

FOREIGN LANGUAGES, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-FRLN

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The BA in Foreign Languages prepares students for teaching, graduate study in languages and cultures, research, professional work, as well as service in government, nonprofits, or business. Our graduates are particularly valued for their multilingual and cross-cultural knowledge. Majors are encouraged to complete a minor or a second major in another field. Concentrations are offered in Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish. Minors are offered in Arabic, Chinese, Classical Studies, French, German Studies, Italian Studies, Japanese Studies, Latin, Russian and Spanish.

Double majors in foreign language and another subject should plan a program of study with advisors from both disciplines and follow the steps outlined in AP.5.3.3 Second Bachelor's Degree.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 30-33 credits within the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.00

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Concentrations in the Major

In addition to the other college and university requirements for a degree, provided in the tabs below, students pursuing this degree complete a 30-33 credit concentration chosen from the following:

Concentration in Arabic (ARBC)

The concentration in Arabic has an emphasis on developing strong language skills, including literacy and oral communication, along with an in-depth understanding of modern Arabic culture and society. Students concentrating in Arabic are expected to gain fluency in Modern Standard Arabic and a working knowledge of at least one Arabic dialect. Additionally, students will graduate with a strong background in Arab intellectual history, literature, and culture.

Students pursuing the concentration in Arabic must complete a minimum of 30 credits in Arabic at the 300 level and above, each with a minimum grade of 2.00. Only two courses (6 credits) taught in English may be applied to the major. Students are highly encouraged to participate in study abroad.

A minor in Arabic is also offered, which can easily and effectively be combined with majors in other disciplines, such as global affairs, international relations, government, journalism, philosophy, and religion.

Core Courses

Select eight courses from the following:	24
ARAB 330	Reading and Conversation I
ARAB 331	Reading and Conversation II
ARAB 350	Media Arabic I (Written Media)
ARAB 351	Media Arabic II (Spoken Media) (Mason Core)
ARAB 375	Study Abroad - Arab World
ARAB 380	Arabic Dialects
ARAB 390	Translation Methods: Arabic to English
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature
ARAB 430	Advanced Arabic Grammar
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)
ARAB 498	Independent Study

Electives

Select two courses from the following:	6
ARAB 325	Major Arab Writers/Stories (Mason Core)
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production
ANTH ¹	
ARTH ¹	
ENGL ¹	
GOVT ¹	
HIST ¹	
PHIL ¹	
RELI ¹	
SOCI ¹	

Total Credits 30

¹ Requires approval of advisor and the director; relevant courses only.

Concentration in Chinese (CHIN)

The concentration in Chinese prepares students for research and professional work in government and private enterprise, teaching careers at the secondary school level, and graduate study in Chinese. Language majors with the Chinese concentration are encouraged to complete a minor or, if possible, a second major in another field.

Students pursuing the concentration in Chinese must complete a minimum of 30 credits in Chinese at the 300 level and above, each with a minimum grade of 2.00. Students are expected to complete a balanced program that includes courses in language, culture and civilization, and literature. Only two courses (6 credits) taught in English may be applied to the major. Students are highly encouraged to participate in study abroad.

A minor in Chinese is also offered, which can easily and effectively be combined with majors in other disciplines, such as global affairs, international relations, government, journalism, philosophy, and religion.

Core Courses

Select eight courses from the following:	24
CHIN 300	Reading Skills Development
CHIN 301	Advanced Grammar and Syntax
CHIN 305	Chinese for the Business World
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)
CHIN 355	Readings in Chinese Poetry and Poetics (Mason Core)
CHIN 365	Readings in Chinese Fiction after Mao
CHIN 475	Chinese Popular Culture (Mason Core)
CHIN 480	Fourth-Year Chinese I
CHIN 481	Fourth-Year Chinese II

Electives

Select two courses from the following:	6
CHIN 310	Survey of Chinese Literature (Mason Core)
CHIN 311	Modern Chinese Literature in Translation (Mason Core)
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)
CHIN 328	Asian American Women Writers (Mason Core)
CHIN 470	Special Topics in Chinese Studies
CHIN 490	Internship in Chinese Studies
ANTH ¹	
ARTH ¹	
GOVT ¹	
HIST ¹	
PHIL ¹	
RELI ¹	
SOCI ¹	

Total Credits	30
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¹ Requires approval of advisor and the director; relevant courses only.

Concentration in French (FRN)

Students pursuing the concentration in French must complete a minimum of 33 credits in French at the 300 level and above, each with a minimum grade of 2.00. No more than one course (3 credits) conducted in English may be used to fulfill requirements for the concentration. Students are expected to complete a balanced program that includes courses in language, culture and civilization, and literature.

Advanced Language Course

FREN 309	Reading and Writing Skills Development	6
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Literature and Civilization

FREN 370	French Civilization, Culture, and Literature: Ancient Gaul to 1789	3
FREN 371	French Civilization, Culture, and Literature: 1789 to the Present	3

FREN at the 300-level or Above

Select three courses in FREN at the 300-level or above	9
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FREN at the 400-level or above

Select four courses in FREN at the 400-level or above	12
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Total Credits	33
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Concentration in Spanish (SPN)

With more than 400 million people speaking Spanish worldwide - nearly 40 million in the US - and the growing influence of Hispanic cultures around the globe, knowledge of Spanish and the Spanish-speaking world has never been more important. The Spanish courses and degree programs provide students with the opportunity for language development and interdisciplinary study of the cultures, film, history, linguistics and literature of the 20 Spanish-speaking countries, including the United States. Students can also receive Spanish credit through participation study-abroad programs.

Students pursuing the concentration in Spanish must complete a minimum of 33 credits in Spanish courses at the 300-level and above, each with a minimum grade of 2.00. Only one course taught in English (3 credits) may be applied toward the concentration.

Core Courses

Select one or two courses from the following:	6
SPAN 305	Spanish in Context I
& SPAN 306	and Spanish in Context II
SPAN 309	Intensive Spanish in Context
SPAN 315	Spanish for Heritage Speakers (and one additional 3-credit SPAN course)

Additional Required Courses

SPAN 370	Spanish Writing and Stylistics	3
SPAN 385	Introduction to Spanish Linguistics	3
SPAN 390	Introduction to Hispanic Literary Analysis	3

Spanish at the 400 Level

Select four courses in Spanish at the 400 level	12
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Electives

Select two courses from the following:	6
SPAN courses at the 300- or 400- level	
FRLN 385	Multilingualism, Identity, and Power (Mason Core)

Total Credits	33
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Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in foreign language may fulfill this requirement by successfully completing CHIN 480 Fourth-Year Chinese I, FREN 309 Reading and Writing Skills Development, or SPAN 370 Spanish Writing and Stylistics.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		3

PHIL¹

RELI

¹ Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) ¹		3

ANTH

CRIM

ECON

GOVT

HIST²

LING

PSYC

SOCL

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)
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GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)
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GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
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GGS 301	Political Geography
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GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
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GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)
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GGS 305	Economic Geography
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GGS 306	Urban Geography
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GGS 315	Geography of the United States
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GGS 316	Geography of Latin America
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GGS 320	Geography of Europe
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GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
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GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States
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GGS 357	Structures in Urban Governance and Planning
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GGS 380	Geography of Virginia
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¹ The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

² HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by: ¹		

Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202, 209, or 210 (or higher level courses taught in the language)
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Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test

Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:
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EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I
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EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II
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EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III
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¹ Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) ¹		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 301	Native North Americans	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of the Andes	3
ANTH 306	Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3
ANTH 316	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 323	Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 383	Cities of the Global South	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3

ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3	HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3	HIST 326	Stalinism	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3	HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3	HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3	HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3	HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3	HIST 354	Modern China	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3	HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3	HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3	HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3	HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3	HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3	HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3	HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3	HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3	HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3	HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3	HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3	HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3	JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3	JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3	KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
GOVT 328	Non-Western Political Theory	3	MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3	RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3	RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3	RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3	RELI 272	Islam	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3	RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 432	Political Change and Social Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	3	RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3	RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3
HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3
			RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3
			RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3
			RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3

RUSS 354 Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)

3 and a master's degree in foreign languages with a concentration in Spanish after satisfactory completion of 144 credits.

¹ A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication	6
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology	3-7
Core Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Synthesis/Capstone Requirement ¹		
	Synthesis/Capstone	3
Total Credits		40

¹ minimum 3 credits

Additional Elective Courses

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's programs in the list below specify the BA in foreign languages with a Spanish concentration as a feeder degree for their programs. It is important to note, however, that many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason, including this one. See the full list of master's degrees with accelerated programs at George Mason.

Foreign Languages, BA (Spanish Concentration)/Foreign Languages, Accelerated MA (Spanish Concentration)

Overview

Highly-qualified Mason undergraduates may apply to the accelerated master's degree. If accepted, students may earn both a bachelor's degree

and a master's degree in foreign languages with a concentration in Spanish after satisfactory completion of 144 credits.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in Foreign Languages (Spanish concentration), see Application Requirements on the departmental website (<http://mcl.gmu.edu>).

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses (SPAN 510 Methods of Literary and Cultural Studies and SPAN 502 Hispanic Sociolinguistics) as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. On completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

Foreign Languages, BA (Spanish Concentration)/Foreign Languages, Accelerated MA (Spanish/Bilingual-Multicultural Education Concentration)

Overview

Highly-qualified Mason undergraduates may apply to the accelerated master's degree. If accepted, students may earn both a bachelor's degree in foreign languages with a concentration in Spanish and a master's degree in foreign languages with a concentration in Spanish/Bilingual-Multicultural Education after satisfactory completion of 150 credits.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in Foreign Languages (Spanish/Bilingual Multicultural Education concentration), see Application Requirements on the departmental website (<http://mcl.gmu.edu>).

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses (SPAN 510 Methods of Literary and Cultural Studies and SPAN 502 Hispanic Sociolinguistics) as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. On completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

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Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

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