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 and encourages all students to explore international study options. Study abroad scholarships are available to students participating in an exchange and are based on academic excellence.

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.

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). 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. Language placement tests are available to determine your appropriate starting level in the languages offered.

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.
## MAJOR MAP

### 1ST YEAR

- **Get the Courses You Need**
  - Start with beginner language courses for: German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian, Hispanic Studies, Spanish and Latin American Studies, or World Languages, and an introductory course in Linguistics.
  - Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

- **Get Relevant Experience**
  - Join teams or clubs on campus such as Chinese Cultural Club, Queen’s Hill, Japanese Relations at Queen’s, and the Queen’s Native Student Association. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas. Join English Language Support Volunteer Program (QUIC).
  - Take more responsibility within different clubs. Think about applying to positions in student services or outside. Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEF or Work Study. Consider entrepreneurship opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICS).

- **Get Connected with the Community**
  - Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations like the Queen’s International Affairs Association, QQIC, Providence Care Volunteer Club, Italian-Canadian Club of Kingston, Portuguese Cultural Centre or United Way.
  - Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Go to cultural events such as LLCU Film Nights, Language Clubs, guest lectures and Four Directions Connects.
  - Volunteering with organizations such as Teachers of English as a Second Language, Kingston and District. Interdisciplinary Student Symposium on Language and Variation in Canada or the Annual Western Canadian Linguistic Association.

- **Get Thinking Globally**
  - The Queen’s University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
  - Take LLCU 111: Introduction to Cultures and obtain the Intercultural Competence Certificate.

- **Get Ready for Life after Graduation**
  - Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Careers for Culture Lovers. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

### 2ND YEAR

- **Choose LLCU Plans in:**
  - German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian, Hispanic Studies, Spanish and Latin American Studies, World Languages, or Linguistics.
  - Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

- **Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in International Studies or explore other courses available:

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

- **Need help mapping all of your core, option, and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

### 3RD YEAR

- **If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF).**
  - Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.
  - If interested, apply to be a Teaching Assistant in Linguistics.

- **Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects.**
  - Consider participating in a research conference such as Change and Variation in Canada or the Annual Western Interdisciplinary Student Symposium on Language Research.

- **Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.**
  - Check QUIC’s resources for ideas to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.
  - Apply for the Semester in Shanghai program at Fudan University.

### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- **Complete core and option courses in German Studies, Indigenous Studies, Italian, Hispanic Studies, Spanish and Latin American Studies, World Languages, or Linguistics.**
  - By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and/or certificate(s) as well.

- **Apply to graduate in SULUS.**

- **Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.**
  - Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships.
  - Check 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.**

- **Complete the International Studies Certificate offered by IQP or if eligible, apply for a Certificate of Competency in a Language.**
  - Start thinking about work or further studies abroad, such as North American language and Culture Assistants in Spain or Foreign Language Assistant in Germany.

- **Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures.**
  - Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.

- **Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!**
Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don't have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen's, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen's wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen's, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES?

- Knowledge of different cultures and an understanding of the importance of perspective
- Oral and written communication to write essays and present information to a group
- Ability to work in groups using another language
- Research to analyze information to draw out relevant facts and ideas
- Resource and time management
- Fluency or near-fluency in a second language
- Translation skills to interpret and translate documents in a foreign language
- Knowledge of the nuances of syntax, grammar and vocabulary of a second language
- Attention to detail to write in a foreign language and translate between languages without errors

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