

Languages Matter!

Professor Edward Welch
Carnegie Professor of French
School of Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture
University of Aberdeen



Horizons

With **French** you can go to France, Belgium, Switzerland, Quebec, many parts of Africa...

With **German** you can go to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

With **Spanish** you can go to Spain and Latin America...

But also, learning a new language

- Helps you to develop as a person
- Opens up your understanding of many countries and cultures
- Broadens your horizon and helps you have an open mind
- Helps you grow intellectually, culturally and professionally



Opportunities

When you are learning a language, you develop a host of skills that give you a wide range of career options. As a languages student, you are learning to:

- Work independently or as part of a team
 - Be adaptable and resourceful
 - Assimilate a lot of new information quickly
 - Think creatively
 - Be a good communicator
 - Form an opinion and express it persuasively
 - Organize your time
-

Careers

- Translating / interpreting
- Teaching
- Working at the Foreign Office, the Diplomatic Service, the European Union, the United Nations
- Export marketing, PR, business
- The food and drink industry
- Tourism
- Finance and banking

Recent graduates from Aberdeen have been successful in finding work in all these areas.

Languages at University

- You can **study a language alongside another subject** (Joint Honours), to keep more doors open, e.g. French & Film Studies, or Hispanic Studies & International Relations
 - You can combine a language with almost any other subject, and **start a new language** as a beginner
 - At **Aberdeen**, we offer degrees in French, Gaelic, German and Spanish
 - You can learn Arabic, French, Gaelic, German, Mandarin, Spanish and Swedish as a beginner in the first two years of study
 - Between Year 2 and Year 3 as a Modern Languages student, you go on your **Year Abroad**
-

Languages at university: the Year Abroad

What happens on your Year Abroad?

- Your choice!
- **Teach** in France, Spain, Germany, Austria
- **Study** in Seville, Granada, Alicante, Santiago, Mexico City, Guadalajara, Cologne, Freiburg, Leipzig, Graz, Vienna, Zurich, Angers, Brussels, Bordeaux, Chambéry, Grenoble, Lyon, Mulhouse, Rennes, La Réunion
- Do **work placements** and **internships** with businesses and organisations



To conclude

Studying languages

- Is fun!
- Helps you to develop as a person
- Broadens your horizon and helps you have an open mind
- Allows you to explore and engage with many countries and cultures
- Opens up a range of career opportunities
- Makes the world your oyster



Merci beaucoup!
