

Course Catalogue for Languages and Intercultural Studies

Exchange Students 2025-26

This is a list of the courses available to you. You may choose any four bearing in mind your home institution's requirements in terms of credit recognition.

All courses are worth 7.5 ECTS credits (1 ECTS=2 HWU credits)

1. English-Focused Courses:

British Culture and Society 1 & 2 (C49BC & C49BD) (Semesters 1 and 2 respectively)

This course introduces cultural issues in contemporary British society, politics and cultural life, and uses the medium of British cinema and literature as a window for investigating life in the country. Although some attention is paid to the post-War development of the state, the focus is strongly on the contemporary society of the past decade. Assessment will consist of coursework.

Critical Writing (C47CA) (Semester 1 or 2)

The aim of the course is to help you develop your research, critical thinking and writing skills. These are professional skills which you can transfer to other courses and later to your work. You will enhance your critical thinking and analysis skills as you develop knowledge of and expertise in a particular topic drawn from social science. The course may be taken in either Semester 1 or Semester 2. Assessment consists of 100% coursework.

TESOL 1 & TESOL 2 (C48TE & C48TF) (Semesters 1 and 2 respectively)

These courses are designed for students who are experienced language learners but not teachers. *Note that the courses do not provide any language teaching qualification.* They introduce approaches and methods for teaching English as a second language. The focus is on approaches to developing language use rather than language knowledge. Year 2 courses: no experience of teaching or prior training in education required. Assessment for these courses will consist of 100% coursework.

Applied Linguistics (C40TQ) (Semester 2)

This course investigates how linguistic knowledge can help with practical research, teaching and language development situations. It looks at written and spoken Discourse Analysis in more depth than TESOL 1&2. It also introduces issues in Second Language Acquisition, Language Planning and Conversation Analysis. Students can conduct their own mini-research projects in these fields. Some prior knowledge of Linguistics is advisable. Assessment consists of 100% coursework.

Employability and Professional Skills (C47PS) (Semester 1 or 2)

This elective involves students working in teams to go through stages of writing a bid for a project. The teams are required to submit 3 different documents during the semester; a proposal bid for a project, an Interim report and a Final report, as well as deliver 2 team presentations, and individual reflections. This course does not involve an exam, but it requires sustained commitment throughout the semester, with submissions required in week 5, week 9 and week 12. There is a focus in the course on developing literacy in English and communication skills as key elements in Employability. It may be taken in either Semester 1 or Semester 2.

Global Communication (C48GE) (Semester 2 only)

This course aims to introduce students to the study of the development of English throughout the world (Global Englishes). The course will support students to explore their own and others' varieties of English and the cultural assumptions associated with them. It will also raise awareness of the way English is adapted and used as an effective lingua franca in many international, cross-cultural contexts. In this regard it will help students prepare for inter-campus transfers such as Erasmus and the Go Global programme. Assessment consists of 100% coursework.

2. Elective Courses:

A chance to develop a C language or to start learning a new one. There are:

- **Beginners** courses in Chinese, German, Spanish and British Sign Language.

Course	Semester 1 Code	Semester 2 Code
Chinese Beginners Elective	C47CE	C47CF
German Beginners Elective	C47GX	C47GY
Spanish Beginners Elective	C47SX	C47SY
British Sign Language B.E.	C47BX	C47BY

- **Post-beginners** courses in French, German and Spanish.

Course	Semester 1 Code	Semester 2 Code
French Post-Beginners Elective	C47FX	C47FY
German Post-Beginners Elective	C47GP	C47GQ
Spanish Post-Beginners Elective	C47SP	C47SQ

- **Intermediate (Year 1) courses** in Chinese, French, German and Spanish. These courses do fill up fairly soon so **space is by no means guaranteed in them.**

Other courses offered by the Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies:

Introduction to Scottish Studies (C48SS) (Semester 1 only)

The syllabus will include but is not limited to the following topics relevant to the subject:

- Plural, mutable Scottish cultural identities and historical, political, linguistic and geographical influences on these
- Scottish heritage, customs and traditions, literature, film and other arts
- Scotland's cultural and political relationship with the rest of the UK
- Demographic trends and environmental influences on the cultures of Scotland's Lowland, Highland & Island communities

Assessment consists of 100% coursework.

International Politics and Organisations (C40ZC) (Semester 1 only)

The course covers major issues in international politics and organisations, including international security, the UN and European integration. Year 4 (2h lecture and 1h seminar a week)).

Translation & Interpreting Studies (C40ZD) (Semester 1 only)

It covers major theoretical areas in Translation & Interpreting Studies, as well as various models of text processing and translating and interpreting, and affords students the opportunity to undertake independent, supervised research in an area of Translation & Interpreting Studies of interest to them. Year 4 (2x2 hour lectures/week).

Comparative Social and Cultural Issues (C40CS) (Semester 1 only)

This course will build your understanding of social and cultural issues whilst developing a critical understanding of theoretical arguments used to explain global social and cultural patterns of relevance to heritage and tourism. Topics include intercultural perspectives on work and leisure, hospitality and language, gender and feminism. 100% coursework.

Societies and Institutions in the Contemporary World (C48CS) (Semester 1 only)

The aim of the course is to provide students with an appreciation of the principles underlying the key aspects of societies and political systems of the contemporary world. The course also aims at giving students a detailed understanding of the institutions, societies, policies and current issues in China, France, Germany, Spain, and the UK. 2h lecture and 1h seminar per week. Assessment: 100% coursework.

Introduction to Languages and Intercultural Studies (C47IL) (Semester 1 only). The aim of the course is to give students a solid foundation in the understanding of the nature, history and use of language. 2h lecture per week. 100% coursework.

Translation Technologies for Professional Translators (C40VA) (Semester 1 only)

This is a very practical and professionally oriented course divided in 2 main parts. In the first part, students will learn about several resources used by professional translators on a daily basis (online resources, corpora, translation portals and machine translation). The second part of the course will focus on CAT (computer-assisted translation) tools. Students will learn about the usefulness of these tools, will acquire a basic Trados skillset and will reflect on the realities of being a professional translator in the current technology-based professional environment.

Assessment consists of 100% coursework (completion of one practical translation task using Trados + writing of a reflective commentary).

Important note: Availability on this course is **extremely limited** and, therefore, access to it can not be guaranteed.

Film and Cultures (C48FC) (Semester 2 only)

This course focuses on how diverse film cultures have developed across the world and how these inform the ways films are produced, viewed and understood. Students will appreciate how to analyse and identify films within these cultures and movements. Assessment consists of coursework (60%) and exam (40%).

Sustainable Development and the Intercultural Context (C40SD) (Semester 2 only)

This course focuses on the economic and environmental issues addressed by applied anthropological methods and theories in various contexts. It assesses the ambiguities of economic environmental issues and explores the implications for individuals, minorities, majorities, institutions and intercultural relations by way of case studies. Assessment will consist of coursework.

Introduction to World Contemporary History and Culture (C47WH) (Semester 2 only)

The aim of the course is to familiarise students with the main developments of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as they have shaped the contemporary world in its present form. The course also aims at providing a framework of understanding for students' work with foreign languages (Chinese, French, German, Spanish and BS) and their study of their respective cultures. 2h lecture and 1h seminar per week. Assessment: 100% coursework.

Electives in other Departments of the School (School of Social Sciences: Business Management, Economics, Accounting & Finance)

Consult course catalogues on the School website for availability, codes & timetable.

Please talk to your lecturers to confirm all the information about course assessment, entry requirements, etc.

Some of the most popular courses amongst exchange students are:

The Economy (C27EC)	(Year 1, Semester 1)
Organisational Behaviour (C18OB)	(Year 2, Semester 2)
Fundamentals of Marketing (C18FM)	(Year 2, Semester 1)
Human Resource Management (C18HM)	(Year 2, Semester 1)
Enterprise: Concepts and Issues (C18TP)	(Year 2, Semester 2)

Please note that you may register for most undergraduate courses in the School of Social Sciences except when the course is already full, or there are particular prerequisites for previous study. **Please speak to the relevant lecturers** to confirm whether or not you can attend these courses.

3. Composite Language Studies (C49XL & C49XM for Semesters 1 and 2 respectively)

These are optional course codes only for Language exchange students. They are designed to enable you to take parts of Language courses that are relevant to you (e.g. Translation, Interpreting) without having to join classes not useful to your needs (e.g. Spoken language classes). This course is a kind of “wrapper” for your own “self-select” course - this means selecting certain parts of different courses and making up your own personal combined course, but please note that you are not obliged to take this course if you have already chosen other four courses.

Choosing hours for Composite Language Studies: for this course, you need a minimum of **three** options and a maximum of **four**. The individual options **do NOT** have course codes.

They all come under the composite course code (C49XL & C49XM in these cases). All these activities are language specific and available in French, Spanish, German and Chinese (Years 2 and 4). This course, as almost every HWU course, is worth 7.5 ECTS credits.

Choosing options for Composite Language Studies:

OPTIONS	NOTES
Translation	Into English. Year 2.
Written	Into student's native language (including summarising and translating from English). Year 2 (non-native speakers of the relevant language) or Year 4 (native speakers of the relevant language).
Liaison (only available in Semester 1)	Year 4.
Liaison/Spoken	Year 2.
Conference Interpreting	Year 2: Introductory course to interpreting open to students who have started or will be starting this in their home universities. Year 4: This course is for students who have studied Conference Interpreting previously.
National Perspectives in the European Context (French/German/Spanish) Semester 2 only	Lecture in the target language and oral activities. 2 hours/week. Year 4. Not available for native speakers of the relevant language.

Area Studies	Year 2. Only available in Semester 1. Lecture in the target language and oral activities. Not available for native speakers of the relevant language.
Business Seminar	Year 2. Only available in Semester 2. Lecture in the target language and oral activities. Not available for native speakers of the relevant language.

In all cases, **you must receive the agreement of the class lecturer** to join in any of the above groups.

4. Composite Background Studies (C49ZC & C49ZD for Semesters 1 and 2 respectively)

Choosing options for Composite Background Studies:

OPTIONS SEMESTER 1	OPTIONS SEMESTER 2
Teaching Assistance**	Teaching Assistance**

** A very limited number of places may be available to assist with teaching Year 1 or Year 2 students in your native language. This may involve assisting with teaching language classes, or with offering additional practice classes. This can be included in your composite courses as an activity and counted towards your credit.

Important note on the Composite courses: these special courses (C49XL/C49XM and C49ZC/C49ZD) **can only be taken once per semester** (for example, you can not take C49XL twice in semester 1).

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The options available to exchange students are always subject to timetable constraints. IT CANNOT BE GUARANTEED THAT ALL POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS OF THE ABOVE COURSES AND CLASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ANY GIVEN TERM.

2. **All students must introduce themselves to lecturers at the first class of any course.** Please do not just join the class quietly – the lecturer needs to know if there are any exchange students taking the class.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Due to numbers of students some of the above options must be applied for to the lecturer teaching the class. Some classes may have restricted numbers of places. Consequently the lecturer may decide on who will take these places. If you do not introduce yourself and request a place in your first session, you run the risk of being rejected from the class later.*

3. At the end of your placement a transcript of the courses taken and credits (ECTS) will be sent to you by email by the Student Office.

4. Students requiring assessment in classes provided by the School of Languages **MUST inform the lecturer when they begin attendance. This is particularly vital if you are only remaining for one semester as the final assessment for certain classes may not take place until the following semester or until the end of the academic year.** Lecturers must know as soon as possible if you are going to require a mark based on continuous assessment. It is too late to request this at the end of term.

5. You register with the University for **courses**, not individual classes/activities.

6. Please note that **resits are not available to exchange students** given that they take place in August, a period where exchange students are not Heriot-Watt University students anymore.

7. REMINDERS:

- If you choose to take a **Composite Language Studies Course**, you may take **up to 4 weekly subjects** as part of it (and should complete at least **3 assessable activities**).
- It is up to you to ensure that you have carried out the minimum numbers of assessment for your Composite Language Studies Course. If you fail to do so, then you cannot receive any credits for it.