Get to know Languages, Literatures and Cultures

The world can seem like a big place, but through LLCU you get a glimpse into its diverse parts. The Department is a vibrant unit covering Arabic, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Inuktitut, Italian, Japanese, Mohawk, Portuguese and Spanish languages and cultures. We also offer a popular program in Linguistics.

Studying Languages or Linguistics has many advantages for personal growth and future careers. Learning another language can give you the ability to step inside the mind of a culture and express yourself in a new way – opening many career possibilities in our globalized society. Speaking a foreign language opens the door to a study abroad experience, giving you an excellent opportunity for an immersion in the language and culture, and setting you apart from other students. The Department offers many exchange opportunities, including a semester in Shanghai where you take courses in English.

Through learning Languages and Cultures or Linguistics, you develop strong analytical thinking skills, allowing you to analyze possible outcomes and be more flexible and creative. This ability is a valuable complement to any discipline – making LLCU not only a major but a very popular minor to many Queen’s degrees such as History, Art History, Politics and Global Development Studies.

“With 7 minors and 12+ languages, we offer the perfect minor to your degree.”

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC website. Secondary School prerequisites include Six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements. A language placement test is available to determine your appropriate starting level.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major in Linguistics or Hispanic Studies
Medial in German Studies or Hispanic Studies
Minor in German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian Studies, Linguistics, Hispanic Studies, Spanish and Latin American Studies or World Language Studies
Bachelor of Arts (General)
German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian Studies, Linguistics, Hispanic Studies, Spanish and Latin American Studies or World Language Studies

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with our advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year will be a great experience at Queen’s.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Have you ever wondered why certain words mean what they do? ‘Rock’ can mean a type of music or a ‘stone’ and sometimes it’s not so easy to make sense of certain words. This question is at the heart of the Semiotics: Interpreting the World course. In this course, you will explore how words and other signs (facial expression, body language, and visual cues) make meaning. You will learn how people understand, communicate and transmit signs and why they do it the way they do it! Just one example of unique courses in LLCU.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
Languages, Literatures and Cultures | MAJOR MAP

1ST YEAR

Start with Beginning Language courses for: German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian, Hispanic, Spanish and Latin American Studies, or World Language Studies, and an introduction course for Linguistics.

Visit the LLCU main office or the Arts and Science Office and speak with an Academic Advisor for help.

2ND YEAR


Take your core courses.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR

Try and complete as many core courses as you can: German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian, Hispanic, Spanish and Latin American Studies, World Language Studies, or Linguistics.

If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF).

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Complete core and option courses in German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian, Hispanic, Spanish and Latin American Studies, World Language Studies, or Linguistics.

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

Apply to graduate on SOLUS.

Where could I go after graduation?

- Art interpretation
- Aeronautics
- Banking
- Civil service
- Communications
- Curriculum development
- Customs and excise
- Diplomatic service
- Editing
- Foreign service
- Fundraising and event management
- Gallery management
- Hospitality and tourism
- Hotel manager
- Immigration services
- Insurance
- Interpretation
- Journalism
- Law
- Linguistics
- Marketing
- Mediation
- Museum management
- Public relations
- Publishing
- Re-settlement programs and services
- Speech and language therapy
- Teaching
- Translation

*some careers may require additional training

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship

Investigate opportunities related to careers of interest.

Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

Consider joining professional associations like The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario, The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Canadian Linguistic Association.

Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

Complete the International Studies Certificate.

Consider participating in a research conference such as Change and Variation in Canada or the Annual Western Interdisciplinary Student Symposium on Language Research.

Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects.

Volunteering with organizations such as Teachers of English as a Second Language, Kingston and District.

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Go to cultural events such as LLCU Film Nights, Language Clubs, guest lectures and Four Directions programming.

Get your core courses.

Want to immerse yourself in your language of study? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your faculty’s International Office. If exchange isn’t for you, come talk to QUIC about some other options to gain international experience.

Get involved with the Deapartmental Student Council (DSC). Go to cultural events such as LLCU Film Nights, Language Clubs, guest lectures and Four Directions programming.

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Consider applying for the Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICS).

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Languages, Literatures and Cultures

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map

• Got questions about careers and classes?
• Feeling a little lost or overwhelmed by choices?
• Wondering what you are “supposed” to be doing?

Use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of career and academic life. Each map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your accomplishments. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Don’t stress if you haven’t done all of the suggested activities. The map is not a prescription – it’s a tool for finding your own way at Queen's.

Getting what you need to succeed in the workplace

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?
In a recent survey from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives the top 6 skills sought by employers were:
1 People skills
2 Communication skills
3 Problem-solving skills
4 Analytical abilities
5 Leadership skills
6 Industry-specific knowledge

HOW DO I GET THE SKILLS I NEED?
It is important to develop a balanced skill set – many of which you will develop during your studies. To stand out, take advantage of experiential learning through the multitude of clubs and activities in and around Queen’s. Check out the Get Relevant Experience section of this map.

WHAT CAN I LEARN STUDYING LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES AT QUEEN’S?
• Knowledge of a different cultures and an understanding of the importance of perspective
• Oral and written communication - write essays and present information to a group
• Ability to work in groups using another language
• Research – analyze information to draw out relevant facts and ideas
• Resource and time management
• Fluency or near-fluency in a second language
• Translation skills – interpret and translate documents in a foreign language
• Knowledge of the nuances of syntax, grammar and vocabulary of a second language
• Attention to detail – write in a foreign language and translate between languages without errors

WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?
No one will get exactly the same experience as you. Take the time to think about what skills you have developed to be able to best explain them with compelling examples in future applications to employers and further education. For help with this, check out the Career Services skills workshop.