

WHY STUDY LANGUAGES?



Do you want to get ahead of the rest?

Do you want to learn a life skill that is highly valued by employers?

Do you want to be able to compete in a global society?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" then read on!

To be equipped linguistically and academically to face the 21st Century, proficiency in a language or languages is what you need.

Studying a Modern Language will give you an insight into life in other countries and even continents, as well as that necessary edge when it comes to competition for jobs in the world of work, as you will develop the following skills:

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- The ability to structure arguments effectively
 - Excellent powers of analysis
 - An understanding of how language works which brings along with it an improved command of English
 - The ability to cope in unfamiliar surroundings
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All of the above skills, which are sought after by universities and employers, will put you **ahead of the rest** in the career of your choice! Did you know that **speaking another language can increase your pay by up to 20% and that 37% of language graduates in the business environment end up in management positions?**

Do you want to show that you can study a highly academic subject?

Do you want to be persuasive and present clear and convincing arguments?

Do you want to improve your memory?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" then read on still further!

The great thing about language study at this level is that you **can combine it with any other A levels** – sciences, humanities and practical subjects.

The Russell Group Universities describe Modern Foreign Languages as 'facilitating subjects', which means that they help students gain places on the most competitive courses in the country in the top 20 universities.

Just like the Languages Department here at Aquinas College, a large number of universities encourage students to continue their language studies alongside another subject. Look at what the university prospectuses say:-

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Medicine-Many of our undergraduate biosciences courses are available to study with a modern language.

Study at a university overseas as part of your degree at Manchester. Experience new cultures at one of The University of Manchester's many partner institutions.

BRISTOL – LAW (WITH FRENCH OR SPANISH)

This four-year Joint Honours course, which leads to a law degree, gives you the opportunity to spend your third year based at a French or Spanish university. It provides a valuable skill set, ideally tailored to the globalised workplace.

Chemistry with study in continental Europe. Alongside your study in chemistry in your first and second years, you will study a foreign language, as you prepare for a year at a major European university. We currently have exchange links with universities in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

YORK - LANGUAGES FOR ALL SCHEME

Languages for All offers a range of foreign language courses to help you communicate with people from other countries and gain an insight into other cultures. Courses are available at a variety of levels from beginners to degree standard.

Now let's consider each language you could study in a little more detail:

WHY STUDY FRENCH?



Well, there are a whole range of reasons. Firstly, did you know that...

- French is spoken by 220 million people in the world?
- French is spoken on every continent in the world?

It will improve your job prospects.

Although there are French speakers all over the globe, let's just take France for a moment. It is the 6th economic power in the world. Think of the really famous French-based companies like Airbus, Renault, PNB, Chanel or the fact that France is the number one tourist destination in the world! There is a demand for people able to speak both French and English in aerospace engineering, banking, car production, fashion, tourism and many other sectors.

French is an international language

which means it is used in all of those important international meetings: the EU, the United Nations, NATO, the Olympic movement. If you want a future in an international organisation, then it is really worth learning French.

It is fun to learn! Lessons are active and varied. In addition to this, students attend film study days and have visits from outside speakers. We offer the opportunity to go to on an exchange and do work experience in France.

WHY STUDY GERMAN?



German is the language of more than 100 million Europeans in 3 countries. In terms of native speakers, **it is the most spoken**

language in the EU. Worldwide it is the tenth most spoken language and the third most taught foreign language. German is the only language with a direct link to English which is habitually taught in British secondary schools; it is also one of the three official languages of the EU. It is the language of business with **international companies such as Volkswagen, Siemens, Aldi, Jack Wolfskin, Hugo Boss and Wella.** Graduates of German work in diverse industries including those in which they may directly or indirectly use their German skills or are used by employers to expand their language skills.

Germany survived the latest global economic crisis relatively unscathed due to its unparalleled apprenticeship system and high number of excellent universities. The language has a large online presence and **one in every ten books published is in German.** Knowing German will give learners **access to many other Germanic languages in terms of similar vocabulary and grammatical structures which is always attractive to employers and to organisations such as GCHQ.**

Germans are also great travellers so the likelihood of meeting someone abroad or even in your own neighbourhood through work or leisure is fairly high at some point in your life.

German literature and culture are also well-known across the continents; their **food, beer and wine have an international reputation.** The Munich beer festival, Berlin Love Parade and Christmas markets are all enjoyed by people who flock to Germany every year.

For all of the above reasons, German is a language well worth learning.

WHY STUDY ITALIAN!



A beautiful, musical language. An exciting history. An ever-changing landscape. A rich, artistic culture. Fashion, design, sport, innovation.

Why would you not want to **study Italian!**

Italy is one of the top 8 economies in the world, and many employers are seeking people who speak both Italian and English. **Six of the 100 biggest global companies have their headquarters in Italy** and knowing Italian is greatly beneficial in several career fields. Italy is a **world leader in the culinary arts, interior design, fashion, graphic design, furniture design, machine tool manufacturing, robotics, electromechanical machinery, shipbuilding, space engineering, construction machinery, and transport equipment.**

Intellectual Stimulus: Learning Italian enhances your skills in analysing, discussing, and categorizing information and ideas. Skills which employers look for in new candidates. As more and more businesses are “going global” by opening offices throughout the world, knowledge of Italian is an increasingly important asset when applying for jobs.

Travel: Travel to Italy and **experience the essence of Italian culture.** Make use of your knowledge of Italian to further practise the language.

Art and Culture: Study aspects of Italian culture through learning about Italian literature, music, cuisine and films. Other aspects of Italy’s culture are also best appreciated by those who can speak and understand Italian.

Learn how to communicate effectively: In many careers you will find it beneficial to **communicate well.** Learning Italian also encourages you to think about important details of language which may not have occurred to you before, thereby **improving your writing and speaking skills in English as well.**

You will broaden your horizons. Learning Italian is a big accomplishment which brings with it great satisfaction and added confidence. In addition, immersion in a foreign culture can open whole new avenues of self-exploration and personal growth.

WHY STUDY SPANISH?



The simplest but most important reason is that the fluency you will achieve by the end of your A level studies will enable you to **discover the culture, history and people of more than 20 fascinating countries.**

Spanish is **spoken by nearly 500 million people** around the world, even the USA has almost **40 million native Spanish speakers.** Spanish is the 3rd most used language on the Internet.

Spain plays a major role in the European Union and **is one of Britain’s most important trading partners.** Each and every one of the Spanish-speaking countries makes valuable contributions to the fields of commerce, industry and culture. To ensure success in the Spanish-speaking market firms will need to promote their products in Spanish, and especially in the USA with the high number of Spanish-speakers living there.

The wider hispanic world is fantastically varied, vibrant and exciting. You will discover art, culture and literature from across the globe in Latin America as well as in Spain!

WHY STUDY JAPANESE?



Japanese is an **exotic and fascinating** language. You may think that it is difficult because of the unique script but this is not true. It has no “genders”, no “plurals” and the grammar is logical. **Everyone gets a fresh start** in a Japanese class regardless of any languages you may have studied before. You will have

an equal opportunity to shine. Students are fascinated by the differences in the language itself and by the culture, and often learn more about their own culture and grammar through learning Japanese. **The Japanese economy** is still one of the strongest in the world, and there are many job opportunities for Japanese speakers. Wouldn't you like to know more about Japanese manga, anime, games, and martial arts?

Here are some people you may recognise who have a keen interest in languages....

- Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, speaks Chinese
- Tom Hiddleston, actor, studied Classics at the University of Cambridge and speaks Spanish, French and Greek
- Gwyneth Paltrow lived in Spain for a year and speaks Spanish
- Gary Lineker, ex-footballer and presenter of Match of the Day, speaks Spanish and some Japanese
- Jodie Foster, actress, speaks French
- Paula Radcliffe, Olympic medal winner studied French, German and Economics at the University of Loughborough
- Fiona Bruce-newsreader and presenter of the Antiques Roadshow studied French and Italian at the University of Oxford
- J K Rowling was a French teacher before she became an author

Have a look at what these sites say about language learning!

<http://www.rosettastone.co.uk/lp/languages-and-careers/>

<https://courses.telegraph.co.uk/article-details/98/career-benefit-from-learning-languages/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/small-business-network/2014/dec/16/language-skills-great-business>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/modern-languages>

Aqt Aquinas we offer A Levels in French, Spanish and German, GCSE and AS Japanese, Spanish and Italian, AS French over 2 years as part of our Stretch and Challenge Programme.

We hope this information about the languages we offer at Aquinas College will convince you but do contact Patrick Onwochei, Head of Modern Languages, on ponstaff@aquinas.ac.uk if you need any further persuasion.

