst using French and Spanish to a high/very high standard 5. Show understanding of basic concepts of normative and positive political analysis 6. Demonstrate knowledge of political systems of major regions including the US, Europe, Greater China and Japan 7. Indicate understanding of alternative approaches to International Relations 	→	<p><u>Teaching/Learning Strategy</u> <i>Explain the teaching and learning methods and strategies used to help students achieve each part of the knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral seminar presentations – to practise communication skills and demonstrate understanding 2. Teaching and practising French and Spanish grammar, syntax, vocabulary, as well as writing and reading skills 3. Authentic materials provide opportunities for use of target language to discuss aspects of French and Spanish culture and social practices and compare them with those in UK and students' own nations 4. Progressive introduction of topical issues, political, legal and education systems, administrative and economic structures and institutions 5. Study of aspects of the culture and society of French and Spanish speaking countries provides opportunities for use of target language to compare these with their counterparts in the UK, students' own nations and other specific states or nations discussed in the Politics programme 6. Simulations of situations typical form the professional and business world (report writing, professional presentations, meetings, job interviews) to develop the skills to interact in these situations in the real world 7. Introductory courses in political analysis 8. Courses dealing both with the politics of specific states and regions, and their historical interaction 9. Final year course exploring the theory and competing concepts of international relations
	→	<p><u>Assessment Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the strategies used to assess the achievement of each part of the knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Module essays 2. Unseen examinations 3. Practical Assessments 3. In-class tests 4. Presentations 5. Formative assessment – presentations, class discussion

<p><u>Cognitive (thinking) skills:</u> <i>On successful completion of their studies, students will be able to</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use French and Spanish creatively and precisely for a variety of purposes and in different media 2. Extract key information from written and spoken sources in French and Spanish 3. Organise and present ideas in French and Spanish within a structured and reasoned argument, engaging in analytical and evaluative thinking 4. Read, comprehend and report analytically on a range of political, social and historical narratives 5. Negotiate the complexity of international problems, including awareness of the uses and limitations of abstraction and model building 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="721 69 815 1167"> <p>→</p> </td><td data-bbox="815 69 1513 1167"> <p><u>Teaching/Learning Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the teaching and learning methods and strategies used to help students achieve each part of the cognitive skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small group tutorials (especially skills 1, 2 and 3) 2. Oral skills in French and Spanish practised extensively in class and tested / examined regularly; written skills nurtured by grammar teaching and improved as result of detailed feedback for regular assignments (especially skills 1, 2 and 3) 3. Résumé/report/essay/creative writing, listening exercises (especially skills 1, 2 and 3) 4. In-class discussion of French and Spanish newspaper articles, radio and television broadcasts (especially skills 1, 2 and 3) 5. Requirement to gather, analyse and evaluate data from a variety of sources in French and in Spanish for the purpose of essay writing (especially skills 1, 2 and 3) 6. Use of specific professional language through in-class simulated professional and business situations (especially skills 1, 2, and 3) 7. The use of internet resources, such as moodle (especially skills 1 and 2) 8. Setting reading and chairing subsequent tutorial debates over the central critical issues raised in political analysis, as preparation for writing evaluative essays (especially skills 4 and 5) 9. Use of log-books to encourage self-reflexive practice (especially skills 4 and 5) 10. 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<p><u>Practical/Transferable skills (able to):</u> <i>Graduates successfully completing the programme will possess</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research skills, use of reference tools, note-taking and organisation of information in French and Spanish 2. Show receptivity and detailed attention to others' points of view and emotional intelligence of response 3. Use advanced presentation skills in professional settings 4. Ability to engage in effective communication according to the context (professional, business and academic contexts) 5. Ability to collate and communicate relevant information and synthesise data in a clear and structured form in writing and orally using selected information to illustrate and support the topic 6. Engage in intellectual and conceptual analysis, making informed critical judgements of sources consulted in different media and contexts 7. Ability to engage with independent thought and judgement, including assessing opposing and alternative points of view 8. Ability to engage constructively and creatively in seminars and contribute ideas and observations to class discussions 9. Using IT skills to exploit and evaluate sources of information available electronically, research and use information in different forms or media as appropriate 10. Time and project management for undertaking research and completing assignments individually or as part of a team 	<p>→</p> <p>→</p>	<p><u>Teaching/Learning Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the teaching and learning methods and strategies used to help students achieve each part of the practical/transferable skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirement to submit certain assignments in word-processed form, to practise data gathering from the internet; encouragement to use internet resources and moodle for language learning (especially skills 1, 5, 9 and 10) 2. Grammar emphasized in teaching; setting of assignments requiring use of reference tools (especially skills 1, 4 and 9) 3. Nurturing of co-operation among students to enable communicative approach to thrive; practice of interviewing, negotiating skills (especially skills 2, 4, 8 and 10) 4. Weekly independent-study tasks; coursework submission by specific deadlines; exams (especially skills 1, 9 and 10) 5. Time-constrained oral presentations to other students and in oral tests/exams (especially skills 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) 6. In-class debating and group discussions (especially skills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) 7. Note taking from audio/video materials and report writing from notes; résumé writing; regular independent -study assignments, exams (especially skills 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10) 8. Essay writing and wide secondary reading (especially skills 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10) <p><u>Assessment Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the strategies used to assess the achievement of each part of the practical/transferable skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unseen examinations and in-class tests (especially skills 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10) 2. Essays, résumés and creative writing (especially skills 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11) 3. Oral presentations (especially skills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10) 4. Formative assessment and feedback on class participation and regular independent work (especially skills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) 5. Practical Assessments (especially skills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10)
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External Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/quality-code-A1.aspx>);
- Relevant Subject Benchmark Statement(s) <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Languages-Cultures-and-Societies-15.pdf>
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf>
- Other: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course unit/module can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Programme Director(s) Name(s):	Karine Deslandes, Head of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages; Programme Director for Politics
Date of Production:	March 2017
Date approved by School Learning and Teaching Committee	31/01/2018
Date approved by School Board of Study	14/02/2018
Date approved by University Learning and Teaching Committee	28/02/2018

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

NB – include unit value and level of modules - All modules are 15 units unless stated otherwise

MODERN LANGUAGES (FRENCH AND SPANISH) WITH POLITICS [BA]

January Entry - 8 Terms

All courses are 15 units, except where specified as 30 units.

Students following the degree programme in Modern Languages with Politics must take only one module in each language (French and Spanish) each semester throughout the whole programme.

	COMBINED HONOURS		
	MAJOR		MINOR
Term	YEAR ONE		
1 Winter	ONE OF: French Stage 3 (30 units) [4] Spanish Stage 3 (30 units) [4] French Stage 5 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 5 (30 units) [5]	ONE OF: French Stage 5 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 5 (30 units) [5]	Government and Politics of the UK and the US [4]
2 Spring			The European Union in the International System [4]
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION		
3 Summer	ONE OF: French Stage 4 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 4 (30 units) [5] French Stage 6 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 6 (30 units) [6]	ONE OF: French Stage 6 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 6 (30 units) [6]	Political Communication [5]
4 Autumn			Introduction to Political Theory [4]
	THE PART 1 EXAMINATION		
	YEAR TWO		
5 Winter	ONE OF: French Stage 5 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 5 (30 units) [5] French Stage 7 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 7 (30 units) [6]	ONE OF: French Stage 7 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 7 (30 units) [6]	Government and Politics of China [6]
6 Spring			Politics of Latin America [5]
	THE PART 2 STAGE 1 EXAMINATION		
7 Summer	ONE OF: French Stage 6 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 6 (30 units) [6] French Stage 8 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 8 (30 units) [6]	ONE OF: French Stage 8 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 8 (30 units) [6]	The Politics of the Middle East: Issues and Themes [5]
8 Autumn			ONE OF: Competing Approaches to Political Analysis [6] International Relations: Theories and Concepts [6]
	THE PART 2 STAGE 2 EXAMINATION		

MODERN LANGUAGES (FRENCH AND SPANISH) WITH POLITICS [BA]

September Entry - 9 Terms

All courses are 15 units, except where specified as 30 units.

Students following the degree programme in Modern Languages with Politics must take only one module in each language (French and Spanish) each semester throughout the whole programme.

	COMBINED HONOURS		
	MAJOR		MINOR
Term	YEAR ONE		
1 Autumn	ONE OF: French Fast-track * Spanish Fast-track*	ONE OF: French for Academic Purposes * [4] Spanish for Academic Purposes * [4]	
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 1		
2 Winter	ONE OF: French Stage 3 (30 units) [4] Spanish Stage 3 (30 units) [4]	ONE OF: French Stage 5 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 5 (30 units) [5]	Government and Politics of the UK and the US [4]
3 Spring	French Stage 5 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 5 (30 units) [5]		The European Union in the International System [4]
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2		
4 Summer	ONE OF: French Stage 4 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 4 (30 units) [5]	ONE OF: French Stage 6 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 6 (30 units) [6]	Political Communication [5]
5 Autumn	French Stage 6 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 6 (30 units) [6]		Introduction to Political Theory [4]
	THE PART 1 EXAMINATION		
	YEAR TWO		
6 Winter	ONE OF: French Stage 5 (30 units) [5] Spanish Stage 5 (30 units) [5]	ONE OF: French Stage 7 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 7 (30 units) [6]	Government and Politics of China [6]
7 Spring	French Stage 7 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 7 (30 units) [6]		Politics of Latin America [5]
	THE PART 2 STAGE 1 EXAMINATION		
8 Summer	ONE OF: French Stage 6 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 6 (30 units) [6]	ONE OF: French Stage 8 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 8 (30 units) [6]	The Politics of the Middle East: Issues and Themes [5]
9 Autumn	French Stage 8 (30 units) [6] Spanish Stage 8 (30 units) [6]		ONE OF: Competing Approaches to Political Analysis [6] International Relations: Theories and Concepts [6]
	THE PART 2 STAGE 2 EXAMINATION		

*Not for credit