

**FAQ: *Learning to teach Languages in primary school***

You have the choice between two levels of study:

**Part 1: LXT192/3/4/7 (French/German/Spanish/Mandarin)**

* 15 credits, beginners language study

**Part 2: LXT191 (French/German/Spanish/Mandarin), 15 credits**

* post-beginners language study

1. **When do the courses take place and how long are they?**
   1. The course work starts on 5th October 2024 and runs until 30th June 2025.
   2. **Please note:** All students are expected to engage with the self-study induction materials and attend one of the induction webinars taking place in the two weeks before course start. This will ensure that all students are ready to get started with their course work on 5th October.
   3. The courses will run over 35 weeks. However, there will be a two-week break over Christmas and a 3 week-break over Easter.
2. **What is the fee and can I defer?**
   1. The course fee for students resident in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England is £328 per student.
   2. **Please note** that you **won’t be able to** keep or be refunded your fee if you defer or withdraw from studying the module.
3. **How much of a time commitment does studying this course mean?**
   1. You will have to spend about 4 hours of study per week on this course. In addition, and if your circumstances permit, there will be about 1 hour spent applying what you are blearing in your classroom.
   2. The course timetable is very flexible - you can decide when you have time during the week to study. 90% of the time you’ll spend on this course can be scheduled according to your own availability.
4. **Will there be any recognition of the work I am doing on this course?**
   1. Yes, the language learning part of the course will be accredited, and you can gain 15 Level 1 study credit points, which count towards on OU Open Degree.
   2. You will receive a certificate for successful completion of the pedagogy strand of the study.
   3. In addition, if you are a GTCS-registered teacher in Scotland, you have the opportunity to opt into a GTCS-accredited professional recognition programme for your study of the pedagogy strand of the course.
5. **Where will I have to ‘go’ online to study?**
   1. You will receive an OU login after registration and instructions how to log on to your StudentHome page.
   2. On StudentHome you will be able to access the course website, where students and tutors meet and where all materials and online tools for your study can be accessed, including the online tutorial room.
6. **What kind of things are part of studying this course?**
   1. For the language part, you will:
      1. be supported by your OU language tutor who also marks your assignments.
      2. undertake guided self-study with the course activities and audio/video recordings. These materials are online, so that you can do all the work on your computer. Most of the materials can be downloaded, the course activities can be printed off, if you wish.
      3. work on the interactive online activities of the course, i.e. quizzes to test your reading and listening skills, as well as activities to help you with vocabulary and grammar revision.
      4. produce two short assignments, one written and one spoken (which you will record and send electronically to your tutor).
   2. For the pedagogy part, you will:
      1. be supported by your pedagogy tutor, in most cases a different person from the language tutor. The pedagogy tutor will moderate the unit forum discussions and assess your performance in the formative applications tasks; and if you are based in Scotland and have opted into professional recognition, the tutor from SCILT will also assess your GTCS professional recognition contributions.
      2. study input materials we have selected to give you an overview of key aspects of the areas of modern foreign languages teaching at primary level studied in this course.
      3. communicate with your fellow students in the online forum to exchange views on what you have studied.
      4. apply what you have learned in your own classroom in planned activities.
      5. reflect on how the teaching went and summarize your findings in a forum discussion with your peers.
      6. For GTCS recognition in Scotland, you will produce a blog post at the end of each of the 5 course Units, which will be reflective pieces on your experiences applying pedagogical theory and the language you have studied, in your own classroom and talking about this with your fellow students.
7. **Will there be any face-to-face tutorials as part of this course?**
   1. Yes. We will offer at least 2 (non-compulsory) face to face day schools, one near the beginning and one near the end of the course, where you will practise the language you are studying, learn more about teaching modern foreign languages at primary school level, and have the chance to meet and share your views and experiences with other participants and your tutors.
   2. The times and dates will be in your tutorial timetable and venues are tbc. We aim to run day schools in a range of places across the UK depending on where the students on this course are located.
   3. In case you are not able to attend the face-to-face sessions, we will be offering online equivalents to allow you to cover the same content as other students.
8. **Will there be any other workshops/tutorials?**
   1. Yes, most (non-compulsory) tutorials are online tutorials where you meet your tutor and fellow students and can ask any questions you may have.
   2. In the pedagogy strand you will be able to start planning your application tasks together and discuss unit aspects. In the language study part, you have the opportunity to practice your speaking, revise vocabulary and grammar aspects.
9. **Will I learn more about modern foreign languages in the wider cultural context?**
   1. Yes, interviews with people who work in cultural institutions, run successful professional support networks for teachers as well as a range of community initiatives to show you what is ‘out there’ are included in the course content. We will provide contact details for these institutions and initiatives so that you can invite them to your school and set up collaborations, if you wish.
   2. These sessions are not obligatory, but we recommend that you try to attend as many as you can, as they will boost your confidence in speaking, and you will be able to see how to teach this language in practice – you will experience language teaching from the student perspective, understand good practice in MFL classroom teaching and take part in activities you might want to replicate in your own classroom.
   3. And, we will also offer workshops with your tutors revolving around the study of the pedagogy of teaching MFL online.
   4. The workshops and tutorials will be taking place in the evening at different times and dates to give you a choice. Usually, they run for about 60 to 90 minutes per session. There will be a set timetable for these sessions, and you will be able to book a place in these tutorials.
10. **Is there an obligation to then train teachers at my school in what I have studied in this course?**
    1. No. The main objective is that you begin to teach the language in your own classroom and feel confident in doing so.
    2. A great side-effect of this course would be for you to encourage other teachers to study a language as well and to form a ‘language teaching champions’ group at your school to actively promote languages in your school.