Programme structure guidance SALC-owned joint honours programmes with Languages	
Academic year of study:	**2026/27**
Document link:	The online version of this programme structure guidance is the definitive version, please make sure you are reading the most up-to-date copy: https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=43094
Contact:	If you have any questions, please contact the Languages programme administration team: SALC.courseunits@manchester.ac.uk

Step 1: Please ensure that you have read and understood this document in conjunction with your Programme Structure, which can be found here: Modern Languages and Cultures (Including Translation Studies and Intercultural Communication) - School of Arts, Languages and Cultures - The University of Manchester

Level 1 refers to the current level of study for first-year students; Level 2 refers to the current level of study for second-year students; and Level 3 refers to the current level of study for final-year students. Please note that language units, which are coded with '5', should be included within the credit total for students' current level of study (unless otherwise indicated by their programme structure).

These are the principles that are applied in Languages. Some of these principles exceed University requirements in terms of free choice units in order to meet the learning outcomes of these programmes.

Joint Honours Programmes

General principles

All students must take at least 100 credits at their current level and across their named subject areas* at all levels of study. The remaining 20 credits can be used in the named subject areas or as Free Choice. Please note, due to core course unit requirements, some programme combinations are unable to offer free choice units in some or all levels of study.

A minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits must be taken in each of the named subject areas. Please note, due to core course unit requirements, some subject areas require a minimum of 60 credits in some or all levels of study.

A maximum of 20 credits can be taken at the level below the current year of study as a free choice unit following the guidance on free choice set out below. Level 3 students will not be permitted to study a Level 1 course unit unless authorised by the School's Director of Teaching and Learning.

*Please note that the named subject area may nominate units in their optional lists which are not prefixed by the subject code - these units are accepted as being part of the named subject area. E.g. Russian Studies lists ULPL51010 LEAP Polish 1 as part of their optional lists.

Guidance for free-choice course units

A maximum of 20 credits free choice is permitted at all levels of the Joint Honours programmes, subject to the fulfilment of core and compulsory units for each side of the degree programme. Please note, due to core course unit requirements, some programme combinations are unable to offer the option to take a free choice unit in some or all levels of study.

Permitted *free-choice units* include:

- a lower or higher level unit in the named subject areas, provided that no more than a total of 20 credits is taken at the lower level for that level of study.

- free-choice options from other subject areas in SALC (non-LEAP) at the lower, current or higher level of study, provided that no more than a total of 20 credits is taken at the lower level for that level of study

- LEAP units in another language will only be permitted as follows:

    - Level 1 students: may take a LEAP 1 or higher unit provided that no more than three languages are studied in any one year and that they are post A-level in the language or languages that are part of their degree programme (i.e. students on a joint honours programme in two languages must be post A- level in both languages). Students taking a third language may be advised not to continue with it in their subsequent year of study should there be a negative effect on their overall progress and wellbeing.

    - Level 2 students: may take a LEAP 2 or higher unit (provided that no more than three languages are studied in any one year). Students taking a third language

may be advised to not to continue with it in their subsequent year of study should there be a negative effect on their overall progress and wellbeing.

- Level 3 students: may take a LEAP 2 or higher unit (provided that no more than three languages are studied in any one year).

- Level 1 & Level 2 students may take LEAP British Sign Language Part 1 and LEAP British Sign Language Part 2.

- Level 3 students are not permitted to take LEAP British Sign Language Part 1.

- University College for Interdisciplinary Learning course units (units prefixed with UCIL) at the lower, current or higher level of study, provided that no more than 20 credits are taken at the lower level for that level of study; please note that where a UCIL unit is a language unit, the LEAP rules above apply

- All Faculty of Humanities free-choice options at the current or higher level of study.

General clarifications

Anomalous choices will be flagged up via the course unit selection checks carried out by the administrator for each programme. All non-standard choices are subject to the approval of the Programme Director. The relevant Programme Director will make the final decision in consultation with subject area Programme Directors from each side of the degree (where the student is on a Joint Honours programme), especially where subject areas use lists and require students to observe particular rules regarding combinations of course units and number of credits taken. If Programme Directors feel that they are unable to make a final decision on difficult cases, then they should contact the Director of Teaching and Learning for MLC.

Any application for exemption will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and referred to the Languages Undergraduate Programme Committee and/or the School's Director for Teaching and Learning for approval.

Please note the following exceptions to the above guidance for LEAP units (N.B. not all languages will run at all levels every year):

- Chinese Studies students may take LEAP Korean 1 or higher at any level of study

- Japanese Studies students may take LEAP Korean 1 or higher at any level of study

- East Asian Studies students may take LEAP Chinese 1 or LEAP Japanese 1 or Korean 1 or higher at any level of study, and may take two LEAP units in one academic year, following the guidance in the East Asian Studies programme structures. If two LEAP units are taken, one must be in an East Asian language.
- Arabic students may take two LEAP units in one academic year choosing only between LEAP Turkish 1/LEAP Urdu 1 or higher at any level of study. Middle Eastern Studies students may take two LEAP units in one academic year choosing only between LEAP Arabic 1/LEAP Turkish 1/LEAP Urdu 1 or higher at any level of study.
- Russian and Eastern European Studies students who are either ab-initio or on a joint honours programme may, at Level 2, take LEAP Polish 1 or higher
- MLBM students at Level 2 may take one LEAP 1 unit or higher; and at Level 3 may take one LEAP 2 unit or higher