

School of Modern Languages
Erasmus Study Guide
2021-22



For Erasmus students from Germany and Austria

Revised Sept 2021

Welcome to the Department of German !

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Front Cover Photograph – The Wills Tower, University of Bristol.

You will find that the Department of German is a friendly environment where you will have every opportunity to meet our students. We encourage you to get involved in all the activities we organise: there is a student run German Society and an annual play performed by our students – which could include you – in German. We hope you will enjoy and benefit from your time here.

As a rule, our class sizes are small with no more than 20 students in most classes and students are encouraged to participate in all lessons. You will experience a very different class-room dynamic with greater interaction and personal contact than in most continental European universities – we hope you will enjoy and benefit from this experience.

Your contacts:

- **The German Erasmus Coordinator**

The Erasmus Coordinator in the German Department is your main point of academic contact in the German Department. They will review your Learning Agreement, can advise on unit choices and address any academic queries you may have about your Erasmus studies at Bristol.

The Erasmus Coordinator for the German Department is **Mandy Poetzsch**.

Email: mandy.poetzsch@bristol.ac.uk

Room 2.69, 21 Woodland Road.

- **The German Erasmus Administrator**

The German Erasmus Administrator is **Lindsey Drage**.

Email: l.drage@bristol.ac.uk

School Office, G84, 17 Woodland Road. Tel: 044 117 3318011

- **The Global Opportunities team**

Alongside your host school, the Global Opportunities Team are here to support you during your time in Bristol. Please do not hesitate to contact the team with any non-academic queries, such as finance, insurance, that you may have about your Erasmus programme.

Tel: 044 117 3940207

Email: global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk

Website: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/global-opportunities/at-bristol/erasmus/>

Programme details:

- **The School of Modern Languages**

The School of Modern Languages will be your “academic home” while you are here and you will be based in the German Department during your stay. You will receive support from the German Erasmus Administrator and the rest of the School Office team in her absence and also the Department’s Erasmus Coordinator.

You are based in the German Department during your stay and receive support from their Student Administration

- **How many credits must I take at Bristol?**

Erasmus students can select up to **120 Bristol Credits (60 ECTS)**, if studying for a full year, or **60 Bristol credits (30 ECTS)** if studying for one semester only. This is considered a full-time workload, therefore you cannot exceed 60 credits per semester. Any English language courses you take must be included in the total number of credit points.

If you have sought permission from your home university, the minimum number of credits you can study in one semester is 50 (25 ECTS). Or 100 Bristol credits per year (50 ECTS) Any English language courses you take must be included in the total number of credit points.

- **How many credits must I take within my host School?**

German Erasmus+ students are required to take most of their credits from within the German Department and units from within the rest of the School of Modern Languages. (See courses on pages 6-9).

For a full year student, this would mean taking a **minimum of 80 credits (out of 120)** from within the School of Modern Languages.

For single semester students, this means taking a **minimum of 40 credits (out of 60)** from within the School of Modern Languages.

- **Can I study for one semester only or for the full academic year?**

At the University of Bristol, the academic year starts in September and ends in June. There are two semesters, (at Bristol we refer to these as “Teaching Blocks”):

Teaching Block 1 (Autumn semester) – September to January.

Teaching Block 2 (Spring semester) – January to June.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/dates/>

- **Learning Agreements**

Erasmus applicants submit a Learning Agreement during the application process. This document should indicate the units you wish to take at Bristol.

The choices made in the initial Learning Agreement are subject to confirmation by your host Department which may require you to make changes – both for learning and administrative reasons.

You can request changes to your initial unit choices when you arrive at the start of the year but these are subject to approval by your host Department.

N.B. Please note that, unlike in many continental European universities, students are not permitted to attend courses (or sit in on classes, etc.) which are not included in their learning agreement.

“I don’t know where to start to say that it has been a really amazing experience for me. I think this kind of experience gives a lot for the rest of the life”

Photograph – “Sunrise over the Waterfront” (The Watershed, Bristol) by Carina Mangelsen, Erasmus Student 2013-14.



Courses – an introduction:

Each of the courses listed below has an entry in the University's [Unit Catalogue 2021-22](#).

You are strongly encouraged to review the details of the courses you are interested in on the Unit Catalogue before listing it on your Learning Agreement. This includes checking the assessment information. (The Unit Catalogue for 2021-22 will be available from April 2021).

You are not necessarily guaranteed enrolment on the courses you have listed on your Learning Agreement. Registration on the units you choose will be dependent on availability of course places and whether the course requires you to meet any pre-requisites listed in the course details in the Unit Catalogue.

You will also only be able to take courses where you can attend all teaching. You will need to change units if your classes clash with the timetable for another course you are taking.

Cultural courses within the School of Modern Languages:

- **You may take cultural courses run by the School of Modern Languages provided specifically for incoming Erasmus students of English.**

Semester 1

MODL10009 Contemporary European Cinema

MODL30007 Contemporary British Cinema

Semester 2

MODL10010 Classics of European Cinema

MODL30007 Contemporary British Cinema

- **You can also choose courses available in the German Department:**

Year 2

GERMAN – Semester 1

GERM20048 Effi Briest and her Afterlives

GERM20051 Inventing Austria

GERMAN Semester 2

GERM20044 Transforming the Tragic Hero(ine): 1770-1840

GERM20047 Transnational Nation: Germany 1840-1990

GERM20052 The Cultural and Creative Industries in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Year 4

GERMAN Semester 1

GERM30058 Exiles and Migrants in German Literature

GERM30074 Language Variation and Change in German

GERM30075 Performing Germany: National Identity in Changing Times

GERMAN Semester 2

GERM30077 After the Wall: Remembering the GDR

Subject to experience and availability of places, you may also choose the following School of Modern Languages courses:

Year 2

Semester 1

MODL20016 General Linguistics

MODL20021 Introduction to Teaching Modern Language as a Foreign Language

MODL23017 Women and Nation

Semester 2

MODL30016 Sociolinguistic Anthropology

MODL20017 Historical Linguistics

Year 4

Semester 1

MODL30001 Communism in Europe

MODL30006 Liaison Interpreting German, Russian and Italian

MODL30010 Translating in a Professional Context

MODL30020 The Italian City: Medieval and Early Modern Cultures

MODL30032 Environmental Entanglements

Semester 2

MODL30006 Liaison Interpreting French and Spanish

MODL30018 Gender Sexuality and Cinema

MODL30026 Pan Africanism: ideas and archives

MODL30027 The Cultural Heritage of Historic Towns and Cities in Europe and Beyond.

MODL30036 Theoretical Approaches to Language Teaching

Subject to language level, experience and availability of places, you may also take cultural courses run by other departments within the School of Modern Languages: **French, Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, Italian, Russian & Czech.** For more information go to the [Unit Catalogue 2021-22](#)

“I think Bristol is a great city to come and live and study in because there are different areas like small cities contained in it. You have everything and you can choose which part of the city you enjoy.”

French Erasmus Student

Language courses:

**Please note that Erasmus students are not allowed to take language courses in their native language.*

- **English Language:**

If you would like to develop your academic English language skills, the Centre for Academic Language and Development (CALD) offers a range of optional units. These units focus on listening and speaking skills, reading and writing skills and teaching English as a foreign language. They are designed to complement and enhance your UK studies. Visit the centre's website to register for these units: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/academic-language/study/current-students/for-undergraduate/optional-units/>

- **University Wide Language Programme (UWLP) open units:**

The School of Modern Languages offers a range of open units in **Modern Standard Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese Russian and Spanish.**

Erasmus students are allowed to register for ONE such unit, (subject to availability and level).

Please note that all Applied Foreign Language courses run for the whole academic year. They are not suitable for Erasmus students studying for 1 semester only.

All courses are worth 20 credit points, (10 ECTS). For more information on Applied Foreign Language courses follow the link: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sml/study/uwlp/>

For any queries regarding the suitability of your language level for AFL courses, email sml-uwlp@bristol.ac.uk

- **Language courses that are part of the School of Modern Languages degree programmes:**

- **MODL30034 Foreign Language Skills for Erasmus Students**

Subject to available places and your language level, Erasmus students studying at the University of Bristol for **one semester only** can register for a Year 1, Year 2 or Final Year language course, (except ab initio level) for 10 credits, (5 ECTS). The following languages are available:

Czech, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

- **Translation:**

- **MODL30035 Advanced Language Skills for Erasmus Students**

Subject to availability of course places and language level, Erasmus students can take translation components of Final Year translation classes in their native language in the following languages: **Czech, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.** Students on placement for one semester only receive 10 credits for attending these classes. Students attending the classes for the full year, receive 20 credits (10 ECTS).

Can Erasmus students take units outside their host school?

It is important that Erasmus students take most of their credits within the School of Modern Languages. For a full year student this would mean at least 80 credits (of a120) and for a single semester student this means at least 40 credits (of 60) in the School of Modern Languages.

Erasmus students can take the rest of their credits from outside the School, but there are several points to consider:

- **The School of Modern Languages cannot register you onto classes outside the School.** You will need to contact the School which owns the unit to enquire about availability of course places.
- **You should request courses that are suitable for your academic background and level of study.** Years 2 and 3 courses assume prior knowledge of the subject, so you should only request units at this level where you have studied the subject before.
- **Erasmus students are not guaranteed classes outside their host School**
- **Erasmus students cannot take research/independent-based projects, dissertation work or fieldwork units from other Schools.**
- **Remember that all courses you attend must be registered with and approved by the School of Modern Languages.**
- **For more information consult the individual departmental web pages and the unit catalogue: [Unit Catalogue 2021-22](#).**

- **English Literature courses**

For Erasmus students wishing to take 20 credits (20 ECTS) per teaching block, outside the School of Modern Languages, (e.g., students taking English Literature), we have an established arrangement with the **Department of English (School of Humanities)**.

The English Department accepts Erasmus students onto the following courses, subject to places being available:

Critical Issues ENGL10017 (Teaching Block 1) (20 credits = 10 ECTS)

Approaches to Poetry ENGL10026 (Teaching Block 2) (20 credits = 10 ECTS)

For further details for **Approaches to Poetry**: <https://www.bris.ac.uk/unit-programme-catalogue/UnitDetails.jsa?unitCode=ENGL10017>

For further details for **Critical Issues**: <https://www.bris.ac.uk/unit-programme-catalogue/UnitDetails.jsa?unitCode=ENGL10026>

Please note: The units listed here are typically taken by native speakers of English who have studied English Literature A Level and are now studying it at University. (A Bristol student taking a course beginning with the code ENGL1 is in his/her first year of study. If you have any concerns about your ability to follow these units, please speak to your

Erasmus Co-ordinator, Dr Mandy Poetzsch, **BEFORE** registering with the English Department.

Can Erasmus students take Post Graduate courses?

- Suitably qualified Erasmus students are welcome to apply to take a maximum of ONE course from the School's MA in Modern Languages. "Suitably qualified" usually means that you are nearing the end of your undergraduate studies in your own country, that you have a particular interest in the MA course you have chosen, and that you have an excellent standard of English.

Please consult your Erasmus Co-ordinator, Dr Mandy Poetzsch in the first instance. Please note that the final decision as to whether you are accepted onto any MA course rests with the course director.

Semester 1

MODLM0022 Institutions of Culture

MODLM0025 Theorising Violence: Colonial Encounters and Anti Colonial Reactions

MODLM2035 Rise of the Novel in European Fiction

MODLM2048 Theories of Visual Culture: Text and Image

Semester 2

MODLM0002 Cultural Encounters

MODLM0015 Global Cultures of the Book

MODLM0023 The Cultural Imagination of Gender

MODLM2034 Tradition and Experimentation in the Twentieth Century European Fiction

For further details and unit descriptions: [Unit Catalogue 2021-22](#).

An independent study unit, equivalent to 20 credits, (30 ECTS) is available for some Post Graduate

When are course timetables made available to students?

All students are provided with a personal timetable. These are normally made available after registration and shortly before the start of teaching. It won't be possible to provide timetables before this time as they are constructed and released by the University's central Timetabling Team and are not made available on individual requests.

Assessments:

The University of Bristol has two main assessment periods:

- January (where assessments are completed for Teaching Block 1 classes)
- May-June (where assessments are completed for Teaching Block 2 classes or full-year courses)

Most timed assessments (for example, on-line or on-campus timed examinations), are normally held in the main assessment periods. Please be aware that some timed assessments are also held within the semester and not exam period. This may include, but is not limited to, in-class tests, individual or group presentations and practical work. Coursework deadlines can also fall across the semester.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you will be available for the assessment period for each course. Each unit has an entry in the [Unit Catalogue 2021-22](#) which includes information on how the class is assessed. **If you are enrolled on a course, please note that you are required to complete all assessments.**

Coursework and other assessment deadlines are usually provided when the semester begins. Students are expected to make a note of these dates and plan work accordingly.

The University does not make alternative arrangements for courses assessed by examination. You will also not be permitted to re-sit any work failed during your time at Bristol. You also cannot defer work to another assessment period.



Bristol Cathedral in the snow by Chloe Le Cann, Erasmus Student



Photograph – “Coloured Houses” Bristol Docks by Julien Boutant,, Erasmus Student.