Master of Research in Modern Languages

French/Francophone | German | Italian | Spanish/Latin American

modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk
About the degree

The Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR) welcomes applications from suitably qualified candidates for its Master of Research in Modern Languages. The degree is offered to students who would like specific training for postgraduate research in modern languages aiming ultimately at a PhD, or who wish to take a challenging master’s degree. The course offers a distinctive and unique choice of translation theory, European and Arabic cultural and intellectual history (taught at the Warburg Institute), and digital humanities in addition to research skills and training.

All of our graduates are awarded a University of London degree (MRes).

The Master of Research is a flexible programme that allows in-depth study under the supervision of experts in the field and provides excellent preparation for students who wish to continue to doctoral study. The dissertation will give you scope to explore an area of interest in depth and to develop advanced critical and analytical research skills. You will receive face-to-face supervision and specialist research training in small groups within a well-established research training programme.

The course is underpinned by exceptional resources in Senate House Library, a diverse range of seminars and conferences, and networks associated with the specialist centres within the Institute: the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women’s Writing, the Centre for the Study of Cultural Memory, the Ingeborg Bachmann Centre for Austrian Literature and Culture, the Centre for Quebec and French-Canadian Studies, and the Ernst Bloch Centre.

The MRes is further supported by the digital resources of the PORT (postgraduate online research training) website, port.sas.ac.uk, part of which is tailored specifically to the needs of students and researchers in modern languages. It includes a variety of resources, ranging from introductory training manuals on conducting research in modern languages to video clips advising on preparation for job interviews.
Why study here?

- Established expertise in the fields of Spanish/Latin American, French/Francophone, Italian and German literary and cultural research, and PhD supervision
- Opportunity for cross- and trans-cultural research
- A vibrant academic community: the Institute hosts a range of events every week, including guest lectures, seminars, and international conferences in the field of modern languages research
- One-to-one tuition and small group teaching
- Collaboration with other institutes in the School of Advanced Study and high-profile neighbouring institutions including SOAS, the British Library, and the Wiener Library
- Access to a highly respected research training programme
- Access to Senate House Library, with its millions of books and journals, digital resources, special collections, beautiful study spaces, and laptop loans; Senate House Library houses the specialised Germanic Studies Library, a treasure trove of books and archival material
- Location in central London, at the heart of Bloomsbury
Structure and assessment

The course comprises two core modules and one optional module to be chosen from four options. Teaching will be provided by staff from IMLR, the School of Advanced Study, the Warburg Institute, and SOAS where relevant.

To earn the MRes, you will be expected to have successfully completed two or three essays (depending on which module you choose), a 25,000-word dissertation, and an assessed presentation at an IMLR research seminar.

Modules

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<th>Core modules</th>
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<td>- Research Skills and Methodologies</td>
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<td>- Dissertation</td>
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<th>Optional modules (one to be chosen, subject to availability)</th>
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<td>- Translation Theory and Digital Humanities Textual Analysis (must be taken together)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Reviving the Past: Introduction to Cultural and Intellectual History</td>
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<td>- Islamic Authorities and Arabic Elements in the Renaissance</td>
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<td>- Introducing Digital Humanities</td>
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Research Skills and Methodologies (20 credits)

You will be provided with specialised training in research projects in modern languages, archive skills training with the Wiener Library, modern languages archives and libraries training (in collaboration with specialist librarians in Senate House library and the British Library), digital resources and use of social media, critical theories and approaches, visual languages, history and history methods, and professional skills and career management.

Translation Theory (15 credits)

This module, taught at SOAS, will provide you with key concepts, issues, and theories of translation; effective application of translation principles and methods; and knowledge of the translation profession.

Digital Humanities Textual Analysis (5 credits)

This mini-module forms part of the module Introducing Digital Humanities and will focus on three areas of textual analysis: metadata, encoding, and analysis.

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Reviving the Past: Introduction to Cultural and Intellectual History (20 credits)
This module, taught at the Warburg Institute, will provide you with foundational knowledge and research skills for the study of the cultural and intellectual history of Europe, from the medieval era to modernity. You will become familiar with specific historical moments and the various aims and means of their retrieval, making use of primary and secondary texts in the Warburg Library and other collections in London and beyond.

Islamic Authorities and Arabic Elements in the Renaissance (20 credits)
Starting from selected Renaissance texts, this module will explore the continuing importance of works in Arabic philosophy, science, and magic translated into Latin in the Middle Ages, and also the beginnings of the study of Arabic itself and the production of new translations. Topics will include the problem of translating from Arabic; attitudes towards Islam; the Arabic contributions to philosophy, mathematics, and medicine; and the ‘Antarabism’ of the humanists. No knowledge of Arabic is required. This module is taught at the Warburg Institute.

Introducing Digital Humanities (20 credits)
This module will allow you to approach your subject area from the perspective of digital humanities and other collaborative, multidisciplinary, and quantitative methods in data acquisition, analysis, dissemination, and teaching. Topics in this module will focus on the application of multiple approaches to the traditional research areas of literature, history, art history, material culture, and the humanities more broadly. Such approaches include the application and extraction of semantic information in text and structured data, geographic and spatial analysis, 3-D imaging and modelling, and visualisation and sonification.

Dissertation (140 credits)
The dissertation will be on a research topic agreed between you and your supervisor and will be supervised with (on average) fortnightly meetings within IMLR, or, where appropriate, with co-supervisors in other institutes in SAS or elsewhere. The dissertation may be written in English or in the language of study: Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, or Italian (subject to the availability of staff). Topics include literature, film, cultural memory, women’s writing, postcolonial studies, exile studies, migrant studies, cultural history, history of ideas, and translation studies. Areas of study include Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean, and North Africa. Our supervisors include Professor Catherine Davies, Dr Joseph Ford, Professor Andrew Hussey, Dr Katia Pizzi, and Dr Godela Weiss-Sussex.

The dissertation is the research component of the Master of Research programme. It consists of a significant research project in which you will undertake an in-depth investigative study in the modern languages disciplinary field, which may include aspects of translation, translation theory, or digital humanities. The MRes provides an excellent platform for those wishing to go on to PhD study.

Full-time students take the taught modules in terms 1 and 2 and meet their supervisor in preparation for the dissertation throughout the year. Students write up their dissertation in the summer. Part-time students take the taught modules in terms 1 and 2 of the first year, and prepare and write up their dissertation in the second year.
The University of London experience

As part of the School of Advanced Study (SAS), University of London, IMLR students benefit from a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment, as well as a range of funding opportunities. SAS is a national research hub and IMLR enjoys close links with its other members, including the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Institute of Latin American Studies, the Institute of Historical Research, and the Warburg Institute. Cross-institute collaboration is actively encouraged, making us an ideal location for interdisciplinary research.

IMLR students join a community of more than 300 students in SAS. They are encouraged to participate in the wider activities of the University and are able to use the libraries of other colleges in addition to Senate House Library.

The Institute is located in Senate House, an iconic, Grade II-listed Art Deco building in the heart of Bloomsbury. Our central London location ensures that you will be able to enjoy everything the city has to offer, from the world-class resources of the British Museum (adjacent to Senate House) and British Library (within short walking distance) to shops, restaurants, parks, clubs, and theatres. London is regularly named the best university city in the world for its welcoming attitude, diversity, and vibrant student-friendly culture.

Full-time students, and part-time students with disabilities, may apply for accommodation in one of the University of London’s award-winning intercollegiate halls of residence. Our Registry office will send you housing information after you have been offered a place. To learn more about accommodation options, please visit halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation.
Entry requirements

The normal minimum entrance requirement is a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree from a university in the UK or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. We will consider applications from candidates who do not meet the formal academic requirements but who offer alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

English is the language of instruction and applicants are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency. Near-native or degree-level competence in the language of study (Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, or Italian) is required.

For more information on entry requirements, please visit sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/entry-requirements.

How to apply

Applications should be made online via the SAS website. For full details of the application process, please visit sas.ac.uk/study/modernlanguages.

Course summary

Degree structure
The degree can be taken full time over one year or part time over two years, with entry in October only. The degree comprises two core modules, one optional module, and the dissertation.

Fees 2018–19 (subject to annual uplift)
Home and EU students: full time, £6,430 | part time, £3,545 per annum
Overseas students: full-time, £14,900

Funding
The School of Advanced Study offers a number of funding options, including bursaries, scholarships, grants, and awards. For details, please visit sas.ac.uk/funding.

Learn more

Institute of Modern Languages Research: modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/mres
School of Advanced Study: sas.ac.uk/study
The **Institute of Modern Languages Research** (IMLR) was established in 2004 by the merger of the Institutes of Germanic Studies and Romance Studies, founded in 1950 and 1989 respectively. It is committed to promoting dialogue and research in modern languages for the academic and wider community across a range of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields in the humanities. IMLR publishes the much-respected *Journal of Romance Studies* and ‘imlr books’ series as well as other important publications.

The **School of Advanced Study** is the UK’s national centre for the support and promotion of research in the humanities. Located at the heart of the University of London in Bloomsbury, the School provides an unrivalled scholarly community in which to pursue postgraduate study and research. Students learn from leading specialists in their fields, hone their research skills in highly regarded training programmes, expand their knowledge through an extensive calendar of events, and become part of a worldwide network of humanities scholars. Funding opportunities include AHRC-sponsored London Arts and Humanities Partnership studentships, SAS studentships, and a number of subject-specific bursaries and awards.

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Please note that tuition fees are subject to annual uplift. The University of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice.

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Please contact sas.info@sas.ac.uk.