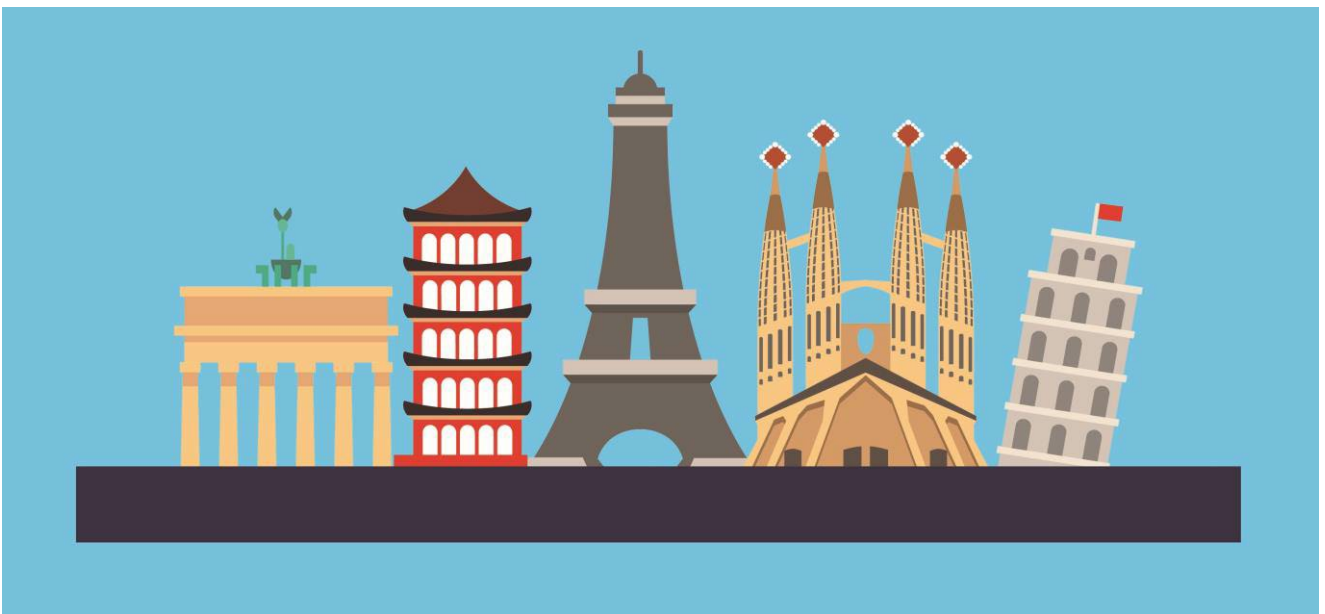


UNIVERSITY WIDE LANGUAGE PROGRAMME (UWLP)

School of Modern Languages



STUDENT HANDBOOK
2023-2024



Hello and welcome to the School of Modern Languages!

The University Wide Language Programme (UWLP) offers all Newcastle University Undergraduate and Postgraduate students the opportunity to learn a foreign language for free. All modules offered are worth 10 credits per semester. Students can take these modules for 'extra credits' (aka 'supernumerary credits'). This means that the module you study will be of the same standard as any Newcastle University module but will **not count** towards your degree results. The credits you obtain by successfully passing the module will simply be acknowledged on your transcript.

The UWLP offers a range of 10-credit modules in Arabic, British Sign Language, Dutch, Catalan, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Spanish for Business. If you are not an absolute beginner, you should consult the table on page 3 to find the class most appropriate for your level.

UWLP modules consist of **two weekly contact hours** running **between the hours of 5 and 7pm weekdays as well as in the afternoon on Wednesdays**. In some cases, classes may also be offered on a Friday afternoon where more than one group is offered for a language. This is supplemented with optional learning support in the Language Resource Centre (LRC).

This handbook is designed to answer most of the questions you may have about the programme. Please study it carefully and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further queries. We are here to help!

We look forward to working with you and hope you enjoy studying languages with us!

Isabelle Ruegg Alter, UWLP Director & Michael Bonney, UWLP Support Officer
Email: uwlp@ncl.ac.uk

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1. WHAT MODULES CAN I TAKE?

SEMESTER 1

| Beginners | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| LPA1001 | Arabic Beginners Part 1 | Absolute beginners You can only take these modules if you have NEVER studied those languages at all before, whether at school or by yourself. |
| LPB1001 | Catalan Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPC1001 | Chinese Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPD1001 | Dutch Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPF1001 | French Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPG1001 | German Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPI1001 | Italian Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPJ1001 | Japanese Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPK1001 | Korean Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPL1001 | British Sign Language Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPP1001 | Portuguese Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPR1001 | Russian Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPS1001 | Spanish Beginners Part 1 | |
| LPS1011 | Spanish for Business Beginners Part 1 | |
| Elementary | | |
| LPA1101 | Arabic Elementary Part 1 | Roughly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level A1 on the CEFR - Pass/completion of relevant LP_1003 module, or - A poor or rusty GCSE, or - Some notions in the language |
| LPC1101 | Chinese Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPD1101 | Dutch Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPF1101 | French Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPG1101 | German Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPI1101 | Italian Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPJ1101 | Japanese Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPK1101 | Korean Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPR1101 | Russian Elementary Part 1 | |
| LPS1101 | Spanish Elementary Part 1 | |
| Lower intermediate | | |
| LPF1201 | French Lower Intermediate Part 1 | Roughly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level A2 on the CEFR - Pass-completion of relevant LP_1103 module, or - A good GCSE, or similar |
| LPG1201 | German Lower Intermediate Part 1 | |
| LPI1201 | Italian Lower Intermediate Part 1 | |
| LPJ1201 | Japanese Lower Intermediate Part 1 | |
| LPS1201 | Spanish Lower Intermediate Part 1 | |
| Upper intermediate | | |
| LPF1301 | French Upper Intermediate Part 1 | Roughly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level A2/B1 on the CEFR - Pass/completion of relevant LP_1203 module, or - An AS or poor/rusty A-Level or similar |
| LPG1301 | German Upper Intermediate Part 1 | |
| LPS1301 | Spanish Upper Intermediate Part 1 | |
| | | |
| Advanced | | |
| LPF1401 | French Advanced Part 1 | Roughly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level B1/B2 on the CEFR - Pass/completion of relevant LP_1303 module, or - A good A-Level or similar |
| LPG1401 | German Advanced Part 1 | |
| LPS1401 | Spanish Advanced Part 1 | |
| | | |

SEMESTER 2

| Beginners | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| LPA1003 | Arabic Beginners Part 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pass/completion of LP_1001 - An A1 on the CEFR - But below Elementary level <p>These modules are not suitable for complete beginners.</p> <p>These modules continue from LP_1001.</p> |
| LPB1003 | Catalan Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPC1003 | Chinese Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPD1003 | Dutch Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPF1003 | French Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPG1003 | German Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPI1003 | Italian Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPJ1003 | Japanese Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPK1003 | Korean Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPL1003 | British Sign Language Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPP1003 | Portuguese Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPR1003 | Russian Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPS1003 | Spanish Beginners Part 2 | |
| LPS1013 | Spanish for Business Beginners Part 2 | |
| Elementary | | |
| LPA1103 | Arabic Elementary Part 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pass/completion of LP_1101 - An A1.2 on the CEFR - But below Lower Intermediate level <p>These modules continue from LP_1101.</p> |
| LPC1103 | Chinese Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPD1103 | Dutch Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPF1103 | French Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPG1103 | German Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPI1103 | Italian Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPJ1103 | Japanese Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPK1103 | Korean Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPR1103 | Russian Elementary Part 2 | |
| LPS1103 | Spanish Elementary Part 2 | |
| Lower intermediate | | |
| LPF1203 | French Lower Intermediate Part 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pass/completion of LP_1201 - An A2.2 on the CEFR - But below Upper Intermediate level <p>These modules continue from LP_1201.</p> |
| LPG1203 | German Lower Intermediate Part 2 | |
| LPI1203 | Italian Lower Intermediate Part 2 | |
| LPJ1203 | Japanese Lower Intermediate Part 2 | |
| LPS1203 | Spanish Lower Intermediate Part 2 | |
| | | |
| Upper intermediate | | |
| LPF1303 | French Upper Intermediate Part 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pass/completion of LP_1301 - A B1 on the CEFR <p>These modules continue from LP_1301.</p> |
| LPG1303 | German Upper Intermediate Part 2 | |
| LPS1303 | Spanish Upper Intermediate Part 2 | |
| | | |
| Advanced | | |
| LPF1403 | French Advanced Part 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level B2 on the CEFR - Pass/completion LP_1401, or - A good A-Level (Grades A and B). <p>These modules continue from LP_1401.</p> |
| LPG1403 | German Advanced Part 2 | |
| LPS1403 | Spanish Advanced Part 2 | |
| | | |

2. WHAT IS MY LEVEL?

UWLP modules loosely follow the structure of **The Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR)**.

The CEFR is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe, and, increasingly, in other countries.

The CEFR divides learners into three broad divisions that can be further divided into six levels: for each level, it describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking, and writing. These levels are:

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| Proficient User | C2 Mastery | Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations. |
| | C1 Effective Operational Efficiency | Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices. |
| Independent User | B2 Vantage | Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options. |
| | B1 Threshold | Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar, or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. |
| Basic User | A2 Waystage | Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need. |
| | A1 Breakthrough | Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help. |

For an assessment test (for Spanish, French and German), check: www.languagelevel.com

Relation between the CEFR and UWLP modules

Once you have identified your level on the CEFR, please refer to the grid on the next page to see the equivalent level on the University-Wide Language Programme.

| CEFR Level | UWLP Equivalence |
|------------|--------------------|
| C1 | |
| B1-B2 | Advanced |
| A2-B1 | Upper Intermediate |
| A2 | Lower Intermediate |
| A1 | Elementary |
| A0 | Beginners |

3. HOW DO I REGISTER?

First of all, please read this...

Learning a new language can be great fun but also **requires time, patience, and a lot of effort**. Many students often **misjudge the amount of study time they will need to dedicate to their language modules** and eventually decide to drop out. Unfortunately, this means that **many places on the programme are wasted as a result**. Whilst we would love to have you on the programme, it is important for us to be honest and ask you to **please consider first whether you can afford the time and commitment**. Doing this now will avoid disappointment later. **Thank you!**

Then, think about the following:

- What language would you like to study?
- Which level would suit you best? (See Section 2 for details.)
- What steps are you prepared to take so you can dedicate 2 hours per week (plus personal study time of about 4-5 hours per week) to the study of a foreign language in addition to your degree?
- What are the regulations in your own School regarding supernumerary modules? (**Please consult your Degree Programme Director** to ensure you are allowed to take a UWLP module **before** you apply).
- Will you be available between 5pm and 7pm or on Wednesday/Friday afternoons to attend the classes?

Expression of interest

Should you decide to go ahead, please register your interest by filling out the appropriate application form located on the website linked below. Registration will be open from the start of May.

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/study-with-us/university-wide-language-programme/>

You will need to provide:

- Your name, student number, degree title and stage
- The language module you would like to take – your preferred language and a second choice in case of a high number of applications to that course (please study the list of modules offered before you fill in the form).

What happens next?

May-August

The application form will be available on the UWLP website from the start of May. Your place in the class will be confirmed, subject to numbers, from July. Places within UWLP are given on a first-come, first-served basis (with places held for Stage 1 UG, PG and INTO students who do not have the same opportunity to apply as returning students). If you have been unsuccessful in your application for your first-choice class, you will be placed on a waiting list.

September

Once we have registered you on a module, you will also have access to its Canvas module which will include useful contact information as well as teaching materials and details about classroom activities and homework. If you are no longer interested in studying on the UWLP, **you will need to withdraw your application to avoid receiving a fail on your transcript**. This will allow us to offer your place to a student on the waiting list.

4. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The following module outlines will give you a general idea of the aims, objectives, and contents of the modules, although there may be slight variations between the languages taught.

Language-specific information will be provided by teachers at the beginning of each module.

Each level is split into two 10-credit modules (one in each semester) which together form one unit.

BEGINNERS

Aims of the module:

The aim of the Beginners modules is to provide you with:

- The ability to survive in the most typical situations met by visitors when travelling abroad for a few days.
- An awareness of the nature of language and language learning.
- An interest in the countries where the foreign language is spoken and their people.

Objective:

By the end of these modules, you should be able to carry out the following tasks:

Speaking:

1. Introducing yourself: spelling your name, saying where you come from, what your occupation is, etc (and understanding other people when they do the same)
2. Locating things, asking for and understanding instructions e.g. finding the nearest bank, post office, etc.
3. Shopping: counting, but also finding out what is available, saying what you like or dislike, etc.
4. Describing your daily routine: including days and times, favourite hobbies, etc.
5. Describing other people: talking about family and friends, describing people physically, etc.
6. Describing objects used in everyday life
7. Expressing simple feelings
8. Making requests: ordering food in a restaurant, asking for assistance, booking a room, buying tickets, etc.
9. Referring to past and future events: talking about your last or next weekend, etc.

Listening:

You should be able to understand native speakers in situations similar to those listed above, provided they speak fairly slowly, addressing you directly and with a reasonably clear accent. You will also understand carefully selected off-air materials related to similar topics.

Writing:

You should be able to write simple compositions such as short notes, email messages, order forms, etc. based on the topics and situations listed above.

Reading:

You should be able to understand relevant information from tourist leaflets, common public notices, menus, timetables, instructions for use, etc.

Assessment:

Please refer to the assessment information in this booklet (Section 6).

ELEMENTARY

Aims of the modules:

You should now be familiar with the very basic structures of the language and survival vocabulary (numbers, days of the week, etc.). However, you may still feel a little insecure and will only be able to form very simple sentences. The aims of the course are to consolidate what you already know through systematic revision and to provide you with the following:

- Basic communication skills for coping with simple, though not completely stereotypical situations in everyday life in the foreign country
- More confidence than would be expected from simple beginners
- A basic awareness of your own language learning strategies
- A personal interest in the countries where the foreign language is spoken and their people
- A level of language proficiency roughly comparable to GCSE

Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should be able to carry out the following tasks:

Speaking:

1. Talking about yourself (age, address, and further details)
2. Asking for/giving directions: finding your way in a city, enquiring about transport, etc.
3. Shops and services: comparing products and services, assessing quality, price, etc.
4. Socialising: making appointments, making/accepting/declining invitations
5. Talking about other people: family relationships, personal qualities, etc.
6. Expressing opinions: agreement and disagreement (total/partial, formal/informal)
7. Making requests: formally and informally
8. Referring to past and future events (including plans, intentions, and conditions)
9. Talking on the phone in simple, typical situations of everyday life

Listening:

You should be able to understand native speakers in situations similar to those listed above, provided that they speak fairly slowly, addressing you directly and with a reasonably clear accent. You will also become

familiar with the most common phrases in telephone conversations and be able to achieve a basic level of comprehension when listening to simple off-air material.

Writing:

You should be able to write simple compositions based on topics and situations in the list above such as short notes, informal letters to friends, and simple formal letters asking for information.

Reading:

You will be able to understand relevant information from short newspaper reports, brochures, letters, basic regulations, publicity materials, etc.

Assessment:

Please refer to the assessment information in this booklet (Section 6).

LOWER INTERMEDIATE

Aims of the modules:

This is the course that you should take if you studied the language to GCSE standard (Grade B and above preferred). However, this may have been a few years ago and a common remark is “I have forgotten everything”. Teachers are aware of this and include the oral revision of the basics as the necessary first step towards greater confidence. The aim of this course is to provide you with:

- The skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking, reinforced and expanded beyond the stereotypical, predictable situations that are presented at lower levels though regular exposure to authentic materials (i.e. produced for native speakers)
- An awareness of linguistic accuracy and the ability to monitor your language output accordingly.
- An ability to deal with situations that you are likely to encounter when working or studying abroad
- The ability to apply the language you know to your personal experience

Objectives:

At the end of the course, you should have learnt to cope with predictable situations using more complex forms and registers to be able to manipulate language to some extent. For example:

Speaking:

1. Giving and seeking information
2. Coping with common social interactions
3. Carrying out transactions that involve a moderate amount of negotiation
4. Expressing an opinion and finding out what others think
5. Stating asking about feelings, emotions, and intentions

Listening:

You should be able to understand native speakers in situations similar to those listed above as well as simple reports and interviews from the media.

Writing:

You should be able to deal with common everyday transactions, writing a short CV, a simple covering letter, requesting and providing basic information or expressing your views in written form.

Reading:

You should be able to read relevant authentic material, understand simple written instructions in a user manual, simple newspaper articles and other material from the press or the internet.

Assessment:

Please refer to the assessment information in this booklet (Section 6).

UPPER INTERMEDIATE

Aims of the course:

By the end of the course, you will:

1. Begin to communicate fluently and accurately in the foreign language, in both spoken and written form
2. Be prepared for the kind of situations which you are likely to encounter when working or studying abroad
3. Be able to express your opinion on cultural, social, and political issues

Objectives:

- To develop further the skill of speaking so that by the end of the course you will feel confident about communicating with native speakers. This will go beyond dealing with everyday situations – you are expected to express your views on more complex topics (e.g. related to your subject area, current affairs, etc.)
- To reinforce your listening skills by regularly listening to (mostly) authentic broadcasts from the radio and television (this could include interviews, reports, or film extracts)
- To reinforce your reading skills through a variety of more complex authentic materials in the foreign language
- To improve your ability to write reports, essays, and letters in the foreign language
- To further your command of the grammar and to introduce and practice more complex structures
- To help expand your vocabulary to areas which go beyond basic ‘everyday use’ of the foreign language
- To develop an ability to work independently and confidently on your own or in a group, either within or outside the classroom

Assessment:

Please refer to the assessment information in this booklet (Section 6).

ADVANCED

Aims of the modules:

These modules will provide you with:

- An ability to communicate in the foreign language with greater fluency, accuracy, and confidence
- More insight into current issues relating to the country/ies and culture(s) where the foreign language is spoken
- An ability to locate information from different sources (e.g. internet) in order to contribute your own materials and ideas to the course

Objectives:

- To develop and refine your speaking skills so that by the end of the course you will feel confident about contributing to discussions and debates as well as giving presentations in the foreign language
- To improve your listening skills through different types of authentic broadcasts in the foreign language (e.g. from radio and television programmes) as well as exposure to different regional accents. Other skills that you may need if you are planning to study abroad (e.g. note-taking) will also be covered

- To improve your reading skills through a variety of authentic reading materials. These will include longer texts from newspapers, magazines, and the internet. You will also be asked to bring your own texts for discussions in class
- To develop your writing skills (e.g. reports, essays, summaries, and non-literary translations) through a variety of writing tasks and regular feedback on your progress
- To develop an awareness of formal and informal language
- To revise problem areas within the grammar of the foreign language and to introduce and discuss grammatical issues appropriate for an Advanced level course
- To expand your knowledge of general as well as more specific vocabulary (this may be related to social, cultural, and political matters or to your own subject area)
- To develop an ability to work independently and confidently on your own or in a group, either within or outside the classroom

Assessment:

Please refer to the assessment information in this booklet (Section 6).

5. HOW ARE THE MODULES STRUCTURED?

All 10-credit modules are structured as follows:

- **A two-hour weekly seminar** taught by a language teacher. Teaching in the seminars will focus on communication skills, and language points will be introduced and practiced through speaking, reading, listening, and writing as well as grammar exercises
- Access to online independent language learning resources (aimed at supporting your learning) via Canvas and in the LRC

Semester 1 teaching runs from the week of 2nd October 2023 to the week of 11th December 2023.

Semester 2 teaching runs from the week of 29th January 2024 to the week of 6th May 2024 (with a break during the Easter period, i.e., between 25th March and 22nd April 2024).

6. WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM ME?

Attendance

The secret to successful language learning is assiduity and perseverance. Therefore, **we expect you to attend ALL classes**. Attendance will be monitored just as in any credit-bearing module, and we will write to you in the case of repeated unjustified absences. If you cannot attend a class, try to tell your teacher in advance. If you must miss several classes, make sure you let us know. Equally, if you are experiencing difficulties in attending the classes (for example if you are too busy, have problems of a personal nature or simply struggle to stay motivated), then do not hesitate to have a word with us. If we can, we will find a way to accommodate your particular circumstances. However, if we do not hear from you for several weeks in a row, we reserve the right to offer your place to another student.

What to do if you miss a class?

For absences, simply email your teacher with CC to uwlp@ncl.ac.uk to let us know.

Independent study

Learning a language requires a lot of practice. As part of your coursework requirements, you will be expected to **work independently** in addition to your weekly classes (roughly 5 hours per week). Your teacher will give you regular homework to reinforce what is covered during the class. You should also get into the habit of going through your notes after each class and working on those areas where you feel weakest.

You will also be expected to make regular use of the Language Resource Centre (LRC) - see more information about this in Section 6.

Assessment and Deadlines

Assessments will consist of **two tasks**, each combining two skills: speaking/listening and writing/reading. Each assessment is worth 50% of the total mark.

| Type of assessment | Weighting | When set |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| Speaking/listening | 50% | Determined by the teacher (During or at the end of semester) |
| Writing/reading | 50% | Determined by the teacher (During or at the end of semester) |

Please be aware that **in order to pass the module, you must take both assessments**. If you do not take both, **your transcript will show a fail** for your UWLP module.

Preparing for your assessments should not be too time-consuming, but if for some reason you struggle to complete them, please do contact your teacher as there may be ways to accommodate you so that you do not get a fail for your module.

Speaking/listening assessment

For lower levels, these will generally take the form of a role-play, or a discussion where you will have a short conversation based on situations that you have practiced in the module, a text, or a given topic depending on your module level (please refer to each module's assessment information on Canvas for specific details). This assessment will normally last a few minutes and you may be given some time to prepare it. From lower intermediate and above, you may be required to give a short presentation followed by some questions.

Writing/reading assessment

This assessment usually involves composing a letter, an email, or (in higher levels) a short summary or essay in which you will be asked to include specific information from a document in the target language. You may be expected to show as well whether you have understood the grammar points covered as part of the module. These tasks might differ slightly in East Asian languages as they are taught differently from European languages - your teacher will be able to provide you with more details on this part of the assessment.

7. HOW CAN THE SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES HELP ME?

The Language Resource Centre (LRC)



Dedicated to independent language learning, the [Language Resource Centre](#) offers a wide range of language learning opportunities in over 100 languages.

NU members have full access to interactive language software, audio-visual materials and live online media streaming, events promoting cross-cultural communication as well as free one-to-one support sessions, conversation groups, tandem and peer-assisted learning opportunities.

Students can register for free language conversation groups and one-to-one sessions each semester at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Conversation groups are led by Newcastle University students, who are also native language or near-fluent speakers.

This free facility and resource allows language students to further their skills and confidence.

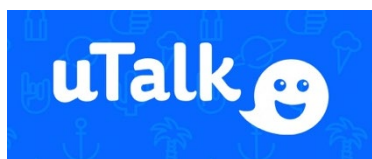
World TV & Film

IPTV (<https://iptv.ncl.ac.uk/>) is the World TV & Film video streaming service available online to Newcastle University students and staff members. With over 8000 titles available to watch in a wide range of languages and subjects, students have free access to audio-visual resources to further their foreign language skills and interest.

The LRC also has a wide range of language learning materials at all levels. Language learning materials include grammar and vocabulary books, software, CDs & DVDs. The LRC's biggest resource is the active membership with over 50+ languages registered each year. The LRC provides access to a range of opportunities for language practice and exchange with NU members (via the e-Tandem partnership initiative) and elsewhere.

Accredited with the Customer Service Excellence award (CSE) every year since 2010, the LRC proudly delivers an outstanding quality of customer service to Newcastle University students, staff and to the wider public.

[Become a member of the Language Resource Centre here.](#)



uTalk

uTalk is a provider of **interactive language learning resources**. In a unique partnership with Newcastle University and the LRC, uTalk is **offering its language learning packages to NU students for free**.

You can access the uTalk app FOR FREE via the Newcastle University app:

- Go to: "Useful apps" (from the main menu)
- Download uTalk
- In the app, choose "Login" and "Student Login"
- Choose "Newcastle University"
- Login with your usual student ID and password

There are dozens of languages to choose from. Please note that you must have already registered for access to the Language Resource Centre in order to access uTalk.

Find out more about uTalk here: <https://utalk.com/en/app>

Tandem Learning

If you are interested in practising your conversation skills in a particular language, you can be paired with a native speaker who may want to improve their English (or a language you know well). This is called 'Tandem Learning'. You both help each other, and it is fun too! Unfortunately, it is not always possible to find a partner for everybody. Partners will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Language Resource Centre regularly provides opportunities to be paired with students from partner institutions in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Portugal, and Spain. For further information, please [contact the LRC](#).

Teaching Quality

Teachers and language advisors themselves monitor the quality of their teaching by mutual class observation and regular meetings. You will also have the opportunity to complete a feedback questionnaire at the end of each module you take, and your views and suggestions will be taken into account for future improvements to the module and its syllabus.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

How to contact us

Your language teacher is the first person you should consult to discuss any difficulties you may have with regard to your language classes. Individual contact details and consultation hours will be published on Canvas (in each module) under 'staff information'.

Should you need to contact a member of the team, you can either contact us by email uwlp@ncl.ac.uk, or come and visit us during our consultation hours. We will endeavour to reply to all emails within a maximum period of 3 working days; however, this may be longer during registration.

Recommended materials

Your teacher will let you know in case you need to purchase a particular coursebook. All the references can be purchased from *Blackwell's* located near the campus.

9. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Am I eligible to take a UWLP module?

The UWLP is open to all Newcastle University Undergraduate and Postgraduate students. All students should seek **the approval of their DPDs and/or supervisors** before applying. PhD/PGR students are also welcome to apply, but priority will be given to UG and PGT students.

Do I have to pay anything?

No. The modules are funded by the University. All that we ask is that you show your commitment by purchasing the recommended coursebook and attending the module regularly.

Please note: because our funding depends entirely on the number of students we enrol, we will be unable to remove you from the programme after the first two weeks, even if you decide to drop out at a later stage. This is important as your transcript will show a failed mark next to the UWLP module you are enrolled on if you decide to drop out or not to complete the assessment.

Do I have to fulfil certain criteria to be eligible?

No, only that you are a Newcastle University student. Some academic units may impose certain restrictions on eligibility, so it is important that you check with your own school or department that you are eligible before applying to us.

Will the UWLP modules count towards my degree?

Any credits that you gain with the UWLP will appear on your transcript. However, these credits will not count towards your degree calculation.

Do I need permission from my School or my DPD before I register?

Yes. University regulations stipulate that 'students wishing to take Extra Credit modules must first seek approval from their degree programme director or PGR director'. Therefore, we ask that you consult your DPD before you apply.

How do I apply?

The process is described in Section 2 of this handbook. Once you have thought about it, fill in the form on www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/study-with-us/university-wide-language-programme/ and we will add you to our lists. We'll confirm whether you have been allocated a place once we have finalised the lists at the start of the academic year.

I don't really know my level. How do I know which module to apply for?

If the information provided in the student handbook is insufficient and you are hoping to study French, German or Spanish, we recommend that you test your language level for free here: www.languagelevel.com. If you are still unsure about your level or are planning to study a different language than these three, then you can also ask to speak to a member of staff (e-mail uwlp@ncl.ac.uk or mention this on the application form).

When does teaching start?

Teaching begins in the second teaching week of the first semester, and in the first teaching week of the second semester. For specific dates, please refer to the student handbook (end of Section 5).

Some of my lectures finish at 6pm and I might miss some sessions. Can I still apply?

We would prefer it if you could attend all the hours as language learning takes a lot of effort and it is very easy to fall behind. However, in some cases, we recognise that we need to be flexible as we can in order for you to study with us. If you are likely to miss some contact hours on a regular basis, please get in touch with us so we can see how we can accommodate you.

Why are UWLP classes taking place between 5pm and 7pm, and not during the day?

This is the most convenient time for students with busy timetables. We realise that evening classes are not ideal in terms of concentration, but this is currently the best solution for most students across the university. We also teach classes on Wednesday afternoon when there is traditionally no degree class teaching. Some languages are also offered on Friday afternoon, but this only applies to modules with more than one group.

How many weekly classes will I need to attend?

You will have a two-hour class with a teacher as well as optional support surgeries with a language advisor in the Language Resource Centre (LRC) in case you need help with a language point or some general study advice. The timetable for these optional surgeries is usually published in mid-October.

How are the modules assessed?

Please refer to the assessment information in Section 5 of this handbook.

What happens if I'm unable to take the module's assessment?

You can only gain credits for UWLP modules if you have passed them. Since UWLP module marks do not count towards your degree, failing a language module will not affect your degree average; however, it will appear on your transcript. If you have failed a module and would like to resit it, you will have the opportunity to do so in the same way as any other Newcastle University module.

I have another query which hasn't been addressed anywhere else...

No problem! Just email us at uwlp@ncl.ac.uk and we will get back to you ASAP (please note that we get very busy during term times so we might not be able to reply straight away!).