Modules in Germanic Studies.
Your German and Germanic Studies courses at Sheffield

You can take German in numerous subject combinations for your Sheffield degree programme and choose from a huge range of option modules about the culture, history, society, film, linguistics and other aspects of German-speaking Europe. But your German language modules are the centre of all these programmes. These ‘core language modules’, normally three hours a week, are compulsory for everyone at every level and are the bedrock of your education in German.

Here is what we offer if you come to us with an A-level in German (if you don’t have A-level German, see our information for Beginners’ and post-GCSE German, below).

**First Year German language**: consolidation and development. In First Year we use German-language materials to consolidate your A-level grammar knowledge, practise writing in different styles and registers and greatly widen your vocabulary to support your learning in other German modules. These two hours are generally complemented by an oral German class with a native speaker. The varied assessment includes an oral exam, grammar tests and writing assignments.

**Second Year German language**: introducing translation and preparing for the Year Abroad. Here we start to tackle some more advanced grammatical constructions, looking at how these work in the context of articles you are translating into and out of the target language. We assess this with an end-of-year exam, for which you are prepared with feedback on your take-home translations. In the complementary *Sprachpraxis* classes, the focus is firmly on preparation for the Year Abroad with a wide variety of tasks and topics relevant to contemporary German/Austrian society and research/writing techniques which you will need for Year Abroad assessment. Special attention is paid to developing your speaking and lexical skills - the additional oral hour is devoted to this. Assessment of *Sprachpraxis* is by oral exam and a substantial written project plus presentation on a topic of your choice.
**Year Abroad:** using your German every day for work and pleasure! You spend this year studying at university on one of our 15 or so Erasmus exchanges, as a British Council assistant teacher in a school, in a commercial or voluntary sector internship, or a combination of two of these three, in Germany, Austria or German-speaking Switzerland. If you are taking another main language besides German, you spend one of the two semesters in the country of your other language. If some of your Year Abroad is spent outside the German-speaking countries, don’t worry: you can support your German wherever you are with materials from the on-line *Self Study Portal* for School of Languages students.

**Final Year German language:** demonstrating advanced linguistic competence and refining new skills. The advanced language module trains you in active use of complex structures and vocabulary (e.g. the passive voice and its alternatives, text linking, indirect speech, hypothetical statements, etc.), enabling you to work confidently in multiple registers and use a variety of rhetorical strategies. You have a written and an oral exam at the end of the year and the regular homework and weekly oral hour prepare you for these. You also choose an additional skills-based element based on either Translation or Public Speaking/Debating, giving you targeted practice and assessment in skills you are likely to have been developing and refining during the Year Abroad.

**And don’t forget:** at all levels you can support your learning with other students and German-speakers in our many social and extra-curricular activities – we look forward to seeing you there!
Beginners’ and post-GCSE German at Sheffield

We offer Honours German for Beginners and near-Beginners in addition to our main post-A level study strand. If you missed out on Europe’s most fascinating language at school, we want you to have a second chance. You can take Beginners’ and post-GCSE German in many different degree contexts. This is how the language portion of the course looks:

First Year: a Beginners’ German language programme of five weekly hours of teaching plus private study, which will rapidly and intensively develop your German speaking, listening, writing and reading skills. (Plus a German Studies course - see below - consisting of a weekly lecture alongside post-A level students on German culture, literature, philosophy and film, and a weekly small-group tutorial seminar in a dedicated group for discussing the lectures and developing your understanding of modern German history and politics.)
Second Year (Level Two): By now we expect you to be very close to A-level standard in German language. The Intermediate (post-Beginners’) German language programme (four hours a week of teaching, plus plenty of private study) further builds your fluency across the four key skills and develops the language you’ll need when studying or working in Germany/Austria in your Third Year. (Plus - depending on your degree - German content courses - see below - including Politik und Medien and Deutsche Kultur. Besides these, you may take more courses - taught in English - alongside students from the post-A level strand.)

Year Abroad: spent wholly or partially in Germany or another German-speaking country, just as for post-A Level strand students. On your return from the Year Abroad, you’ll integrate fully with your fellow students on the post-A level strand.

Final Year: advanced German language programme (three hours a week) with a core grammar and writing element plus an optional element: Translation or Public Speaking. (In addition, you’ll choose a prescribed number of the Department’s large range of advanced academic options). Besides your core German language classes, your degree is made up of courses (or ‘modules’) on specific cultural, historical, social, linguistic and other topics. You can choose these to match your own interests or to complement the modules you are taking in another department. Here is what you can do in Germanic Studies in each year of your degree programme, both as post-A Level and as ab initio students.
What Topic Courses do I take in my Germanic Studies degree?

**German Studies.** This key course for all post-A Level students has (a) a weekly history/politics lecture in German (“Deutschland 1789 bis heute”) covering the development of Germany over the last two centuries, (b) a weekly cultural studies lecture in English on a selection of major literary texts (Kafka, Brecht…), some leading German thinkers (Marx, Freud), plus film and linguistics; and (c) a weekly small-group tutorial seminar, at which you discuss and analyse the material covered in lectures. By the end of the year, you will have a broad grasp of the important issues in modern German culture.
German Studies for Beginners is for our ab initio German students. You follow the German Cultural Studies lectures outlined above. In addition, you have a weekly small-group tutorial seminar introducing you to modern German history, society, culture and thought, and providing in-depth discussion of key texts and issues. Texts are read (mostly) in English.

Deutschland Erlesen: Texte lesen und verstehen is an option module, taught in German, that extends your German language skills while exploring German identity and culture today. For this, it makes use of short stories, poems, magazine articles and other authentic material.

Beginners’ Dutch. Students who already speak German or another language can pick Dutch up quickly! If you approach the language enthusiastically, you can soon reach a high level of competence. Classes are informal and fun. Each week you have three language classes, a Dutch history and culture seminar and a conversation hour. Many students try out Dutch in their first year and then build it into their degree programme later on.

For those who want to add more German to their First Year, you can choose an additional module from the Second Year list, as available.
Second Year

Second-year option/content courses, taught in seminars, run for one or, in a few cases, two semesters and prepare you for the two-seminar advanced modules you will take in your Final Year. Courses marked ‘also ab initio’ are for post-Beginner students as well as post-A Level.

**Medien und Öffentlichkeit** gives an overview of radio, TV, the print media, and on-line and social media in Germany and Austria and considers their effect on society. Students examine audio and print texts as well as video and statistical sources. You have plenty of opportunity to research your own media interests. Taught in German.

**Maternalism and Militarism: 1871-1918** looks at the social history of the German Kaiserreich (1871-1918) with a focus on gender issues. Students explore: women’s fight for education, sexual and employment rights; the youth movement; men’s socialisation, including social militarism, patriotism and conventions around honour and sexuality; the workers’ movement; the Home Front in World War One. Taught in English but with original source materials. (Also ab initio)
German Culture and Ideas from the Enlightenment to the Present Day traces the development of German culture from the 18th-century Enlightenment to the modern Berlin Republic, using a series of major texts that illustrate both literary-cultural movements (Romanticism, Realism, Expressionism...) and the major changes in German society (feminism, unification...) over 250 years. Taught in English.

German Film and Society analyses German film in its social context since the 1920s, understanding film as a reflection of how 20th-century Germany evolved. It concentrates on: Film in Weimar, Film under National Socialism, and Post-War Film. Individual films are analysed for their narrative structures, filmic devices and their social/political messages. Taught in English. (Also ab initio)

Österreich heute explores the history, politics, art and culture that shape Austrian identity. Austria’s complex history – as a small country with a large historical legacy – is pivotal in understanding contemporary Austrian society. But the focus is on topical themes and current debates. Ideal preparation if you are choosing Austria for your Year Abroad! Taught in German.

Two Revolutions: German Literature of the 1960s and 1970s. The 1960s were an era of moral revolt in West Germany, when full employment, prosperity and reliable contraception promoted a new ethical freedom. Simultaneously, a Marxist-inspired student generation rebelled against the capitalist-militarist consensus of West German politics. The course focuses on the ‘Two Revolutions’, sexual and political, in four major German literary texts from the 1960s and ’70s and their film adaptations. Taught in English.
Germany since 2000 examines key issues of German politics, culture and society since 2000, assessing how Germany’s world role has changed since reunification. Topics are: the Berlin Republic; the legacy of Nazism; the GDR legacy; foreign policy; political extremism; national identity; Germany’s position in Europe. Materials include political texts, newspaper reports and audiovisual sources. Taught in English. (Also ab initio)

Deutsche Politik und Medien (only for ab initio students) studies the political system, governmental and social institutions and media landscape of modern Germany. Diverse reading and visual material supports the course: newspaper articles; film extracts; television bulletins and documentary. The course develops your reading capabilities strongly while providing detailed understanding of post-War and contemporary Germany. Taught in German and English.

Deutsche Kultur (only for ab initio students) provides intensive reading and analysis of modern German texts, extending your reading skills, vocabulary and knowledge of key concepts. Students are introduced to diverse texts, including novels, short stories, graphic fiction, journalism and film. The module explores issues of German identity. Taught in German and English.

Freud’s Theory in Literary and Cultural Studies introduces key concepts of Freudian psychoanalysis and their application to the study of (German) literature and culture. We look at (a) examples of psychoanalytic literary criticism, including novels, fairy tales and film, and (b) Freud’s critique of religion and other psychoanalytic interpretations of cultural phenomena. Taught in English. (Also ab initio)

Germanic Languages in Social Context introduces key issues in sociolinguistics, focusing on language and society in the ‘German-speaking countries’ (i.e. both officially monolingual countries - Germany, Austria - and multilingual nations - Switzerland, Luxembourg) and asking how language is actually used in these countries. You analyse textual and visual representations as well as debates, and discover how linguistic and social boundaries are closely linked. Taught in English. (Also ab initio)
**Introduction to Luxembourgish Language and Culture.** Sheffield's unique Luxembourgish course focuses on general vocabulary, basic grammar and pronunciation skills, enabling students to develop communicative proficiency in Luxembourgish at A2 level. You also gain an overview of culture and society in the Grand Duchy in its broader trilingual context of Luxembourgish, French and German. (Also ab initio)

**Dutch Beginners.** If you didn’t try Dutch in First Year you can opt for it this year. The course teaches you to speak, read, write and understand everyday Dutch, enabling you to cope in most common social circumstances, write simple letters and essays and read straightforward Dutch without difficulty. (Also ab initio)

**Dutch Intermediate** concentrates on increasing your vocabulary and insight into more advanced grammatical patterns. You will improve your speaking and writing skills, and you will continue to practise your reading and listening. We deal with relevant topics of society and culture from the Netherlands and Flanders. Prerequisite: Dutch First Year course or equivalent.

**History of the Dutch Language** leads you into the history of Dutch, its grammar and vocabulary and also looks at variation in the language (e.g. dialects, Dutch vs. Flemish, youth language). You learn the descriptive tools for tackling linguistic difference. The module lays the foundation for further study of the Dutch language in Final Year. Prerequisite: Dutch First Year course or equivalent.

**Contemporary Literature. Culture and Society in Dutch: Anders zijn, anders zien** explores the relationship between stories and identity, with a focus on contemporary multicultural society in the Netherlands, examining how we express and negotiate cultural difference. Comparisons are drawn between the contemporary Netherlands and the UK. Besides literary texts, the module looks at films, opinion pieces and social theory. Prerequisite: Dutch First Year course or equivalent.
**Third Year**

The Third Year is spent abroad. There is a wide range of options available for your Year Abroad. See page 2 for more details.

**Fourth Year**

Final-Year courses are more intensive than Second-Year modules. They deal with the topics in greater depth and normally run for the full year. Thus you pick fewer, but bigger, courses in Final Year. At this stage we teach all students together for all modules.

**Modern German Thought** investigates the key ideas of major German-language thinkers including Marx, Lukács and members of the Frankfurt School, especially Benjamin and Marcuse, with a focus on primary texts. We address the way these ‘masters of suspicion’ (Ricoeur) see the relationship between art/literature and society in their most important texts. Taught in English.

**German for Enterprise** is a hands-on project module that brings students together with local businesses wishing to expand into Germany. You offer research, translation and text-writing services, as well as helping UK partners appreciate the expectations and practices that determine the German-speaking market. Taught mainly in German.
German Literature & Society in the 19th Century explores German literature and its cultural, social and political connections in the years 1815-1900. We cover the most interesting authors of 19th-century Germany, looking at such topics as the end of romanticism, Biedermeier materialism, the folk tradition, censored literature, realism and naturalism, and examine the historical contexts of all of these. Taught partly in German, partly in English.

Twentieth Century Fiction and Drama studies major literary works in German since 1900 (Thomas Mann, Kafka, Brecht, Bachmann and others), closely analysing the texts, tracing literary- and intellectual-historical developments, but also addressing the writers’ political and social background. Taught and assessed in English.

Modern German Political Culture and the Legacy of the National Socialist Past is about the evolving discourse on the Nazi legacy in the Federal Republic, both up to and since Unification. Topics include the Berlin Holocaust memorial; the Nazi legacy’s impact on domestic and foreign policy; and debates on national pride and German wartime suffering. The course helps you understand the political culture of modern Germany and associated questions of national identity. Taught in English.

Contrastive Germanic Linguistics looks at linguistics around the three main West-Germanic languages: Dutch, English and German. It covers the language system (esp. morphology and sentence structure) and language use (esp. pragmatics and politeness/impoliteness), historical as well as present-day data, contacts between languages, and (second-) language acquisition. Taught in English, with project work.
**Introduction to Luxembourgish Language and Culture** is another chance to learn Luxembourgish if you didn’t in your Second Year. The focus is on general vocabulary, basic grammar and pronunciation skills, leading you to proficiency in Luxembourgish at CEFR A2 level. You also gain an overview of culture and society in the Grand Duchy in the trilingual context of Luxembourgish, French and German.

**Advanced Luxembourgish Language and Culture** lets you develop your language proficiency in Luxembourgish. By working with authentic texts, including literature and media output, you also get a thorough understanding of Luxembourgish culture and society. Prerequisite: Luxembourgish course in Second Year or equivalent.

**Dutch Intermediate** extends your four main language skills beyond Beginners’ Dutch, increasing your vocabulary, your insight into more advanced grammatical patterns, and your knowledge of Low Countries culture. Prerequisite: Beginners’ Dutch course Second Year or equivalent.
Dutch Advanced. After two years of Dutch and (for some) 5 months in Holland or Flanders, you can hone your already extensive knowledge. We concentrate on advanced writing, with presentations and translation. You also do a translation project, working with a Dutch-speaking author and a professional translator. Prequisite: Intermediate Dutch in Second Year or equivalent.

Dutch Sociolinguistics explores the sociological landscape of the Dutch language area. It concentrates on two hot topics in Dutch sociolinguistics: multilingual Dutch society and the status of colloquial Dutch in Flemish Belgium. Prequisite: Intermediate Dutch in Second Year or equivalent.

Contemporary Literature, Culture and Society in Dutch. Families: refuge or embarrassment? Here, we study the concept of family in Dutch literary texts, columns, essays, films, TV and the visual arts, enhancing our analytical experience and gaining insight into the cultural and psychological context that created the selected works. Prequisite: Intermediate Dutch in Second Year or equivalent.

Social Approaches to Multilingualism explores topics in multilingualism from a social perspective, allowing you to design your own projects, drawing on case studies and language data specific to your particular language experience. You learn how theories of nationalism and globalisation are applied to analysis of texts and images in multilingual settings, and how language debates connect with struggles about social equality and social transformation.

NOTE that all courses listed are subject to availability, which depends on staff absences, possible curriculum changes and other factors.
More Information:
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