

Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies. Course Catalogue for Exchange Students.

Academic Year 2026-27

**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:

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

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.

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.

2. Language Elective Courses:

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

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

Course	Semester 1 Code	Semester 2 Code
French Beginners Elective	C47FF	C47FR
Spanish Beginners Elective	C47SX	C47SY
British Sign Language B.E.	C47BX	C47BY

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

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

- **Intermediate (Year 1)** courses in French and Spanish

Course	Semester 1 Code	Semester 2 Code
French Intermediate (Y1)	C47LF	C47MF
Spanish Intermediate (Y1)	C47LE	C47ME

- **Advanced (Year 2)** courses in Chinese, French, German and Spanish.

Course	Semester 1 Code	Semester 2 Code
Chinese Advanced (Y2)	C48LC	C48MC
French Advanced (Y2)	C48LF	C48MF
German Advanced (Y2)	C48LG	C48MG
Spanish Advanced (Y2)	C48LE	C48ME

3. Content-Based Courses:

The following courses are also offered by the Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies:

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

The course covers major issues in international politics, including international conflict and security, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, European integration and the BRICS alternative. Year 4 (2h lecture and 1h seminar a week). 100% Coursework.

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. Year 4 (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. Year 2. 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. Year 1 (100% coursework).

Translation Technologies for Professional Translators (C40VA) (Semester 2 only)

Students will learn about resources used by professional translators (online resources, corpora, translation portals). They'll also explore CAT (computer-assisted translation) tools and will acquire a basic Trados skillset. Assessment consists of 100% coursework.

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 to provide 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.

4. **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. You are not obliged to take this course if you have already chosen other four courses. Please **contact individual lecturers** for more detailed information on the different options.

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	<u>Year 2:</u> Introductory course to interpreting open to students who have started or will be starting this in their home universities. <u>Year 4:</u> This course is for students who have studied Conference Interpreting previously.
Business Seminar	Year 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 any of the above groups

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 when 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.