Make the most of your University of Melbourne degree by broadening your world with languages
WHY CHOOSE LANGUAGES?

Languages are great for your brain
Learning a language gives you the opportunity to build new neural pathways. The creation of new pathways means you don’t just learn a new language, but you develop an increased capacity to think critically and creatively. Studying another language improves performance in other academic areas too – students who study additional languages tend to score better in maths, reading comprehension and vocabulary as compared with monolingual students.

Languages are about people and relationships
Learning a language provides you with the opportunity to build strong networks over the course of your studies. Research published in 2010 by the University of Melbourne found that students who make friends during their first year have increased academic success and engagement with the university experience. Each language cohort can learn, work, and even travel together – building networks that can last a lifetime. In learning a language, you’ll be opening yourself up to other cultures. With the advantage of being able to see the world from different viewpoints, you’ll enhance your ability to communicate in today’s globally connected world.

Languages open up new cultural and employment opportunities
Studying a language will give you a strong personal connection to the cultures that speak that language. At the University of Melbourne, there are opportunities to take overseas intensive study subjects and to complete a semester abroad. As a language student you’ll be uniquely placed to embrace these opportunities, using your developing language skills to immerse yourself in the culture of your host country. Cultural immersion not only allows for a deep understanding of the culture, but also offers job opportunities that are only available to competent language speakers. An additional language can open up a range of specific careers such as teaching, translation and interpreting, and can give you a competitive edge leading to careers in international trade, diplomacy, travel and tourism, communications, community work, publishing, sociology and government.

Languages open up new cultural and employment opportunities

“Languages can take you anywhere in the world without having to leave the classroom, although many students do go on exchange. I was in St Petersburg when I had a Russian tutorial in Arts West. I was in Nice when I had a French tutorial in John Medley, and I was in Santiago when I talked with my friends in Spanish in Old Arts. That’s the magic of learning languages. I now have the tools to communicate with millions of people around the world, which is the unique gift of language students. My life is so much richer for having learned foreign languages.”

Lucy McLachlan
Bachelor of Arts, major in French Studies, minor in Spanish and Latin American Studies, and elective subjects in Russian Studies
WHAT CAN YOU STUDY?

At the University of Melbourne, you can choose from 14 languages that are used all over the world.

- Ancient Greek
- Ancient Egyptian
- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Hebrew
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Russian
- Spanish
There are several ways to incorporate language learning into your studies at university.

**TAKE A MAJOR OR MINOR IN YOUR CHOSEN LANGUAGE**

A major (eight subjects) or minor (six subjects) gives your chosen language a central position in your Bachelor of Arts degree. You’ll learn how to communicate in another language – but you’ll also be learning about that language’s cultures, histories, and societies. A major or minor in a language opens up employment options in global markets unavailable to graduates without additional language skills. You’ll not only learn new ways to interact and understand, you’ll be in a position to strive for success throughout your career.

**STUDY A LANGUAGE VIA BREADTH/ELECTIVE SUBJECTS**

Studying a language as breadth or elective gives you knowledge and capabilities that can complement the main focus of your Bachelor of Arts degree. Not a BA student? Depending on your home degree, you may be able to take as many as six subjects in your chosen language. Language study brings together students from across the university, giving you the chance to build networks with students outside your chosen field.

**DO A CONCURRENT DIPLOMA**

A concurrent Diploma in Languages (8 subjects) allows you to study a language without sacrificing subjects from your home degree. If you’re enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Biomedicine, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Design, Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Science, you’re eligible to apply. If you’re enrolled in a graduate coursework or research degree, you may also be eligible.

**COMPLETE AN HONOURS YEAR**

Honours is a great way to explore in detail a specific area of interest in languages and can be combined within another discipline area. It can also include an overseas exchange program. Undertaking Honours provides you with the scope to refine your analytical skills and research techniques and significantly enhances your range of options after graduation, including specialised employment or a research higher degree.

**GO ON EXCHANGE OR STUDY ABROAD**

Many students choose to go on exchange or study abroad as part of their university degree and studying a language can enrich this experience. Melbourne Global Mobility offers a number of Melbourne Global Language Scholarships each year to help get you where you want to go. Scholarships are for high-achieving undergraduate students and can be used towards the cost of intensive, semester or year-long studies.

**TAKE AN OVERSEAS INTENSIVE SUBJECT**

The Faculty offers a range of overseas intensive subjects in various locations across the world, in collaboration with partner universities and other organisations, bringing language and culture to life. New Caledonia in the 21st Century, for example, is a winter intensive subject which explores the history, politics and socio-cultural context of New Caledonia – with an in-country component comprising eight site visits in Noumea and the Northern Province.

For more information on overseas intensive subjects, see p.7.
“Studying Chinese as my major has opened up a whole new world for me and given me opportunities to communicate and interact with people I previously wouldn’t have been able to, and I have made so many friends from all over the world who also speak or study Chinese. After I complete my undergraduate study, I plan to spend more time in China so that I can practise my Chinese with locals. Ultimately, my dream career would involve marrying my two passions of Chinese and Screen Studies together by finding work in the Chinese film industry or collaborating with Chinese people living in Australia to make films which could help us to better understand each other’s cultures.”

Rachel Madin
Bachelor of Arts, major in Chinese Studies
PLANNING YOUR LANGUAGE STUDY

GETTING STARTED
You can study a number of languages across a range of levels, from beginner through to advanced, and you can commence study at a level that suits your background in the language. You’ll take an online proficiency test, based on previous experience and/or studies, which will ensure that you’re placed in the right class for your level.

BREADTH/ELECTIVE
If you’re not a Bachelor of Arts student, you can take language subjects via breadth. You can choose to enrol in either a single subject or an entire language sequence, known as a breadth track.

If you are a Bachelor of Arts student, you can take languages as electives and may also take Asian languages as breadth (conditions apply). It’s recommended that you take language breadth in your first semester, which will allow you to expand your language studies into a major or Diploma if you wish.

MAJOR/MINOR
A major or minor is a progressive sequence of eight or six subjects across three year-levels, respectively. You can do a major or a minor in a language if you’re a Bachelor of Arts student. You’ll need to commence your language study in the first year of your degree – and if you don’t have any prior knowledge of the language, you’ll need to start in Semester 1.

DIPLOMA IN LANGUAGES
Applications for the Diploma in Languages open twice each year, and if you’re enrolled in an eligible undergraduate, graduate coursework or graduate research degree, you can apply. You can commence the Diploma at various points within your degree (Semester 1, 2, and sometimes summer/winter semesters), however it is recommended you start your chosen language in the first semester of your course.

FAST-TRACKING YOUR DIPLOMA
You may be able to fast-track your Diploma and complete both your bachelor degree and the Diploma in Languages in 3.5 years. If you maintain a 70% (H2B) average across each semester, without any failed subjects, you can overload in given semesters to complete the program earlier. If you commenced language study in your first year, you can cross-credit approved subjects towards the Diploma. Completion times vary for graduate coursework and research students, pending course requirements and structures.

“My journey with Japanese began in high school when I decided to pick it up with the hope of one day being able to finally communicate with the few relatives I have in Japan. Making friends in class has been an incredibly comfortable and natural process, and the conversation practice in tutorials is a great way to make new friends. I’m going on exchange to Kyoto and am hoping to start up new connections in Japan, with a view to working as an engineer in Japan in the future.”

Daniel Ho
Bachelor of Science, Diploma in Languages (Japanese)
OVERSEAS INTENSIVE SUBJECTS

A range of overseas intensive subjects offer you the opportunity to complete an entire subject in a condensed amount of time in various locations around the world.

SUBJECT PROFILE: CONTEMPORARY ITALY STUDY ABROAD

ABOUT THE SUBJECT
The subject offers an immersive four-week experience for students in cities across Italy, including Milan and Rome. The focus of the subject is an exploration of aspects of contemporary Italy including language, culture, society, politics and the arts, through project-based work, collaborative and on-site activities across the Italian Peninsula.

STAFF PROFILE
Matthew Absalom is a university teacher and researcher, professional linguist, Italian language coach, translator and published author. A regular visitor to Italy over the last 25 years, he has carried out research, led study tours including the Federal Government’s Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowship to Italy, and negotiated in-country study opportunities for his students.

Matthew Absalom
Principal coordinator, Contemporary Italy Study Abroad subject

EXPERIENCING ITALIAN CULTURE
“Italy has a lot of tradition that you can see everywhere, but it is also a first-world nation, which is a very rich combination. Students get to experience how diverse Italy is, how there isn’t one Italian culture, there’s different Italian cultures. Learning Italian in class and then using it in Italy, with regional and local variations can be eye-opening for them as well. They can meet local secondary school students and have homestay experiences where they will need to use their Italian to communicate.

Students will also find a balance in what we do in the country, with other touristic activities that might be a little bit off the beaten track. For instance, we do a private after-hours visit of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, which is absolutely phenomenal. But at the same time, students can also be part of activities with the families they’re staying with, such as attending their Sunday lunch or meeting the nonna.”

WHY STUDY LANGUAGES?
“Studying a language has this positive effect across the board. You might be studying a language, but it also creates a cognitive framework that assists with all your studies. The other important reason for studying a language, particularly at university, is the social aspect. In languages, students are with the same people, which often leads to bonding and friendship and this really helps solidify their position in the university community. Finally, we need people with languages. We need people with a world view, that’s not myopic. If you’re studying a language, you can’t escape having multiple world views.”

A range of overseas intensive subjects offer you the opportunity to complete an entire subject in a condensed amount of time in various locations around the world.
CONNECT WITH US

CONTACT US

If you’re considering studies at the University of Melbourne, we’d love to hear from you online or meet you on campus.

Sign up and submit enquiries online at: study.unimelb.edu.au/connect-with-us

For information on our courses and entry requirements contact Stop 1

Call MELB (13 6352)
+61 3 9035 5511

Visit us at Stop 1 (Parkville):
757 Swanston Street
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010 Australia

CRICOS Provider Code: 00116K

Intellectual property: Copyright in this publication is owned by the University and no part of it may be reproduced without the permission of the University.

Disclaimer: The University endeavours to ensure that information contained in this publication is current and correct at the time of printing (July 2018)