

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Languages: German and Spanish

<i>School:</i>	School of Languages & Linguistics		
<i>Entry from:</i>	2017/8	<i>in:</i>	September choose an item:
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>Exit awards:</i>	BA (Ord) Languages Diploma of Higher Education Languages Certificate of Higher Education Languages BA (Hons) Language Studies		
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	choose an item:		
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i>	Languages, Cultures and Societies:2015		
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years		
<i>Language of study:</i>	English and target languages		
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes		

Introduction and special features

The **BA (Hons) Languages: German and Spanish** forms part of the Languages suite of programmes within the School of Languages and Linguistics.

Studying languages at York St John University offers you a flexible and applied approach to language learning, emphasising communication, transferable skills and the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding of different cultures and language communities. You will specialise in your chosen languages and spend time studying abroad in one or two countries as an integral part of your second year at university. This degree embraces language study and, in addition to your language specialisms, you will have the opportunity, if you wish, to take up new foreign languages, British Sign Language (BSL) and modules related to the application of different language fields, including a work placement in a language-related context. This innovative and flexible three-year language degree with “for credits” study abroad period is highly attractive and unique in its offer.

Special Features include:

1. Flexibility and breadth of language module options allowing you to tailor your degree around your two core language choices.
2. Study abroad as an integral part of the programme at a partner university/universities where your main languages of study are spoken.
3. Opportunity to study BSL as part of the language module options.
4. External BSL Signature national accreditation alongside University credits.
5. At level one, the Languages Know-how module will inspire and inform the way you approach your language learning.
6. Use of e-portfolios, including video and multimedia work, as a key feature of language modules, for the purpose of both learning and assessment.

7. Opportunity to undertake a work placement in a languages-related context.
8. Opportunity to get involved with language initiatives designed to promote languages in schools and the wider community, including the YSJU annual events: Careers Using Languages conference; Eurofest; and the European Day of Languages.
9. Language graduates are increasingly sought after in the global and home job market in diverse fields of employment.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have A-level or equivalent in German and Spanish.

The programme is not suitable if you have already achieved C1 (graduate threshold) level of the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR) in either of the languages, or if these are your first languages.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

The BA (Hons) Languages: German and Spanish programme aims to enable students to:

1. develop linguistic competence and confidence in languages other than English;
2. deepen knowledge and understanding of the different cultures and language communities and embrace difference;
3. develop a range of transferable skills, such as: problem-solving, team-work, constructive negotiating, analysing and evaluating theories and their practical applications;
4. relate their field of study to particular interests providing recognised qualifications and language skills to compete successfully in a diverse job market and/or undertake further academic study;
5. to be global in their outlook while fostering a lasting interest and enjoyment in the study of languages.

Programme learning outcomes

The learning outcomes for this programme have been designed with close reference to the QAA Languages, Cultures and Societies benchmark statement (2015), the QAA FHEQs and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR), the predominant international standard in language learning.

YSJU Level 4 / FHEQ L4

At this level, you will be able to successfully demonstrate:

1. explicit language knowledge and practical skills using German and Spanish for purposes of understanding, expression and communication *at the appropriate competence level*;
2. an ability to present, evaluate and interpret aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the target languages are used;

3. an ability to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to the study of languages, cultures and intercultural awareness;
4. an ability to communicate the results of your work accurately, reliably and coherently;
5. a range of key transferable skills, including those necessary for employability and further study.

YSJU Level 5 / FHEQ L5

At this level, you will be able to successfully demonstrate:

1. explicit language knowledge and practical skills using German and Spanish for purposes of understanding, expression and communication *at the appropriate competence level*;
2. knowledge and a critical understanding of the cultures, communities and societies where the target languages are used;
3. an ability to critically evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to the study of languages, cultures and intercultural awareness;
4. an ability to communicate information, arguments and analysis effectively, using a range of skills appropriate for a variety of audiences and purposes;
5. a range of key transferable skills, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making, for employability and further study.

YSJU Level 6 / FHEQ L6

At this level, you will be able to successfully demonstrate:

1. explicit language knowledge and practical skills using German and Spanish for purposes of understanding, expression and communication *at the appropriate competence level*;
2. a systematic understanding of aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the target languages are used, some of which is at the forefront of the discipline;
3. an ability to critically evaluate arguments, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution to a problem related to the study of languages, cultures and intercultural awareness;
4. an ability to communicate and negotiate effectively using a range of skills and registers appropriate for a variety of audiences and purposes;
5. an ability to apply skills, concepts, theoretical and empirical knowledge and methods appropriate to a field of language study to initiate, design, plan and execute research;
6. a range of key transferable skills for employability and further study, requiring the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.

Programme Structure

At **level 4** you will take two compulsory modules in German and two compulsory modules in Spanish (one in each semester) at Advanced level, as well as the module Language Learning Know-how (in semester 1). Your optional modules in semester 2 include the Languages Carousel, Multilingualism or another language module which could be a completely new language or one with which you already have some experience. The range of language module options are: British Sign Language; French; Korean; Italian; Japanese; Mandarin Chinese. These are offered depending on availability, your level and your timetable. All BSL modules are aligned to the nationally accredited Signature curriculum and you will have the opportunity to gain the Signature qualification alongside any BSL study. A small cost is charged for this additional accreditation.

Level 4, therefore, allows you to learn more about the craft of language learning, expand the knowledge of your two main languages, and also, if you wish, to take up a new language. You will be introduced to associated cultural differences and language systems and you will be supported in the transition to the study of languages in higher education.

Level 5 and Study Abroad

Study abroad is an integral part of the BA (Hons) Languages degree and for level 5, you will normally spend a semester in each of the countries whose language you are studying, or you may choose to study for one year in the same country. Study abroad will prove crucial, not only to significantly enhance your competence and fluency in the given languages, but also in developing awareness and critical understanding of other cultures and societies. Should you be unable to study abroad for a full year, there will be the opportunity to spend the first semester abroad studying at one of your target language countries and the second semester at YSJU.

You will normally take modules at the host universities in a range of language-related areas which will provide you with the equivalent of the required YSJU credits per semester. At level 5 you will also undertake a 15-day work placement in a language-related context, as part of the Languages in the Workplace module.

The opportunity to study abroad is a privilege and approval for study abroad will be given during level 4 and will be subject to satisfactory progress. In exceptional cases, if a student is not deemed suitable for study abroad, the Subject Director in consultation with the Head of School may not approve it. Alternative arrangements will be made for those unable to study abroad.

At **level 6** you will take the compulsory module in both German and Spanish Proficiency in semester 1 and the compulsory Languages Research Study over the two semesters. The Languages Research Study gives you the opportunity to explore in depth an area of interest related to the target language/languages and culture, as well as to develop the data collection, analysis and presentation skills highly valued by employers. In semester 2 you will have the option to continue your language(s) at Proficiency level with the Proficiency Language and Culture modules and/or decide to take The Professional Linguist module which is designed to prepare you for the world of work using languages with a special focus on the development of translation skills in the workplace. Guest speakers from the professions of translation and interpreting will provide relevant learning experiences.

Programme Structure Grid

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Study abroad for one semester	Study abroad for a full year
1LSP06	4	1	Spanish Advanced 1	20	C	C
1LGE06	4	1	German Advanced 1	20	C	C
1LA020	4	1	Language Learning Know-how	20	C	C
1LSP07	4	2	Spanish Advanced 2	20	C ²	C ²
1LSP08	4	2	Spanish Advanced Language and Culture	20	C ³	C ³
1LGE07	4	2	German Advanced 2	20	C ²	C ²
1LGE08	4	2	German Advanced Language and Culture	20	C ³	C ³
1LL205	4	2	Multilingualism	20	O	O
1LXXXX	4	2	MFL/BSL options ¹	20	O ¹	O ¹
2XXXX	5	1	Modules offered at partner university	60	C	C
2XXXX	5	2	Modules offered at partner university	40		C
2LA031	5	2	Languages in the Workplace	20	C	C
2LSP07	5	2	Spanish Advanced 2	20	C ⁴	
2LSP08	5	2	Spanish Advanced Language and Culture	20	C ⁴	
2LGE07	5	2	German Advanced 2	20	C ⁴	
2LGE08	5	2	German Advanced Language and Culture	20	C ⁴	
3LSP09	6	1	Spanish Proficiency	20	C	C
3LGE09	6	1	German Proficiency	20	C	C
3LA060	6	1&2	Languages Research Study	40	C	C
3LA051	6	2	The Professional Linguist	20	O	O
3LSP60	6	2	Spanish Proficiency Language and Culture	20	O	O
3LGE60	6	2	German Proficiency Language and Culture	20	O	O

C: Compulsory, **CA:** Compulsory for award; **C²** Advanced Language 2 is compulsory when offered to students who enter on to the programme on odd years; **C³** Advanced Language and Culture is compulsory when offered to students who enter on to the programme on even years.

C⁴ At level 5; for students that only study abroad for semester one it will be compulsory to take either Advanced Language 2 or Advanced Language and Culture in semester two depending on which module was offered at Level 4;

O: option;

O¹ MFL/BSL options level 4, sem.2 include (subject to module viability, timetabling and student language competence at that point):

1LA011	Languages Carousel	1LBS01	BSL Beginner	1LJA03	Japanese Intermediate 1
1LFR01	French Beginner	1LFR02	French Continuation	1LFR03	French Intermediate 1
1LJA01	Japanese Beginner	1LJA02	Japanese Continuation	1LFR07	French Advanced 2
1LMC01	Mandarin Beginner	1LMC02	Mandarin Continuation	1LFR08	French Advanced Language and Culture
1LKO01	Korean Beginner	1LIT02	Italian Continuation		
1LIT01	Italian Beginner	1LBS02	BSL Continuation		

Learning, teaching and assessment

We provide a supportive and creative learning environment made up of tutor-led sessions, interactive classes, seminars, workshops and tutorials. All modules are supported by materials hosted on the University's virtual learning environment, and assessment methods include e-portfolios, oral exams, essays, reports, class tests, research project planning and implementation, and presentations. York St John University is committed to embedding formative assessment as part of its approach to teaching, learning and assessment. These are activities which develop your understanding of how assessed work is marked and how you might produce work to a higher standard. As such, you will receive on-going feedback both written and orally throughout your modules which will assist you in succeeding in your studies. You will encounter a range of assessment approaches which are designed to enable you to develop a range of skills to meet the learning outcomes detailed earlier. Formative and final summative assessment will be carried out through a variety of methods appropriate to the specified learning outcomes for the programme, the level, and the specific module.

Students are encouraged to use each other as a resource thus developing peer support. You may also be given the opportunity to "buddy up" with international students who speak the language you are studying in order to exchange language knowledge and to deepen cultural understanding and empathy towards others as part of intercultural learning.

The School of Languages and Linguistics operates an integrated academic tutorial support and study skills system. You will be allocated to an academic tutor in your first week of level 4, and meet with that tutor individually and in small groups to focus on activities which may include academic writing and presentation skills, time management and career planning. You will normally remain with the same academic tutor throughout your degree.

Guest lectures (in English and the target language) and research seminars enhance the study experience. The diversity of the module options on offer (particularly at level 4) provides a flexibility of study for a breadth of language and language related interests.

At level 5, your academic and personal skills will develop whilst studying abroad at host universities where you will experience different teaching, learning and assessment practices from York St John University. You will learn to rise to the challenges of living and studying overseas and you will return a more confident, independent and adaptable student enriched by the immersion in another culture. Other graduate attributes we expect you to develop during your study abroad are: self-awareness; a global outlook and becoming an effective communicator. Whilst studying abroad, you will most likely experience a mix of both the language of the host country and some English as the language of instruction. This will vary according to the country, institution, and your level of proficiency in the languages of your programme.

Throughout your studies you will have an opportunity to undertake learning that is related to the careers that you may wish to pursue in the future. This is explicit in the Languages in the Workplace module and the Professional Linguist module. In addition, you can become involved in outreach work carried out through the Languages programme, for example, delivering language taster sessions, volunteering to support teaching in schools, helping out at YSJU languages events, such as the European Day of Languages, Eurofest and the annual Careers Using Languages conference. These opportunities enhance your future employability and give you insights into some of the many different career paths available to language graduates.

Skills and subject knowledge introduced at level 4 and enhanced at level 5 through your transformative study abroad period are consolidated at level 6. Increased contact time at level 4 which gives you good grounding in your core modules is reduced at level 6 to allow

you to develop more autonomy, within a supportive framework. At level 6, you will be expected to engage in critical enquiry-based learning, to develop your individual autonomous reasoning, analytical and research skills to a high standard.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

BA (Hons) Language Studies - exit award

If it is decided that you are unable to study abroad you may be able to transfer on to the exit award BA (Hons) Language Studies from level 5 in your second year. Additional level 5 modules on offer for this degree are the World Englishes module which looks at international varieties of English and their impact on other languages and identities; Language Acquisition which considers core processes and key theories in first and second language acquisition and Sociolinguistics of BSL which investigates the use of sign languages in everyday life and explores the social and historical aspects that have led to its development. At level 6 you will be able to study different language options and you will not be required to attain C1 proficiency level in any given language. The compulsory modules for this programme are the Languages in the Workplace at level 5 and the Languages Research Study and the Professional Linguist modules at level 6.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Common European Framework for Languages](#)

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