

Why languages matter for Arts and Humanities students

Languages deepen cultural understanding and broaden the ways in which we think, interpret, create and communicate. They enable Arts and Humanities students to engage with diverse perspectives, interrogate complex ideas and communicate with greater nuance and impact.

The past is a foreign country and historians need to learn its languages. Reading and speaking foreign languages is a critical part of research for many historians; it is essential for my own work on French and European history. Working in foreign languages opens up for us new worlds of primary and secondary sources, and introduces us to people who we otherwise might never encounter. AI can never replace serious language study as a research tool because language is fundamental to the study of the humanities and ultimately what makes us human at all.

**Prof. Tom Hamilton - Professor (Early Modern European History)
in the Department of History and Director of Research.**

Skills and Academic Benefits



Skills and attributes gained in a language module:

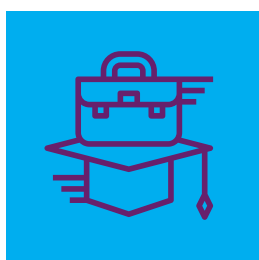
- ✓ Criticality ✓ Creativity ✓ Intellectual rigour
- ✓ Curiosity ✓ Open-mindedness ✓ Self-reflection



Links to Arts and Humanities disciplines Languages help students:

- ✓ Interpret texts and cultures ✓ Engage with primary sources
- ✓ Compare intellectual traditions ✓ Develop nuanced communication
- ✓ Understand global cultural contexts

Career Opportunities



Languages can lead into:

- ✓ Publishing ✓ Media ✓ Journalism ✓ Heritage
- ✓ Museums ✓ Cultural organisations ✓ Education
- ✓ Public sector ✓ International NGOs ✓ Creative industries