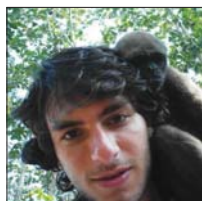


Study Abroad Student Profiles



Michael Aidan, BA Modern Languages with TEFL '08

Michael is spending his year abroad at the University of Havana, Cuba.

"A degree in modern languages could never be described as an arts degree in just one discipline. A language degree becomes (rather in spite of you) an introduction to economics, politics, sociology, anthropology and geography. Essex is the perfect atmosphere to practice your new skills, in an international and extremely diverse yet small and familiar campus. And also, the year abroad options available at Essex are varied enough to mean that you'll have a wealth of countries which could provide you with what you're looking for. For me it was non-mainstream political movements in Latin America, and I managed to secure a placement in the University of Havana in Cuba for my third year where I am studying at the moment. To say that these years have just provided me with another tongue, would be a huge underestimation. As an old Chinese proverb advises... 'two languages, two men.'"



Aya Sheldon, BA Modern Languages '08

Aya is spending her year abroad as a teaching assistant in Spain.

"I am working as a teaching assistant at a secondary school in Cáceres (Extremadura, Spain). It will definitely be a year to remember! I am thoroughly enjoying my year learning about the culture, travelling all around Spain, meeting new people, improving my Spanish, and teaching. I taught some private classes so that I could

gain experience in teaching all ages, and of course I enjoyed spending the extra cash on my travels! The school has a 'bilingual project' and a lot of the children speak good English. My mentor is also fantastic. She teaches me about Spain and treats me like family. Although teaching isn't something I had considered doing in the future, now that I have experience and a certificate for teaching adults, it's certainly an option! I definitely made the right choice to do a year abroad. Now I can confidently say that I speak Spanish, and I'm sure it will help me to get a good job after I graduate!"

Academic Staff Profiles



Beatriz De Paiva

Beatriz is the coordinator of Portuguese courses at Essex. She has a PhD in Interlanguage Pragmatics, specialising

in the use of requests in Brazilian Portuguese as a second language.



Claudia Nehmzow

Claudia joined the Department in 2004. She teaches non-specialist, intensive and beginners courses, as well as a comparative

course on the German speaking countries and a course on Germany's self-image in the media.



Gladis García-Soza

Gladis specialises in course design and the use of information technology in language teaching. She teaches specialist Spanish

courses, history of Spanish and contemporary studies of Latin America and Spain.

Colchester Campus

University of Essex Open Days

The University of Essex open days give you the opportunity to see all the different facilities we have on our campus and also speak to both academics and current students.

This is our chance to welcome you to the University. You will be taken on a tour of the campus and see facilities such as the Library, accommodation, the Sports Centre and the Students' Union. Representatives will be present to answer all your questions, from the Students' Union, Student Support, the Accommodation Office, the Careers Advisory Service and the Admissions Team. Visitors will also have the opportunity to talk to academics from their subject of interest and to chat to current undergraduate students.

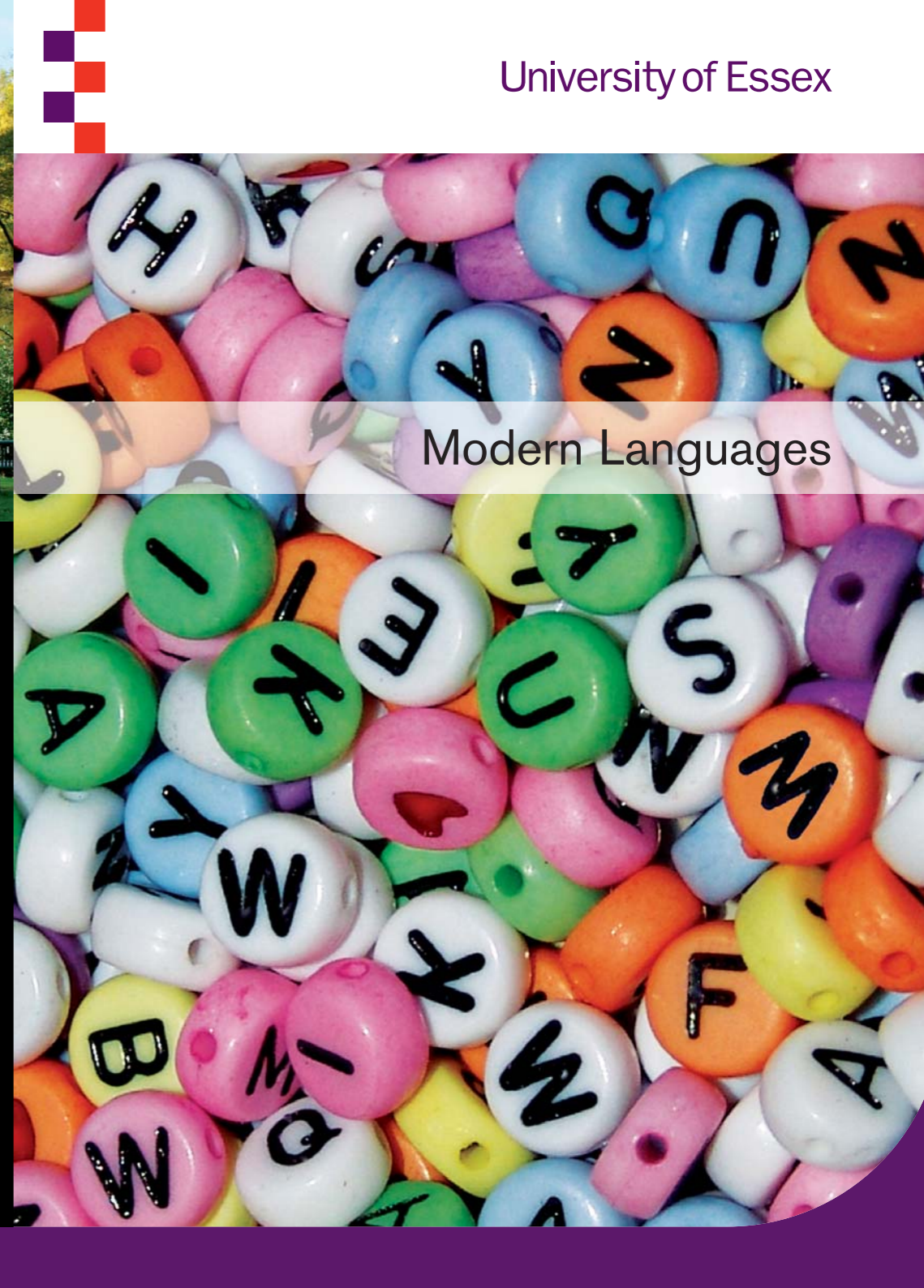
The University hosts three open days in June, September and October – so take your pick!

Separate visits for schools wishing to visit the University can also be arranged through our Student Recruitment Team or as part of the University's Widening Participation programme. If you would like more details please e-mail: marketing@essex.ac.uk

What if you can't attend any of the open days?

If you would like to register to attend an individual campus and accommodation tour, then please contact us on: 01206 874096.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the University soon.



How to find out more about the University?

If you would like further information about accommodation, student life, funding and careers at the University of Essex, then please e-mail your name, date of birth and e-mail address to: admit@essex.ac.uk.

This leaflet is designed to be read in conjunction with the *Undergraduate Prospectus*. Copies may be obtained by telephoning the Undergraduate Admissions Office Prospectus Hotline: 01206 873778 or by visiting our website: www.essex.ac.uk

The Department of Language and Linguistics at Essex has been offering courses in Modern Languages for four decades, specialising in five major West European languages (French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish). We offer 18 different Modern Languages degrees in various combinations. We were the first to offer a four languages degree in Modern Languages. The Department has been running an outreach Open Language Programme in French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish since 2003. Chinese and Arabic will be included in October 2007.



Why study Modern Languages at the University of Essex?

- Essex offers an international, diverse, small and friendly campus
- The Modern Languages section provides a stimulating and informal learning environment
- Modern Languages students have the opportunity to study abroad in Europe and the Americas
- Travelling abroad is made easy because the University is close to London and Stansted International airport
- Language teaching integrates contemporary culture and lifestyle
- Language courses incorporate the development of marketable skills
- Language classes are modern, interactive and lively

What we offer

- **single honours degrees:** *Language Studies* (three years, no residence abroad) and a four-year *Modern Languages* scheme (third year abroad), both schemes allowing you to study between two and four modern languages at a variety of levels
- **joint honours degrees:** four-year schemes (third year abroad) enabling one or two modern languages to be combined with the study of Business Management, Drama, Economics, History, History of Art, Literature, Linguistics, English Language, Teaching English as a Foreign Language

- **a well-organised year** of residence abroad in one or two countries, either as a student or a language assistant
- **language courses for any level** of entry
- **intensive language courses** that take you from scratch to post A-level in one academic year, plus a four week consolidation course abroad
- **the possibility of advancing your language level** through various programmes of residence abroad
- **complementary content courses** ranging from history of the language to contemporary issues like popular culture and media
- **language courses beyond your degree** through the Open Language Programme (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic)
- **state-of-the-art** laboratory facilities and a wide range of modern computer and video assisted materials
- **friendly and approachable staff** within the Department

What we deliver

- **transferable skills** that will allow students to pursue a wide range of careers
- **practical language skills** to the highest standards of proficiency
- **career-orientated** interpersonal skills

Student surveys consistently assign high ratings to our Modern Languages degrees and courses

Student Profiles



Kirsty Bryant, first-year student, BA Modern Languages

"I am currently an undergraduate studying Modern Languages with German Studies at the

University of Essex. I also take Intensive Spanish, which I only started this year. I have always been interested in other countries and their different customs, beliefs and traditions. I think that the best way to understand a country's culture is to learn the language. My degree gives me the fantastic opportunity to spend time abroad where I can immerse myself in the language and culture. I think that learning another language is not only fascinating but a valuable skill for whichever career path you choose. All of my lessons are enjoyable and cover aspects of both language and culture."



Danni Rawlings, second-year student, BA Modern Languages with German Studies

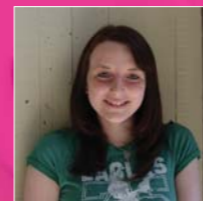
"I never doubted that I would continue learning German after my time at

sixth form. After visiting the University of Essex on the open day I knew that it would be the best place for me because of its large range of courses and the widespread facilities on offer.

In my first year I jumped at the chance to study Spanish because I was not able to at my high school. I took the intensive course which was very rewarding, especially when we were sent to Valencia for a month and I realised I was able to cope and communicate. In addition I formed many valuable friendships.

This year I am taking Advanced Spanish, Subsidiary Honours German, Spanish-Portuguese Conversion and German

Linguistics. It is a great advantage that the degree schemes are so flexible. It is also very beneficial that culture and lifestyle are integrated into language learning. I can definitely say that I have had a great time so far and continue with much enthusiasm and optimism."



Laura Withers, fourth-year student, BA Modern Languages with Spanish Studies

"I began my degree at Essex in 2003; having studied Spanish A-level

and French up to GCSE standard, I wanted to further my studies in these languages at University. Also, I was able to take up Portuguese using my Spanish knowledge as a background, which meant that after just one year I had achieved post A-level standard Portuguese. I will graduate at the end of the year with a degree in these three languages and with my main language, Spanish, close to native fluency.

What I really like about my degree at Essex is the approachability of the teachers and the friendly environment in which languages are taught, in small groups with every opportunity to get individual feedback from the teacher.

Studying this degree has enabled me to develop many skills, both academically and personally, which should be very attractive to future employers."

Careers Information

Modern Languages degrees equip graduates with a wide range of skills which make them highly prized by employers in a variety of professions. A recent survey showed Modern Languages graduates entering the following professions:

- administrative work (eg personal assistant, travel consultant, bilingual secretary)
- commercial, industrial or public sector management (eg conference organiser, leisure manager, recruitment consultant, retail manager, restaurant manager)
- marketing, sales, PR and advertising (eg advertising accounts manager, export sales executive, marketing manager, public relations consultant)
- business and finance (eg business analyst, investment banker, trainee chartered accountant)
- retail work (eg sales manager)
- media work (eg TV researcher, publishing assistant, internet journalist)
- Modern Languages graduates went into further study or training (eg translation studies, international relations, law, film-making, journalism)

Graduate Profiles

Alaleh Zadeh, BA Politics and Modern Languages, '06



After graduating, Alaleh secured a job with a gap year company in Peru for six months, before moving to Uganda, where she is now.

"I took Politics and Modern Languages at Essex, opting for courses in Spanish and Portuguese. On my year abroad, I went to Chile as a language assistant, where I taught at a university for 18 hours a week alongside the regular teachers.

After graduating, I got a job with a gap year company in Peru, where my language skills were used day in day out, to help establish non-Spanish speaking volunteers in their placements and to translate between them and the local community. This was for six months, after which I requested a move to Uganda, where I am right now. As well as loving the work, it is fantastic work experience for my MA in International Development, which I am planning to start in autumn 2007."

Kelly Hurn, BA Modern Languages, '06



Upon graduation, Kelly moved to the Canary Islands, where she is now working for the Spanish Tourism Industry.

"My year in Tenerife as a language assistant was incredible and truly one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life! I arrived there having studied Spanish for only two years, so the first few weeks were quite difficult. The teachers were amazing, always checking I was OK, and making sure I was getting to know their island well! Working with the children was so much fun. They didn't always want to learn but we made it fun for them and they warmed to me just like I did to them. At the end of the year I had learnt so much, not only about what it is like to teach, but about the culture too, and my grasp of the Spanish language had improved beyond belief. I loved the whole experience so much that now I have graduated I have moved back there and got myself a job as a receptionist at a 5* hotel and still keep in touch with the teachers and the students!"