

Course Description

A qualification in a foreign language is an indication that you have well-developed communication skills and can use these confidently in a variety of situations. Studying Modern Languages allows you to develop your skills in speaking, reading, listening and writing to a level of some sophistication. You will also develop a broader vocabulary, knowledge of language structures and develop cultural awareness of the countries where the language is spoken.

All courses are based on four themes: Society, Employability, Learning and Culture, with different aspects of these themes being explored at each level. There will be opportunities to work individually, as a team or as a pair on a wide variety of tasks. ICT is regularly used by staff and students alike to enhance learners' experiences.



National 3/4/5

Students will have the opportunity to learn about areas such as healthy lifestyles, technology, planning a trip abroad, education, work experience as well as cultural events. The National 5 course has a particular focus on employability skills which are useful in looking for work both at home and abroad.

Higher

Students have the chance to look in more detail at topics such as citizenship, healthy living, media and technology, job opportunities and travelling and working abroad. At this stage students begin to use the language in more flexible and creative ways. Students also develop more finely tuned skills of translating and discursive writing which are particularly relevant to those hoping to study a language at University level.

Entry

N5 French is suitable for those who are confident with the language/or who have had a pass at N4.

Each course thereafter requires a 'B' pass at the previous level. E.g. a 'B' at N5 to proceed with Higher.



Assessment

At **National 4** level the 'Added Value Unit' will involve researching cultural elements and presenting your findings in the foreign language. Students will also be assessed at all levels across in two main skills 'Using Language' and 'Understanding Language'. These break down into strands of Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking and will take place throughout the course.

At **National 5** level students will be informally assessed in reading and listening throughout the course. Students will also be expected to produce a piece of writing coursework, under examination conditions, which will be formally assessed by the SQA. In addition, there is also an external exam in May which will assess Reading, Writing and Listening. A final Speaking exam will take place in March.

At **Higher** level students will be formally assessed in two main skills 'Using Language' and 'Understanding Language'. These break down into strands of Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking and will take place throughout the course. There is also an external exam in May which will assess Reading, Writing and Listening. A final Speaking exam will take place in March.

Home Study Expectations

Students are expected to devote an increasing amount of time to home study in the senior phase and home study may be issued weekly or fortnightly depending on the demands of the task. Tasks will either be written, speaking preparation or vocabulary learning. You may also be asked to make use of key websites at home.

Possible next level of study

National 4 → National 5 → Higher → Advanced Higher

There is also the opportunity to sit another N4/N5 in another foreign language.

Wider Achievement Opportunities

Students have many opportunities to explore and develop their skills in the foreign language through cultural experiences in film and poetry. Students will also develop CV writing skills as well as preparing for mock interviews.

Possible career paths

Languages is one of the skills most desired by employers in today's competitive, international job market. A qualification in a foreign language can open the door to many, varied career choices. Some examples include business management opportunities, law, interpreting and travel and tourism.

