



routes into
LANGUAGES
Ilwybrau at ieithoedd
CYMRU

Opportunities for language learning – a guide for students and parents

Routes into Languages Cymru



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For further information and to receive free copies of this guide and teacher notes please email:

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Opportunities at University

Language skills are so important in the world we live in today and you don't have to be fluent to experience the benefits – even knowing a little can go a long way and provide many opportunities for any future study and your career.

This booklet tells you all about the wide range of language opportunities available to you at university. To enable you to access the information easily, these are split into those for specialist degrees, combined and joint degrees, opportunities for beginners, short courses and modules and studying abroad options. Please bear in mind, however, that these opportunities are often linked or overlap.

Also included are the experiences of students who have studied languages in different ways and a number of specific examples of study options at universities in Wales. If you are planning to study further afield these will still give you a good idea of what might be available at universities you are interested in. The universities featured in this guide offer a wide range of language provision in addition to the examples outlined, so check out their prospectuses or websites to find out more. You can also find full course listings on the UCAS (University and Colleges Admission Service) website: www.ucas.com

At the back of this booklet you will find a list of useful organisations and sources of information.

So why should you read this guide?

Please read this booklet carefully – you may be surprised at the number of ways in which you can study a language at university! Please have a look at the different ways you can gain, or increase, your language skills and think about how this could benefit you in the future. If you haven't considered it before now is the time to do so!

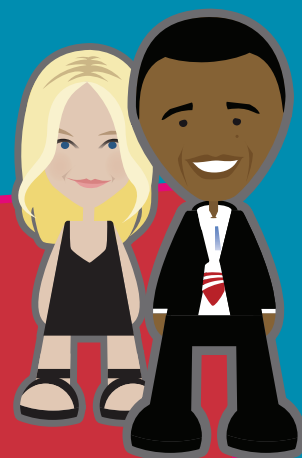
The Routes into Languages Cymru programme is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. Under the programme, a consortium has been set up to facilitate groups of universities working together, with schools and colleges, to enthuse and encourage people to study languages. This brings Wales into line with England, where 9 regional consortia are now coming to the end of their 3 year projects.

The Routes into Languages Cymru Consortium is led by CILT Cymru in partnership with Bangor University, Aberystwyth University, Glyndŵr University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea University, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC), Cardiff University, University of Glamorgan, University of Wales, Newport, Swansea Metropolitan University and The Open University in Wales.

Acknowledgements

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Why Languages? Some Fact and Figures



There is no doubt that even a little bit of language can make a huge difference – you don't have to be fluent to see the benefits of language skills.

Within our global economy and multilingual society, whichever career you choose, language skills will be advantageous and open up opportunities that might otherwise not have been there.

Your career won't be the only thing that benefits. Languages will help you with travel, communication, appreciation of other cultures and much more throughout your life. In a world where technology has made communicating across the globe simple, language skills open up endless possibilities.

Read on to find out more facts and figures...

- There are over 500 foreign-owned companies in Wales and many other Welsh companies who do business overseas. They are often looking to recruit people with foreign language skills.
- As a bilingual nation, Wales starts from a positive position because education is provided through both English and Welsh. Young people therefore have a head start by developing language and literacy skills that they can readily apply to other European and World languages. (Welsh Assembly Government 2010)



- Research has shown that using language skills in business opens the door to a wide range of economic, social and personal benefits. (Languages Work, 2010)

- Did you know that the Government's security and intelligence agencies need people who can speak languages from all over the world? Could you be the next James Bond?

- Chinese (Mandarin) has the most native speakers in the world and is one of the six official languages of the United Nations.



74% of UK businesses need foreign language conversational skills to help build business relationships. (CBI Education & Skills Survey 2009)

Celebrity Linguists - you're in good company!

Barack Obama speaks Bahasa, the language of Indonesia and Malaysia... an essential skill for improving international relations.

Gwyneth Paltrow can speak fluent Spanish and Kate Beckinsale speaks 4 languages fluently: English, German, Russian and French.

Baroness Eluned Morgan, former MEP and Honorary Distinguished Professor in the Cardiff School of European Studies speaks Welsh, English, French and Spanish. Whilst working for the European Parliament Baroness Morgan found her language skills useful and gave her an advantage in terms of personal contact, particularly in the informal environment where many discussions around policy took place. She believes that language learning is today, more than ever, a valuable skill.

Rhod Gilbert, stand up comedian, studied French, Spanish and Latin at A Level and French and Spanish at University. Rhod feels that learning other languages widens your vocabulary and makes you a more confident writer and speaker which is essential in his job. He believes the best thing about learning another language is the feeling you get when you go to the country and are able to speak to the people you meet without feeling embarrassed, guilty, awkward and foolish. The confidence this gives you is brilliant.

Dave Jones, Cardiff City Football Club Manager, speaks a bit of Cantonese and French. Dave says that although the language barrier in football is not great, as communication tends to be visual rather than verbal, it was helpful to learn how to greet other players. He also found that the players' attitudes towards him changed and it helped him to integrate better.



75% of the world's population doesn't speak English at all.

Do you want to specialise in languages at university?

Specialist Language Degrees

You may decide to specialise in studying a single or multiple languages at university.

Within Wales, a number of universities (Bangor University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea University and Cardiff University) offer a range of **single honours** degrees within the subject areas of French, German, Spanish, Italian and Mandarin Chinese.

You can also combine different languages too! Courses that **combine 2 or 3 languages** are available at Bangor University, Swansea University, Cardiff University, Aberystwyth University and The Open University.

Most specialist language courses are 4 year courses which involve a compulsory year abroad.

Although the specific characteristics of each degree will differ from university to university the information below gives you an idea of what may be involved.

Entry Requirements

- The points required vary between universities
- In most cases an A-level, often with a specified minimum grade, in the target language(s) is required
- Equivalent qualifications, such as the IB, are usually accepted

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David offers a Chinese Studies Degree which involves elements of language and culture, along with a year in China. The course provides students with a range of methodological and analytical frameworks for the study of Chinese language, culture, and society past and present. This involves linguistic training in Mandarin and Literary Chinese which enables the use of these skills in learning and research and familiarises students with academic discussion and debate on key issues in Chinese Studies from different disciplinary perspectives including historical, sociological, philosophical, anthropological, political and literary. The year in China provides opportunities for students to enhance their knowledge and skills by direct contact with, and immersion in, Chinese language and culture.



Case Study - Jessica Forse

Learning languages at Swansea University has opened so many doors for me. I did my undergraduate course, BA French and Spanish with Portuguese, at Swansea and the year abroad in particular was a fantastic and invaluable experience, both in terms of language-learning and life experience. I spent 7 months near Montpellier in the south of France as a Teaching Assistant for the British Council in two secondary schools. I then decided to spend three months in Guadalajara in Mexico. I lived with a Mexican family and studied at Guadalajara University. After I completed my course in Spanish language and Hispanic literature and culture, I went to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to improve my Portuguese. All of these experiences enabled me to become fluent in my chosen languages and helped me to gain invaluable transferable skills such as self-reliance, adapting well to change and a real insight into and understanding of other cultures.

After completing my BA, I started my MA in Translation with Language Technology also in Swansea. I decided to do my MA because I wanted to continue working with my languages and this was a good way to specialise. I studied modules in Advanced French and Spanish Translation and I started Russian ab initio. One of the aspects of this course which most appealed to me was the fact that I could start a new language from scratch.

After completing my MA with distinction, I did some freelance translation work. This ranged from translating medical reports, to spreadsheets on the components in gas turbines! The work was always varied to say the least! One of my favourite projects was working on the documentary 'Amazon with Bruce Parry' which screened on the BBC and Discovery Channel. I was lucky enough to help in the translation of Episode 6. The local indigenous dialect was translated into Portuguese, and then I translated it into English.

After completing my MA, I worked at the Welsh Assembly but found that I missed the challenge of academia. This is when I started to think about doing a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) using my languages. I was lucky enough to be awarded a University of Wales Award to fund the first year of my PhD, followed by AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) funding for the last two years of my research. My PhD is more linguistics-based and explores the semantics of word formation processes in Romance languages.

The Open University offers a range of combined degrees involving languages.

The Modern Language Studies Degree, which is delivered through a mixture of face-to-face and online tuition, combines the study of one or two languages (French, German or Spanish) with English language and linguistics. Italian, Chinese and Welsh can also be included.

The Humanities Degree offers a broad focus in the arts and humanities (including history, art history, philosophy, creative writing, classical studies, religious studies, music, English, French, German and Spanish) with the option to specialise in one or more subjects including languages: French, German, Spanish.

The Open Degree allows you to take modules from any of the undergraduate subjects to form either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. This highly flexible option enables you to tailor a qualification around your interests and career needs.

Typical Degree Content

- In addition to developing your language skills, most degrees will also include elements of culture which may include areas such as literature, politics and history
- In degrees where 'Studies' is included in the title there will be a greater emphasis on elements such as culture, literature, politics and history alongside language learning
- Typically courses will be modular in structure
- There is usually some flexibility of module choice so you can tailor your studies to aspects you are interested in
- Modules may include topics such as: film and cinema; politics; the media; history; culture; translation; music

Assessment

- Written and oral exams
- Essays
- Project work
- Group work
- Translation assignments
- Coursework
- Portfolios
- Presentations
- Dissertation

Teaching style

- It is likely that a wide range of teaching styles and methods will be utilised including: lectures; seminars; tutorials; oral classes; guided study; individual study; translation workshops; panel discussions
- In most cases a high proportion of teaching will take place in the target language

Case Study - Skie Holden

I was really lucky to have an amazing French teacher in my secondary school who first inspired me to take my route into languages. My first trip abroad was to Paris in the sixth form and it was great to be shown around by someone who really understood and appreciated the culture. At that point I knew I wanted to study French, but I never would have dreamed back then that I would now be studying French, German and Spanish at Aberystwyth University and be a founder and president of the French society.

At school I never really did like German and the grammar seemed just crazy but I was determined to try, so I spent my gap year in Baden-Württemberg as an au-pair. Having only been there a month and accompanied by a very shaky list of German vocabulary, I went skiing with the family. Needless to say having never done this sport before and hurtling down a hill towards the flimsiest plastic looking fence perched on the edge of the cliff, I learnt German rather quickly! After 9 months and without realising it, I was practically fluent and German seemed like a different language. It's great! So here's a tip; only judge a language on how awful it is or sounds once you can speak it, because to be honest you'll be pleasantly surprised! I spent this summer just gone as an au-pair as well but this time in Madrid. My family were amazing and I visited so many beautiful places, saw a flamenco performance and sampled some delicious paellas too! I would advise anyone, before you lose faith in learning a language thinking there is no point, go to the country itself and discover what you're missing in your lessons. There is a whole world out there full of willing, patient and friendly native people wanting to speak with you and share their stories, just like I'm sharing mine. And don't worry about getting it wrong, they really don't mind and gestures, pointing and funny faces work just as well! I'm hoping to go and teach in Québec (Canada) on my year abroad in September and I honestly can't wait for what may be the journey of a lifetime.

Bangor University provides provision in Dutch, as part of Single Honours German, and Galician, as part of Single Honours Spanish. Bangor also hosts the Centre for Galician Studies in Wales.

Combined and Joint Degrees

If you want to continue with learning a language or perhaps start a new one at university, but don't want to specialise too much, a combined or joint degree may be right for you. This is also an excellent way to combine a language with another subject area to give you a complementary set of skills for your future career and open up opportunities that might not otherwise have been available to you. More unusual combinations can help to make you stand out in the graduate employment market.

Many universities in Wales (Bangor University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea University, Cardiff University, Aberystwyth University, UWIC and The Open University) offer a wide range of combined and joint degree options.

The combinations available differ from university to university and will be dependent on timetabling restrictions, however, examples of some of the subject areas that can be studied with a language include:

- Accounting
- American Studies
- Ancient History
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Art History
- Banking
- Business
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Computer Studies
- Creative Industries
- Creative Writing
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Drama
- Economic and Social History
- Education
- English
- Linguistics
- European Studies
- Film and TV Studies
- Fine Art
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Human Geography
- Information and Library Studies
- International Politics
- Irish
- Law
- Management
- Marketing
- Media
- Medieval Studies
- Mathematics
- Museum and Gallery Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Screen Studies
- TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)
- Tourism
- Welsh
- Welsh History

This list is not exhaustive so please check out individual universities to see what they offer.

Swansea University offer the following joint language degrees, all of which are 4 years in duration:

- German with Latin, Greek, French, Italian or Spanish
- French with Latin, Greek, German, Italian or Spanish
- Italian with Latin, French, German or Spanish
- Spanish with French, German, Italian or Latin

The amount of time you will spend studying each subject in a combined or joint degree will differ, but typically such degrees are either an equal split or a major/minor where greater emphasis is placed on one subject area.

Entry requirements differ depending on the university and combination chosen. Knowledge and qualifications in the target language are often required; however, some universities do have opportunities to start a new language as part of a combined or joint degree.

Elements of content, assessment and how you will be taught will broadly reflect those for specialised degrees. For Open University courses, teaching methods include open learning, self-study materials, personal tutor support, synchronous online and face-to-face group tutorials.

Remember – whichever subject area you choose to study you may have to do a work placement year or be able to opt for one. Many universities will allow you to do this abroad and support you in the application process. This is a fantastic opportunity to utilise a language you have previously studied, but not continued with at university, or learn a new one. For example, at University of Wales, Newport all undergraduate students are encouraged to undertake a semester abroad which has the potential to be funded through the Erasmus programme.

Case Study - Craig Watson

Craig Watson is studying for his BA Chinese Studies degree at Trinity Saint David.

"During secondary school education I had studied French, which had failed to spur my interest in languages and I dropped it when it was no longer compulsory to do so. It wasn't until my move to college after High school that the opportunity to study a greater range of languages reignited my interest.

After studying Spanish for a year, I decided to look for a greater challenge and opted to study Chinese at university. This was due in part to the growing importance of China on the world stage and a personal fondness for Chinese culture and history. Learning the Chinese language is difficult and can be extremely challenging at times but is also very self-fulfilling, but by putting your heart and soul into what you are passionate about, one can overcome any of life's hardships. Studying Chinese is not only limited to the classroom, as I am one of two students from my class to be chosen to compete at the annual "Chinese Bridge" competition in London. In the future I hope I will find employment in China, but I have not yet decided which path to take."

Bangor University offer combinations of 2 or 3 languages. Joint degrees allow you to study two languages in equal proportions. A language studied with another language enables you to study one as a major subject (two thirds) and one as a minor (one third).

The following combinations are available:

- French and/with Italian
- French and/with German
- French and/with Spanish
- German and/with French
- German and/with Italian
- German and/with Spanish
- Italian and Spanish

Three language degree programmes enable you to study three languages (French, German, Italian or Spanish) in two formats:

- All three to the same major level
- Two to a major level and one to a minor level

All courses are 4 years in duration. If all 3 languages are studied to the same level, 3 semesters are spent at universities outside the UK, each in a country where one of the languages studied is spoken. With the major/minor format, 2 semesters are spent in this way.

The Cardiff Japanese Studies Centre, based at Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, offers a number of joint degrees which include Japanese: Business Studies and Japanese; French and Japanese; German and Japanese; Italian and Japanese; Spanish and Japanese. During the 4 year courses all students spend a period of study in Japan during their third year. In addition to the study of the language, the courses offered give students an extensive knowledge of various aspects of modern Japanese society.

Cardiff University also offer the opportunity to combine any two of the languages offered.

Case Study - Bethan Morgan

I started studying French at the age of 11, when it was compulsory to do so in the school I attended. From year 9, at the age of 13, we were given the opportunity to choose an extra subject to continue with through to GCSE. I chose Spanish and knew straight away that it was what I wanted to do at college and eventually at university, which is what happened. I study a single honours Spanish degree at Cardiff University, which includes a year abroad in the 3rd year. I have chosen to be a language teaching assistant in Spain through the British Council. In my first year of university I picked up Welsh as an additional subject, gaining the equivalent of a GCSE in it, and for my second year one of my modules was Catalan language. Before starting university I was in two minds as to what to study – it was a choice between Psychology (which I had picked up at college) and Spanish, which I had been studying for 5 years. But after attending the open day here at Cardiff there was no doubt in my mind, as the facilities and the opportunity to study abroad, as well as a huge number of career prospects, convinced me that Spanish was now the only option. I hope to go on to do a Masters, possibly in translation, to gain further qualifications in the language world.

Do you want to learn a new language or study one in your spare time or as part of your other studies?

Aberystwyth University offers combinations of different languages along with a wide range of other subjects which can be combined with a language. Depending on the specific subject and language this may be as a major/minor (60%/40%) or a joint honours (50%/50%). Subjects include Art History, Computer Science, Education, International Politics, Physics and Tourism.

Aberystwyth also offer a 4 year European Languages Degree which combines the study of French, German, Italian and Spanish. Two of these languages are studied at a major level and one at a minor level. The third year is spent abroad, with the time usually split between two countries.

The unique Romance Languages Degree combines the study of up to three Romance Languages (French, Spanish or Italian), with the option to study one or two at beginners level.

Case Study - Adrian Evans

“Over the past few years I have completed a number of Open University modules on a part-time basis, mainly focusing on music. Having gained 300 credits in the Arts faculty, I needed a further 60 credits to complete my BA (Honours) degree in Humanities. I chose to study German not only to supplement my Arts courses but also because I like learning new languages. I also believe that when visiting another country, one should always try to learn at least some phrases of the host country’s language.

I knew a little German, having been born in Germany to British parents, but did not feel ready to begin at intermediate level. I therefore took the 30-credit beginners’ German module last year, and am currently studying the 30-credit intermediate module, which will complete my BA (Honours) degree.

As for studying with The Open University, I never had the opportunity to complete a conventional full-time education because of bullying. Open University study has given me the chance to prove to myself that I can achieve just as full a potential as anyone else. If anybody thinks studying with the OU is a “soft option”, then they are mistaken. It takes hard work, perseverance and a lot of determination.”

Beginners

If you haven’t studied a language in the last few years or want to start a new one there are many opportunities for beginners, also known as ab initio learners, at universities across Wales and the rest of the UK. Whichever subject area you choose it is often possible to study a language as part of your degree or on an extra-curricular basis. Opportunities for beginners are usually offered in the form of modules or short courses – more information on these can be seen below. Please be aware that there may be a charge for some modules and courses.

Short courses and modules

Short courses and modules (often called ‘Free Standing Modules’) enable many students, regardless of their subject, to study a language as part of their course or on an extra-curricular basis. Whether you are an absolute beginner or a skilled linguist, it is likely that there are opportunities for you.

A number of universities in Wales (Cardiff University, Swansea University, The Open University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UWIC, Aberystwyth University and Bangor University) offer a range of short courses and modules across a number of languages.

Which level is right for you?

Language modules and short courses are available at different levels usually ranging from absolute beginner (ab initio) to intermediate and advanced, allowing you to take advantage of opportunities regardless of your ability level. The equivalencies for these levels, entry requirements and the length of time required to complete them vary from university to university so it is worth checking them out.

To find out more about the specific opportunities that are available at the universities you are interested in visit their websites, attend an Open Day or contact them directly – they will be very happy to talk you through your options. You may also find that you can talk to specialist staff during Freshers’ Week.

University of Wales Trinity Saint David runs 2 week Summer Workshops in Greek, Latin, Medieval Latin and Renaissance Latin which are open to all. These are offered at various levels including:

- Beginners
- Post Beginners
- Intermediate
- Intermediate/Advanced
- Advanced

All the modules offered during the workshop are fully accredited by the University and can be taken as a single module or as part of a larger programme. The course is available as residential or non-residential.

Cardiff University runs different programmes of Modern Foreign Languages, in a range of languages at various levels. These include:

- French
- Spanish
- German
- Italian
- Russian
- Japanese
- Chinese
- Greek
- Arabic
- Portuguese
- Turkish
- Polish

These courses are often delivered in the target language and focus on the following language skills: speaking, listening, writing and reading. As you progress and get better at the language, you also get to know different cultures and therefore develop your understanding of the multicultural world we live in.

In addition to this, the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Cardiff University runs a popular 'Languages for All' programme which includes ten languages offered daytime and evenings to suit everybody (full-time and part-time students). It is also the home of the Cardiff Confucius Institute which is a centre for Chinese language and culture funded by the Chinese government. Courses are accredited and teaching emphasises communication skills and up-to-date material. There are also two digital language laboratories for students to get extra practice of their aural skills.

Case study - Sophie Beresford

Sophie Beresford, of dual French-British nationality, graduated from Bristol University with a BSc in Mathematics with a year in continental Europe (Germany) in 2006. Sophie developed her competence in German through the Maths year in Hannover University. Subsequently, she did an intermediate Spanish course in an international language school in Quito in Ecuador. Sophie then spent a year in Madrid teaching English in a bilingual college. Sophie completed an MBA at UWIC having studied their Business Spanish at advanced level on an elective basis. Sophie was awarded a first in Advanced Spanish and a distinction on the MBA programme.

"I use my languages at work on a daily basis. Since 2009 I have been working for an international organic cosmetics company based in Salzhemmendorf, near Hannover. I work as Sales Manager with business to business marketing and my main responsibilities are product supply to US and Canada, France, Spain and UK. My languages and my MBA from UWIC were very important in securing my current post which enables me to make full use of my skills and qualifications. I am currently developing a strategy to strengthen business links with Latin America."

Bangor University's School of Modern Languages and School of Lifelong Learning offer a series of short evening courses consisting of a range of beginners and intermediate 11 week courses. The modules can also be taken as part of degree programmes. Bangor University undergraduates register for the courses as part of main registration through the School of Modern Languages. Courses include:

- Beginners' German, Spanish, French and Italian
- Beginners' German Plus, Spanish Plus, French Plus and Italian Plus
- Intermediate Spanish, French, German and Italian
- Intermediate Spanish German Plus, Spanish Plus, French Plus and Italian Plus

Studying and Working Abroad Options

Studying or working abroad as part of your university studies is a fantastic way to build on your language skills, immerse yourself in the culture, meet new people and add to your CV. There is no better way to learn about a language and culture than by being surrounded by it!

Most universities that offer language-related degrees or courses, and even those that don't, also provide students with opportunities to study or work abroad.

If you decide to study a specialist language degree, combine languages or take a language as part of a joint or combined degree with another subject you will find that many universities require you to spend a compulsory placement year abroad. These types of course usually last for 4 years (with the 3rd year spent abroad). Placement years often involve attending a university as a student, carrying out a work placement or assisting in a school. You will have to spend the year in a country in which the target language is spoken or you can split your time between 2 countries if you are studying 2 languages. Where placement years abroad are optional, they are, however, usually strongly recommended by the university.

Universities usually support you in organising a year abroad and keep in regular contact with you while you are there.

Many non-language courses also provide the opportunity for a work placement element which may be able to be taken abroad.

Erasmus Placements

Many Welsh universities are part of the European Commission's Erasmus Programme which provides UK-based HE students, across all subject areas, with the opportunity to study or work in another European country and provides funding to support this.

Opportunities include study mobility placements and work placements.

Erasmus study mobility placements last from 3 months to one year, and can be taken at any time during your degree, except during the first year, and will be dependent on your course structure and university arrangements.

Work placements can be taken at any time during your course, including the first year, and usually last from 3 months to 12 months. It may also be possible to combine a study period with a work placement.

To find out more about Erasmus visit:
www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus

Extra-curricular

A number of universities offer a range of extra-curricular language related activities including:

- Language Societies (including film screenings, meetings, debates, quizzes, cultural and social events and conversation sessions)
- Erasmus Societies
- Language Clubs
- Workshops
- Cultural Exchange Cafés
- Opportunities for involvement in outreach work

Leonardo

The Leonardo programme is for people who are undertaking vocational training as part of their studies or employment and can provide opportunities such as placements, partnerships and joint projects across Europe. For more information visit www.leonardo.org.uk.



British Council English Language Assistantships

The British Council scheme provides opportunities to work as language assistants in schools across 17 countries around the world. The aim is to improve the language ability of the assistants and students in addition to increasing cultural awareness.

English Language Assistants are usually language degree undergraduates on their year abroad or undergraduates or recent graduates of other subjects. You must be a native-level English speaker; have completed all of your secondary education and at least two years of higher education in the UK; have the requisite language skills; meet the requirements of the host country. For China-based assistants the requirements are different. For more information please visit:

www.britishcouncil.org/languageassistants

A number of universities have other mobility programmes that may be relevant to you. These include: University of Wales, Newport; Cardiff University; Swansea University; University of Wales Trinity Saint David; Bangor University; Aberystwyth University. Contact the individual universities to find out what opportunities they offer or look on their websites.

Case Study - Natasha Wright

Natasha Wright is in the third year of a degree in German and Welsh at Bangor University. She is currently on her year abroad.

Studying towards a degree in Modern Languages has been a great eye-opening experience for me. One of the best things I will get out of my time here will be the opportunity to spend half a year in a country of my target language - German. I spent last summer working in Munich, Germany as an au pair, which was one of the best experiences of my life, so I was very much looking forward to having the chance to study there in Leipzig. Being immersed into a language in its native home, is in my opinion, the best way to make use of what you already know and to become fluent. I also like that it sets you apart from the stereotypical British person, who assumes everyone in Europe can speak English anyway so 'what's the point in learning another language?'

Because of this degree, I have also had chance to become friends with all different kinds of people all over Europe, mainly due to the buddy scheme. This, along with living abroad, has made me become more culturally aware of how differently people live their lives. It has also given me the chance to travel more and see Europe. I also feel I have become more confident as a person due to the building up of my communication skills in oral classes and seminars. Going to Germany last year to live with a family I had never met before in a foreign country increased that further. I was forced, in a way, to have to practise my German through using it in every day life.



Want to Find Out More?

There are many organisations and sources of information and advice that can help you find out more about the benefits of learning a language and help you find the right course for you.

Learning Resources

MYLO is an online language learning service.
www.mylo.dcsf.gov.uk

The BBC languages website contains a wide range of resources.
www.bbc.co.uk/languages

Information and advice

CILT Cymru has a dedicated section for language learners.
www.ciltcymru.org.uk/language-learners

The 'Why Study Languages?' website contains a range of information for post-16 learners including career information and study skills tips. It also has information for younger learners, teachers, careers advisers and parents.
www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk

The 'Studying Languages at University' website offers advice and information for those keen to study languages after school or college.
www.studyinglanguages.ac.uk

The Languages Work website provides information about relevant careers and a range of case studies
www.languageswork.org.uk

General University advice

Direct Gov provides lots of general information and advice about studying at university along with information about specific institutions and courses.
www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/index.htm

The UCAS website contains full course listings along with other information, advice and guidance.
wwwucas.ac.uk

Universities

Bangor University
www.bangor.ac.uk

Aberystwyth University
www.aber.ac.uk

Glyndŵr University
www.Glyndwr.ac.uk

University of Wales Trinity Saint David
www.trinitysaintdavid.ac.uk

Swansea University
www.swansea.ac.uk

University of Wales Institute, Cardiff
www3.uwic.ac.uk

Cardiff University
www.cf.ac.uk

University of Glamorgan
www.glam.ac.uk

University of Wales, Newport
www.newport.ac.uk

Swansea Metropolitan University
www.smu.ac.uk

The Open University in Wales
www.openuniversity.co.uk/18to24

You will also find a wide range of blogs and social networking pages dedicated to language learning and university life.

Information correct at time of going to print in Spring 2011. Please double check all information with specific universities and/or UCAS before making final decisions.

