

European Studies – Information per language

Arabic

Arabic is spoken by more than 400 million people across the Middle East and North Africa and is one of the six official languages of the United Nations. By learning Arabic, you open the door to a rich and diverse world of cultures, literature, music, and politics. Whether your interest lies in international relations, migration, religion, or contemporary media, Arabic gives you direct access to voices and stories that often remain inaccessible through translation. Learning Arabic is no small feat, but few languages open as many doors to culture, media, politics, and human connection.

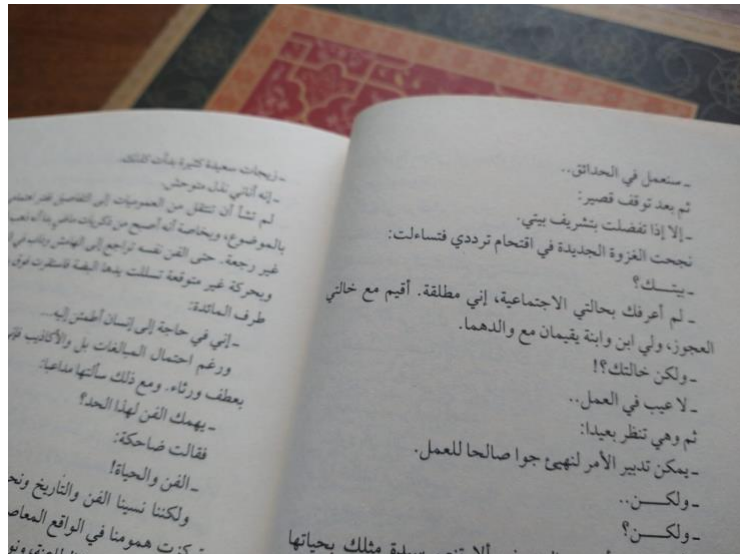
In our programme, you will learn both Modern Standard Arabic and gain a first taste of a widely spoken dialect from the renowned American Al-Kitaab method. After completing Arabic 4, your CEFR level will be about A2.

Students about Arabic:

'I recommend this language to any student passionate about understanding different cultures, expanding their worldview, and engaging with one of the world's richest linguistic and literary traditions.'

'I think the script is beautiful, and it's really surprising how quickly you get used to reading and writing it. It takes practice, but it's totally worth it.'

'I was surprised how much underlying logic there is in the writing system and in the structure of words—along with unexpected similarities (and differences!) to the grammar of other languages I've studied.'



Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

Taught in Dutch

At the heart of the South Slavic language area, diverse populations live side by side, each with distinct historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds: Catholic Croats in the west, Eastern Orthodox Serbs in the east, Eastern Orthodox Montenegrins in the southeast, and predominantly Muslim communities in the center. Despite their religious and national differences, these groups speak dialects that are closely related in terms of word formation, sentence structure, and basic vocabulary. Linguistically, they form a single entity.

In our program, you will be introduced to the fundamental principles and grammar of Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. You will develop skills in listening, reading, writing, and conducting simple conversations. Alongside language learning, you will explore the cultural and historical contexts of the region. Attention is given to the common linguistic structure, as well as to regional features and peculiarities.

The program demands dedication and active engagement. Classes are intensive, and outside of lesson hours, you are expected to devote significant time to self-study and preparation for vocabulary, grammar, and listening exams — even if you already have some prior knowledge. **The language of instruction is Dutch.**

Catalan

The courses aim to provide students with a basic level of Catalan language in order to use it in different communication situations. A selection of texts and audiovisual material will be studied to develop skills in speaking, reading and listening comprehension, which will be used as a basis for an analysis of the distinctive traits of Catalan culture. The course also includes content about cultural aspects, providing the students with a larger overall context of Catalan life and society.

Czech

Are you a fan of Milan Kundera's novels? Do you like the beauty and mystery of Prague? Did you know that the word "robot" was coined in the 1930s by the Czech writer Karel Čapek? And were you aware that the great, Oscar-winning films *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Amadeus*, and *Hair* were directed by Czech filmmaker Miloš Forman?

Start learning Czech and access the treasures of Czech history and culture by mastering this challenging yet fascinating language.

The University of Amsterdam is the only university in the Benelux where you can study Czech. We offer small work groups and provide individual attention. If you have Czech roots and already know some of the language, we will help you enhance your skills and deepen your understanding of the grammar system.

Danish

Taught in Dutch

In the Danish courses, you will learn to speak and write, read and understand Danish. After just one semester, you will be able to have a conversation in Danish, ask for directions and tell something about yourself. By the end, you will have reached such a high level that you can largely follow the news, documentaries and films in Danish and you can have a conversation about what you have seen and give your opinion about it. This level is achieved, among other things, because during the courses we also pay attention to Danish political and social relations and the history of Denmark. Upon successful completion, you will master Danish at CEFR level B1 for speaking and writing and B2 for reading and listening. **The language of instruction is Dutch.**

Dutch

-Only for English-track, non-Dutch students-

Dutch language courses are taught by the INTT (Institute for Dutch Language Education): [Institute for Dutch Language Education \(INTT\) - INTT - University of Amsterdam](#).

Students Linguistics or European Studies join the semi-intensive language courses; very compact high pace Dutch courses of six weeks; three hour interactive mandatory tutorials, twice a week.

The INTT offers six levels (6 ECTS each):

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| ➤ Absolute beginners | A1 |
| ➤ Beginners | A2 |
| ➤ Pre-Intermediate | B1.1 |
| ➤ Intermediate | B1.2 |
| ➤ Pre-Advanced | B2.1 |
| ➤ Advanced | B2.2 |

(Highest level to start is Pre-Intermediate, in order to complete 24 ECTS!)

We use the flipped-classroom system: for every tutorial around 3 hours of study/homework is required. All language-input and -practice is done individually as homework. Students have the opportunity to develop the four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. During class, however, we focus mainly on practicing the speaking skills. Automatically Dutch culture and custom is integrated in language learning so students will get to know plenty about the Netherlands and Dutch people, which can be very useful while living here.

ECTS-students will be monitored by a continuous assessment; for every other tutorial students will upload writing assignments, speaking or listening assignments so everyone is supported towards the next language level. Students take a final test at the end of each course.

Engels

-Only for Dutch-track students

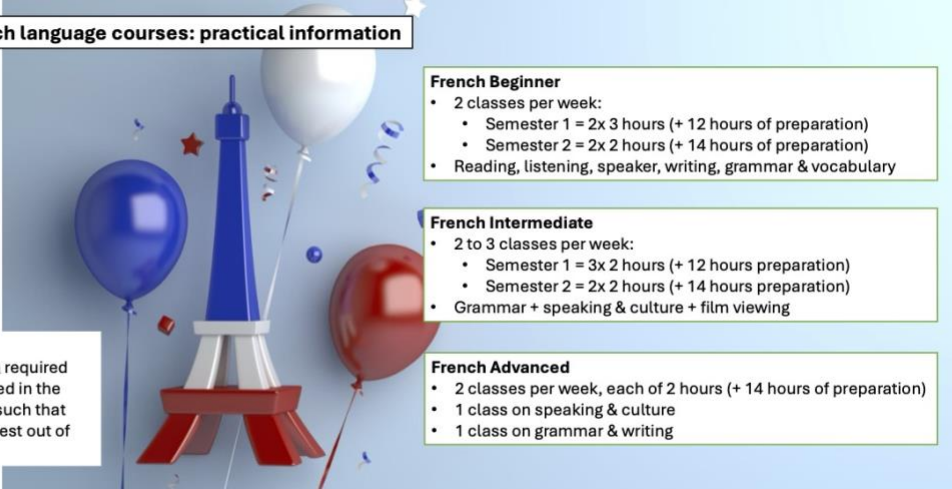
The English proficiency programme consists of four advanced-level courses. English 1 and 2 offer advanced English grammar and vocabulary. You will also write a review about a recent film, a series or a book that you are passionate about in order to improve your writing skills. For English 2 you will present a TED talk in order to build confidence in speaking English. Throughout English 3 and 4, you will study aspects of British culture, history and society. In addition, English 3 will focus on the art of rhetoric. You will study the history and practice of rhetoric and rhetorical speeches and you will compose and deliver a speech yourself. In English 4, you will work on improving your academic English proficiency, by practising scholarly writing and reasoning within your own discipline. In-class writing, peer review and discussion tasks will give you confidence in using English at an academic level. Throughout the module, you will expand your academic vocabulary.

French

Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced

Good to see that you are thinking about choosing French as language of study within your BA European Studies or Linguistics! Four reasons why that is an excellent choice:

1. French is the [5th language on the globe](#) in terms of speakers and the only language next to English that is spoken on 5 continents.
2. It is crucial to know the language as well as cultural traditions to do business with companies in France (and other French-speaking countries).
3. France is next to Germany one of the largest and most influential countries within the European Union, but French is also relevant outside Europe in several [international organisations](#), such as the [United Nations](#), UNESCO, or the Red Cross.
4. France is known for its philosophers and scientists, literature, music, and many more things...



French language courses: practical information

Three pathways: three levels
(4 classes & 24 EC per pathway)

- French 1 to 4 Beginner:
 - Final level = A2
- French 1 to 4 Intermediate:
 - Final level = B1/B2
- French 1 to 4 Advanced:
 - Final level = B2/C1

Online placement test:

- End of August, no preparation required
- To make sure you will be placed in the most adequate level for you, such that you will be able to make the best out of your experience

French Beginner

- 2 classes per week:
 - Semester 1 = 2x 3 hours (+ 12 hours of preparation)
 - Semester 2 = 2x 2 hours (+ 14 hours of preparation)
- Reading, listening, speaker, writing, grammar & vocabulary

French Intermediate

- 2 to 3 classes per week:
 - Semester 1 = 3x 2 hours (+ 12 hours preparation)
 - Semester 2 = 2x 2 hours (+ 14 hours preparation)
- Grammar + speaking & culture + film viewing

French Advanced

- 2 classes per week, each of 2 hours (+ 14 hours of preparation)
- 1 class on speaking & culture
- 1 class on grammar & writing

German

Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced

Why Study German?

German is the most widely spoken native language in the EU and a key language in international politics, economics, science, and culture. For students of European Studies and related fields, German opens direct access to influential academic traditions, renowned institutions, and excellent career prospects across Europe. Germany - at the heart of Europe - is a leader in innovation and offers generous scholarships and exchange programmes. Whether you're drawn to EU policy, literature, history, or linguistics, learning German expands your horizons—in both academic and professional contexts.

What Our Programme Offers

Our German courses are designed to meet your needs - whether you're just beginning or already at an advanced level. Based on a placement test, students join one of three levels (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) and receive tailored instruction using innovative methods like:

- Coaching in groups
- Project-based learning
- Authentic materials

Continuous oral and written feedback helps you improve quickly and effectively. You'll engage with contemporary topics relevant to your study and beyond, and prepare for opportunities such as scholarships, summer schools or study stays in Germany (for those who are interested).

Once you've completed the official German track, you can choose to continue developing your language skills through electives. This way, you'll become a confident speaker—well prepared for an international career.

A Taste of German Culture

Music

- [Wackelkontakt](#) – Oimara
- [Wildberry Lillet](#) – Nina Chuba
- [Holland](#) – 257er
- [Der letzte Song](#) – Kraftklub

Films & Clips

- [Kleo](#)
- [Köln75](#)
- [Babylon Berlin](#)

Clips

- [Der Döner](#) – Karambolage (ARTE)

Italian

Discover one of Europe's most captivating languages and take your first step towards an international future!

Our engaging and interactive Italian courses offer a dynamic approach to developing your grammar, vocabulary, and conversation skills, with a strong emphasis on real-life communication. From the very beginning, you'll be encouraged to speak and participate actively through discussions, group work, and role-plays, using Italian as much as possible. The program integrates authentic materials and adopts an intercultural perspective to help you use the language effectively in both academic and everyday contexts. With expert guidance, rich resources, and ongoing support, you'll also develop strategies for independent learning that will help you continue progressing beyond the classroom. Join a vibrant academic environment and connect with the wider world through the Italian language.

Modern Greek

Choosing Modern Greek offers students the opportunity to explore a language deeply rooted in centuries of cultural richness. Modern Greek is a clear, expressive language that reflects the essence of Greek life and tradition. Through learning the language, students gain direct access to Greek culture as it is lived today—in everyday expressions, literature, music, and customs. It opens the door to a living tradition where classical heritage and modern creativity meet. Studying Modern Greek also enhances linguistic skills, critical thinking, and intercultural competence. Greece's enduring cultural legacy—from ancient philosophy and mythology to contemporary arts and politics—makes learning the language a rewarding and intellectually enriching experience.

Modern Hebrew

In the first block you will learn the Hebrew alphabet (block and cursive letters). You will then quickly learn about the morphology and syntax of modern Hebrew, focusing on verbs and constructing simple sentences.

In the following courses you will expand the grammatical knowledge acquired in teaching period 1. We will make growing use of media: video's, songs etc. You will improve your reading and writing skills through exercises and tests. The homework is very important and integral to the courses. During this period there will also be more emphasis on developing speaking and listening skills. As much as possible, the lectures will therefore be in Hebrew.

Norwegian

Taught in Dutch

In the Norwegian courses you will learn to speak and write, read and understand Norwegian. After just one semester you will be able to have a conversation in Norwegian, ask for directions and tell something about yourself. By the end, you will have reached such a high level that you can largely follow the news, documentaries and films in Norwegian and you can have a conversation about what you have seen and give your opinion about it. This level is achieved, among other things, because during the courses we also pay attention to Norwegian political and social relations and the history of Norway. You will also become acquainted with the special Norwegian language situation: Norway has two official written languages, one is closely related to Danish and the other is based on Norwegian dialects. Upon successful completion, you will master Norwegian at CEFR level B1 for speaking and writing and B2 for reading and listening. **The language of instruction is Dutch.**

Polish

Polish is a West Slavic language and it is related to Czech and also Russian. It is the second most spoken Slavic language in the world and apart from Poland, where it is also the national language, people use it in many other countries around the world. For example, there is a significant Polish minority in the United States of America and also in Argentina. The Polish presence in the Netherlands and other European countries has also grown steadily in recent years. In many of these areas, but of course especially in Poland itself, important literature has been created.

Students tend to find it a difficult language at first, but it soon becomes apparent that the verb system is simple compared to Dutch and English with relatively few forms, while the case system is quite logical and transparent and not very difficult to learn despite the wealth of forms. The reward is direct access to one of the most important European cultures. A study of Polish opens many doors, including to Poland itself, which is now the sixth largest economy in Europe.

Our course is intended for both people who start without any knowledge of Polish and students who are already familiar with it to some extent.

Russian

Russian language it is one of the most widespread languages in the world, spoken by over 280 million people. Besides the Russian Federation this language is also spoken in Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Latvia, Israel. The Cyrillic alphabet that you will learn is used by Slavic languages such as Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian and Macedonian.

The program offered by our department is intended for students beginning to study the Russian language and consists of 4 modules, 2 lessons per week. In this course you will get acquainted not only with the language itself, but also with the Russian culture. You will work on the development of your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. After completing the course you will be able to understand written Russian (for example, in newspapers or on the Internet) and to communicate on a basic level.

This course provides a good basis for those who intend to work in an international environment, to conduct study or research abroad. In fact, given the current political situation more specialists in Russian language and culture are required in Europe.

Spanish

Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced



Did you know that more than 600 million people worldwide can speak Spanish? That's a staggering 7.5% of the world's population! And nearly 500 million of them speak it as their native language, making Spanish the **second most spoken native language in the world**, right after Mandarin. It's also the **second language for international communication**.

So, if you're still unsure about which language to learn, Spanish is not only a **practical and smart choice**, but also a **beautiful, rich language with a vibrant culture**.

And just so you know: in our language acquisition courses, we focus not only on linguistic communicative competence (grammar and vocabulary) but also on intercultural communicative competence, because language and culture are interconnected.

In other words, if you learn to speak Spanish, remember that you will be able to communicate with 500 million native speakers. How amazing is that, right? At the same time, you'll get to know the fascinating culture of the Spanish-speaking world—a whole new world full of surprises that you will discover.

We look forward to seeing you in our classes and warmly welcome you already!

See also the following links:

Spanish: a global language

<https://youtu.be/IHRTn6QIY20?si=Z2adC1IqUrziS5Gs>

Why learn Spanish? And Reasons to learn Spanish

<https://youtu.be/Q3xvmc1gVVE?si=fxgKDuURRkNZTxkb>

This is the real Spain: <https://youtu.be/RoDIINIRgis?si=f2bXwLOjlahFzIP8> (deel I)

<https://youtu.be/nfdnl1y4quo?si=sJKxvSVzVOQ3oB6T> (deel II)



Swedish

Taught in Dutch

In the Swedish courses you will learn to speak and write, read and understand Swedish. After just one semester you will be able to have a conversation in Swedish, ask for directions and tell something about yourself. By the end you will have reached such a high level that you can largely follow the news, documentaries and films in Swedish and you can have a conversation about what you have seen and give your opinion about it. This level is achieved, among other things, because during the courses we also pay attention to Swedish political and social relations and the history of Sweden. Upon successful completion you will master Swedish at CEFR level B1 for speaking and writing and B2 for reading and listening.

Taught in Dutch. **The language of instruction is Dutch.**

Turkish

Turkey is a country that bridges two continents — Europe and Asia — and symbolically also the West and the East. This unique geographical and cultural position has shaped Turkey's rich and diverse heritage. As a result, the Turkish language is a gateway to understanding complex cultural, historical, and political dynamics that influence both Europe and the broader region. For students in European Studies and Linguistics, learning Turkish offers valuable insight into a country that plays a key role in international relations, migration, and regional politics. It gives you a deeper understanding of current events and enhances your ability to engage with global affairs.

In addition, Turkish is structurally different from most European languages, making it a fascinating choice for language enthusiasts. With around 80 million speakers worldwide, Turkish also opens doors to a broader international community.