Welcome to German

Aims of German degree programmes

List of German courses running in 2016-17

Structure of German degree programmes

German Language Courses

Courses in German Literature, History and Philosophy

Joint Honours including German

German as a Minor Subject

German as a Subsidiary Subject

German as a main language in European Studies

German as an optional second language in European Studies

BA German with European Film

German as part of Multilingual Studies

German and Comparative Literature & Culture (CLC)

German Core Pass Required (PR) Courses and German for Beginners

Pathways and Prerequisites

Native Speakers of German

Year Abroad (YA): 13th and 14th Units

German progression and award requirements

Link essays for Joint Honours students

Welcome to German

German is one of the four language areas taught in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Royal Holloway. It can be studied in a number of combinations: as part of a joint honours degree, in Multilingual Studies, in European Studies (German), as part of Liberal Arts or CLC, in these last two cases, please seek advice on programme structure and requirements from the Directors of those programmes or as a minor subject with another subject as major. German is available to students with no or little previous knowledge of the language, with advanced language skills and to native speakers.

Students of German are encouraged to read through the relevant parts of this
handbook, which should be consulted alongside the separate list of courses and course descriptions on the School’s website. If in doubt about anything feel free to contact a member of staff, such as your personal advisor, or the academic co-ordinator and Director of German, Dr Jon Hughes (jon.hughes@rhul.ac.uk).

Aims of German degree programmes

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in German are:

• to develop advanced skills in speaking, writing and understanding contemporary German;
• to develop an understanding of authentic German from a range of historical periods;
• to impart a broad knowledge and critical understanding of German and Austrian society and culture;
• to provide a structured and stimulating learning environment for students from all backgrounds;
• to develop a range of transferable skills that will continue to be valuable to students when they leave the university for employment;
• to introduce students to the methods of independent study and research, particularly those related to work in modern languages, literatures and cultures;
• to provide the basis for further, advanced study and research in German Studies.

List of German courses running in 2016-17

A complete list of German courses running in 2016-17, together with the course descriptions, is available for consultation on-line via the School website at:

http://www.rhul.ac.uk/milc/informationforcurrentstudents/handbooks.aspx

or

http://www.rhul.ac.uk/milc/informationforcurrentstudents/home.aspx

Structure of degree programmes

Required Courses

PLEASE NOTE: All full-time students of the College must take courses to a total value of 4 whole units per year on campus.

German Language Courses

All students who are not native speakers of German will take language courses to the value of one full unit in years 1, 2 and the final year. This will normally mean 3 or 4 contact hours of tuition.

In their first two years of study, native speakers of German do NOT take core ‘language’ courses, but choose from a range of courses covering other aspects of German and European literature, history and culture.

YEAR 1
Students with an A-Level in German (or equivalent) take GM1009 German Language I
This course is assessed by a 3-hour written examination. In addition, oral / aural skills are examined separately. The examinations are in term 3.

Beginners of German take GM1010 Beginners’ German I (full unit). This course is assessed by a 3-hour written examination. In addition, oral / aural skills are examined separately. The examinations are in term 3.

YEAR 2
Students who have taken GM1009 in their first year take GM2009 German Language II (full unit). This course is examined by a 3-hour examination. In addition, oral / aural skills are examined separately. The examinations are in term 3.

Students of Beginners’ German who have taken GM1010 in their first year take GM2010 German Language II (full unit). This course is examined by a 3-hour examination. In addition, oral / aural skills are examined separately. The examinations are in term 3.

YEAR 3 (Year Abroad (YA))
This is compulsory for all but German Minor students and is spent either wholly in a German-speaking country or (in the case of students taking two modern languages) split between a German-speaking country and a country appropriate to their other language (e.g. France, Spain, Italy, Quebec, a South American country). Minor German students, especially those on the Beginners’ pathway, are strongly advised to spend the summer vacation in a German-speaking country.

All students of German will take two units during the Year Abroad:
- two full units of German for those spending the entire year in a German-speaking country in one occupation (university, teaching assistant, work placement)
- one full unit (oral) and two half-units of German for those dividing a whole year in Germany between university and approved employment
- two half-units of German for those dividing the year between two countries of different languages

Students who split the year between two countries will take another two half units in their other language.
All students take:

- **German Oral** – full or half unit and ONE of the following:
- **Courses at a German / Austrian university** – a full or half-unit; marks awarded abroad and converted from the original scale to the Royal Holloway scale
- **Work Placement Report / Cultural Report** (written in German) – (1,750 to 2,250 words), for language assistants or those taking up approved employment abroad

For more detailed information please refer to the **Year Abroad Handbook**.

YEAR 4 (FINAL YEAR)
All students take GM3009 German Language III (full unit). This course is examined by one 3-hour examination. In addition, oral / aural skills are examined separately. The examinations are in term 3.

**Courses in German Literature, Culture, Film and History**

[Back to German contents](#)
The range of courses in German literature spans the period from the eighteenth century to the present. The study of literature and film is introduced in GM1120 (Introduction to German Studies), which aims to provide you with the basic tools for reading literature and for thinking and writing about it. Optional courses in other years cover some of the most significant themes, periods and genres, and the work of some of the most celebrated German authors. Comparisons, contrasts and connections between texts are encouraged. These courses will offer you:

- access to a varied range of literature that is memorable and pleasurable to experience for its own sake;
- familiarity with methods of literary study, criticism and literary theory;
- an understanding of the process of literary creation, within its political, social and cultural context;
- experience of a wide range of different styles of written German;
- an awareness, through literature, of the society, culture and thought of German-speaking peoples, together with their relationship with the other societies and cultures of Europe.

The first-year course GM1122 (German History and Culture) provides you with a key to an understanding of how contemporary Germany has come about. There are sections on 19th- and 20th-century Germany, which, with its achievements and its tragedies, has been of central importance in the making of modern Europe. There are also sections on the politics and social institutions of the reunited 21st-century Germany. Later courses – in the second year including film – allow you to explore some of the great works of literature and film in stimulating courses focused on the work of particular artists such as Franz Kafka and Thomas Mann, key periods and styles, such as Romanticism and Realism or the period of National Socialism in Germany, or stimulating themes such as childhood and youth. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of historical methods and concepts, a capacity for critical analysis of historical materials, and a deeper understanding of why the German-speaking countries are as they are within Europe today.

**Joint Honours Including German**

Students are required to take a total of 12 units in the two subjects. (Please note that some courses are rated as 1 full unit, others as ½ unit.) In all joint degrees involving German, students must take the following courses:

**First Year:** GM1009 German Language I, or GM1010 Beginners’ German I, and GM1120 Introduction to German Studies (both are compulsory). These are usually accompanied by GM1120 and GM1122.

**Second Year:** GM2009 German Language II, or GM2010 Beginners’ German II, (compulsory), as well as options equal to the value of ½ or 1 full unit of German culture courses.

**Final Year:** GM3009 German Language III as well as options equal to the value of ½ or 1 full unit of German culture courses.

The total value of units taken in German (including the language courses) will be as follows:

German/Classical Studies: 6, comprising 2 in each year of the course.
German/Drama: 6, comprising 2 in each year of the course.

German/English: 5-7, comprising in the first year at least 1½, in the second year at least 1½, and in the final year 2.

German/French: 5½ or 6, comprising in the first year 2, in the second year 2, and in the final year GM3009 and (if the Link Essay is not taken) further final-year courses in German to the value of 1½ units. If the Link Essay (GM3302) is taken, it replaces ½ unit on either the German or the French side of the degree.

German/History: 5½ or 6, comprising in the first year 2, in the second year 2, and in the final year GM3009 and further final-year courses to the value of either 1 unit in German or 1½ units in French.

German/Italian: 5½ or 6, comprising in the first year 2, in the second year 2, and in the final year GM3009 and (if the Link Essay is not taken) further final-year courses in German to the value of 1½ units. If the Link Essay (GM3303) is taken, it replaces ½ unit on either the German or the Italian side of the degree.

German/Latin: 6, comprising 2 in each year of the course.

German/Management Studies: 6, comprising 2 in each year of the course.

German/Music: 5-7, comprising at least 1½ in each year of the course.

German/Spanish: 6, comprising 2 in each year of the course.

German as a Minor Subject

**First Year:** GM1009 German Language I (full unit) or GM1010 Beginners German I (full unit)

**Second Year:** GM2009 German Language II (full unit) or GM2010 Beginners’ German II (full unit).

**Final Year:** GM3009 German Language III (full unit).

German as a Subsidiary Subject

Students taking other modern languages as a single subject may be permitted, during their first year, to take the following courses: GM1009 German Language I, and during their second year GM2009 German Language II.

Back to German contents

German as a Main Language in European Studies (R200)

**First Year:** GM1009 German Language I (1 unit) or GM1010 Beginners German I (full unit)

**Second Year:** GM2009 German Language II or GM2010 Beginners German II (full unit) and optionally a further half or 1 unit in German (minimum of 1 unit in German, maximum of 2 units).

**Final Year:** GM3009 German Language III (full unit), and optionally a further half or 1 unit (minimum 1 – maximum 2).

BA German with International Film
First Year: GM1009 German Language I (full unit), or GM1010 Beginners German I (full unit), and GM120 Introduction to German Studies and 3 further half-units in German. International Film: 2 half-units: ML1101 Reading European Film I and ML1102 The Birth of European Film.

Second Year: GM2009 German Language II (full unit), or GM2010 Beginners German II (full unit), and 4 further half units in German. International Film: 2 half-units: ML2101 Reading European Film II + 1 further half-unit film option. Please consult the International Film handbook for an up-to-date list of available options in the School. GM2124 Representations of Childhood and Youth in Modern German Culture will normally be taken, either as part of the German major courses or as the second half-unit option in

Final Year: GM3009 German Language III (full unit) and further final year courses to the value of 2½ units. ML3101 International Film: dissertation.

German as part of Multilingual Studies

Students use 3 of their 4 course units each year on campus to study three languages out of those offered at Royal Holloway: French, German, Italian and Spanish. They use the fourth unit each year to choose cultural or linguistic units from any of the three language departments in which they are studying. They spend the third year abroad like other modern linguists, usually in two of their language areas, and can visit the third in one or both of the summer vacations on either side of the official period of residence abroad. Those registered to take the degree will be given further information by the Director of the programme at the start of the session.

German Compulsory and Core PR (Pass Required) Courses

GM1009, GM1010, GM2009, GM2010 are compulsory courses for all except native speakers of German. GM3009 is a core PR course for all. All students taking GM1009, GM1010, GM2009 and GM2010 should note that these courses MUST be passed in order to progress to further German courses in the following year of a degree programme.

German progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree modern language programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme and additionally must pass the compulsory course units in all stages, which normally will be the core language course(s). In German these are as follows: GM1009 or GM1010 (first year); GM2009 or GM2010 (second year); GM3009 (final year).

Students who do not pass the Core PR course(s) in the final year will not normally qualify for the award of the degree title in the particular language for which they are registered. Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and four, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage four. The two units taken during
stage three are included in the average mark for stage two.

For further details on the general rules governing progression and award requirements see also UG Handbook

Native Speakers of German

Native-speaker status is assessed at the beginning of the degree, normally during induction week.

We do not permit native speakers of German to take most of the language courses that are a core requirement for all other students. This is because in your case we accept that you already possess the language skills, experience and knowledge towards which students on these courses are working. You will instead choose your complement of course units from other available courses.

Joint Honours Degrees, Major/Minor, Multilingual Studies, European Studies

Native speakers of German are required in their final year to take GM3009 German Language III.

Native competence in spoken and written German will be determined on the basis of a test.

YEAR ABROAD: 13th and 14th Units

See the Year Abroad Handbook on the School website at http://www.rhul.ac.uk/modern-languages/Students/SMLLC-Handbooks.html

Back to German contents

Link essays for Joint Honours students

Joint Honours students are encouraged to be active in seeking connections between the two subjects which make up their degree programme. Final-year 'link essays' with formal course-unit value are available in certain combinations of subjects.

There are no Link Essay arrangements at present with Classics, Drama, Management Studies or Spanish.

Arrangements for Writing Link Essays

Students choosing to do a link essay are required to consult their Personal Adviser by January of their second year to discuss their choice of subject area. They will then be directed to the appropriate specialist Link Essay supervisor. Students should simultaneously consult with the other Department concerned.

The student’s subject area, agreed by both Supervisors, must be notified by the student, in writing, to their Personal Adviser by 1 June in the student’s second year.

Any subsequent modifications to the subject must be agreed by both Supervisors and
notified to the Director of German by the end of the Christmas vacation of the year abroad. The final title must be discussed with the Supervisors and notified by the student to the Director of German by the beginning of the first term of the final year.

The Link Essays GM3301, GM3302 and GM3303 are valued at half a course unit and should be between 3,500-5,000 words in length. A bibliography and word-count must be appended and a cover sheet, confirming that the work is the student’s own, must be signed and handed in with the essay. Guidelines on presentation and styling will be provided by supervisors.

For final-year students writing link essays, one copy of the essay is to be submitted in a suitable folder to both German and the other Department by the date posted at http://www.rhul.ac.uk/mllc/documents/pdf/matrix.pdf. Failure to submit the essay by the appropriate date without good reason will lead to disqualification from this whole paper.

Return to contents page

The role of the Supervisors
The Link Essay must be a piece of personal work, but the Supervisors will assist the student with the following matters: the choice of subject, the scope, planning and preparation of the essay, the bibliography and any particular issues concerning layout. It is suggested that, on such matters, up to three meetings with your Supervisor on each side of your degree may be necessary.

The Teacher appointed to act as your Supervisor in German will be willing to see an early draft of your work. However, once the essay has been written up, no further advice will be given, or comment made, by the Supervisors.

Back to German contents