



INSTITUTE OF  
MODERN  
LANGUAGES  
RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Master of Research in Modern Languages

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

One year full-time / two years part-time

[modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk](http://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk)

# About the degree

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 end-stopped Master's. The core course offers a distinctive element of translation theory in addition to research skills and training.

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 a student wishing to continue to doctoral study. The dissertation gives the student scope to explore an area of interest in depth and to develop advanced critical and analytical research skills. Students receive face-to-face supervision and specialist research training in small groups within a well-established research training programme. Dissertation supervision is also available in the field of Francophone/North African studies via the Centre of Postcolonial Studies.

The course is underpinned by exceptional resources in the 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](http://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 via language-specific materials to video clips advising on the preparation for the viva or for job interviews.

Upon graduating, students will receive a degree awarded by the University of London.



# Course structure

The course comprises two compulsory core modules (2 x 20 credits) and a 25,000-word dissertation (140 credits).

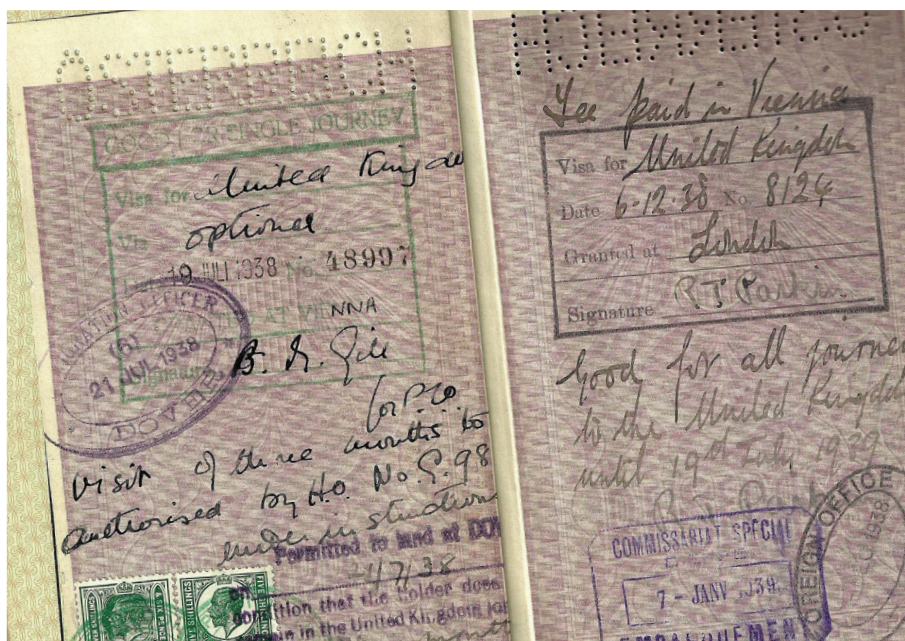
Teaching will be provided by SOAS staff (core course 0.5, term 1) and IMLR staff (core course 0.5, terms 1 and 2; dissertation).

The research component of the programme is a dissertation written on a research topic agreed and supported by fortnightly meetings between student and supervisor. The dissertation may be written in English or in the language of study: French, German, Italian or Spanish. 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, Caribbean and North Africa.

IMLR supervisors: Professor Catherine Davies, Dr Dominic Glynn, Professor Andrew Hussey, Dr Katia Pizzi, and Dr Godela Weiss-Sussex.

## Core modules

- Translation Theory (20 credits) in the first term
- Research Skills and Methodologies (20 credits) in the first and second terms
- Dissertation (25,000 words = 140 credits)





## Translation Theory

This module provides students with key concepts, issues and theories of translation; effective application of translation principles and methods; and knowledge of the translation profession. It consists of 11 weeks with 3 hours per week of classroom contact.

## Research Skills and Methodologies

Students 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. The module consists of eight one-day workshops. It also offers students participation in the IMLR graduate forum, PORT (postgraduate research training online) and IMLR work-in-progress seminars.

The **dissertation** will be on a research topic agreed between student and supervisor and will be supervised with (on average) fortnightly meetings entirely within IMLR or, where appropriate, with co-supervisors in other institutes in SAS or elsewhere. The dissertation is the research component of the Master of Research. It consists of a significant research project in which the student is expected to undertake an in-depth investigative study in the modern languages disciplinary field, which may include aspects of translation and translation theory. The dissertation will be assessed by an internal and external examiner. The assessors will consider: overall structure, organisation and presentation of the contents; the relevance and understanding of the theory and methodologies used; the ability to develop an argument and to integrate theory with close critical reading; and the ability to provide a critical evaluation of secondary sources and to give evidence of original ideas or approaches. The dissertation may be written in the language of study – French, German, Spanish or Italian (subject to the availability of staff).

Full-time students take the core courses in terms 1 and 2 and meet their supervisor in preparation for the dissertation throughout the year. By the beginning of term 2, a proposal for the dissertation project (including a title) must be submitted to the supervisor. Most of the supervision for the preparation of the dissertation will take place in term 2. The students write up their dissertation in the summer.

Part-time students take the core courses in terms 1 and 2 of the first year, and prepare and write up their dissertation in year 2.

# How you study

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This degree can be taken full-time over one year or part-time over 24 months.

## Entry requirements

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- A second-class honours degree from a recognised university
- Native or near-native competence in English and the language of study

## Assessment

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The student will be expected to have successfully completed two/three essays, a 25,000-word dissertation and an assessed presentation at an IMLR research seminar.

## Course summary

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### Degree structure

The degree comprises two compulsory modules and a dissertation.

### Mode of study

Full-time over 12 months | part-time over 24 months

### Fees 2017–18 (subject to annual uplift; please see website for up-to-date fees)

Home and EU students: full-time, £6,240 | part-time, £3,440 per annum

Overseas students: full-time, £14,465

Studentships and bursaries may be available to fund your studies. Please visit [www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/research-funding](http://www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/research-funding) for further details.

[www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study](http://www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study)





## Why study here?

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- 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.
- Join a vibrant academic community. The Institute hosts a large 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 the Centre for Postcolonial Studies, and with 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.

## Learn more

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For details of entry requirements, tuition fees, funding opportunities, English language requirements, disability support, accommodation and how to apply, please consult the School graduate study webpages. Detailed course descriptions and information about assessment are available on the Institute's graduate study webpages.

School graduate study webpages:

**[www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study](http://www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study)**

Institute graduate study webpages:

**[www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study](http://www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study)**

Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of its production in December 2016, but the School of Advanced Study, University of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice as required.

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.

For all queries please contact:

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