



## Minor subjects in SLLCS

### 1. Why study German as minor?

German is spoken by some 100 million Europeans. Studying German at an in-depth level is excellent preparation for the world of work and is likely to make you highly employable in Ireland, the EU, and further afield

We teach most of our language and culture modules in small groups, which is a considerable advantage when learning a language and sets us apart from most other universities in Ireland and abroad. We also offer Beginners German in first year.

Whether you are a beginner or have completed German to post-Leaving Certificate (or equivalent), with us you will acquire advanced competence and fluency, spoken and written, in the German language. You will also develop reading and communication skills alongside methods of research and analysis in literature, history, culture, film, and society of the German speaking countries.

### 2. Entry requirements and available language levels

In order to be eligible to take up German as a minor you will need to have achieved H4 or equivalent in German language for the non-beginners' option. If you are interested in taking up German from beginners' level, you will need H4 or equivalent in a language other than English.

### 3. Minor in German – what you'll study

First Year [20 ECTS]

*Non Beginners*

GRU1100Y – German Language 1 [10 ECTS]

GRU1102Y – Introduction to German Literature and Film [10 ECTS]

#### *Beginners*

GRU1104Y – German Language Beginners [10 ECTS]

GRU11011 – German Area Studies [5 ECTS]

GRU11052 – German Reading Comprehension [5 ECTS]

#### Second Year [20 ECTS]

GRU2200Y – German Language 2 [10 ECTS]

GRU22051 – Kulturgeschichte / Cultural History [5 ECTS]

GRU22012 – German Literary History I [5 ECTS]

#### Third Year [20 ECTS]

GRU3300Y – German Language 3 [10 ECTS]

GRU3301Y – German Literary History II [10 ECTS]

## 4. Your Time Abroad

A semester studying abroad is a highlight of a student's Trinity experience. Immersing oneself in the language and culture is one of the most valuable ways of achieving fluency when you are studying a language. Minor subject students will have an opportunity to spend a semester abroad in Hilary term of their Junior Sophister year. At a minimum, you will be required to spend two months in a German-speaking country prior to taking your final exams. We currently have exchange agreements with Cologne, Göttingen, and Vienna. Students of modern languages at Trinity are required to spend 'not less than two months in the country of each language' prior to taking their final exams (University Calendar, p. K3).

## 5. Graduate skills

Recent UK research suggests that graduates with a degree in German are the highest-paid language graduates. Small wonder: Germany is the largest national economy in Europe and the fifth largest economy in the world. It is a major export destination for Irish goods and the second most important source of Foreign Direct Investment for Ireland. Competence in German gives you a competitive advantage in the domestic job market as well as in the job markets of the German-speaking world. Employers value the language skills of German graduates, and their 'transferable skills': the creativity, confidence, and sensitivity which marks the advanced linguist, and the maturity and flexibility that comes from engaging with another culture, and from experience gained abroad. Recent graduates work for Google, Deutsche Bank, and Enterprise Ireland, also

in telecoms, IT, education, public service, the media, law, and in universities in Ireland, Europe, and North America.

## 6. Student testimonials

### WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

#### **Niall Alsalfi (current Fourth Year student)**

Choosing German as part of my Joint Honors degree has allowed me the opportunity to achieve a deep understanding of German culture, history and literature while also giving me the opportunity to reach an advanced level of spoken and written German. If this sounds appealing to you, then German is a perfect complement to virtually any degree you should wish to study.

#### **Ciara Mullarkey (graduated 2019)**

I am a German and Sociology graduate from Trinity College Dublin. The four years I spent at Trinity were fantastic for a whole host of reasons and I particularly enjoyed studying in the Germanic Department. Having degree-level German, accredited by an internationally recognised University such as Trinity, has benefitted me immensely in interviews both for further study and for employment. From my experience, I cannot recommend it highly enough as a place to study.

I was attracted to Trinity as I felt its offer of classes in language, literature, history and current affairs was unparalleled in any other programme. The Germanic Department hosts an impressive cohort of international lecturers and professors, who are passionate about their subject and inspiring to learn from. The classes were always thought-provoking and enjoyable, and I found the Department welcoming, friendly and the lecturers very approachable.

Outside the classroom the German Department is very social, and hosts annual debates, events, conferences and the yearly festive 'Weihnachtsfeier'.

Trinity has global links with other universities, which gave me the opportunity to spend my third year on exchange to the University of Konstanz. This was a brilliant experience and was one of the most enjoyable parts of my undergraduate education.

#### **John Gavin (graduated 2017)**

The German component of my degree has not only prepared me for working in a European business where I speak German every day, but also to cope with the day to day cultural differences, which one faces on a daily basis.

Over the past two years working in an international company, I have noticed how my degree has given me a distinct competitive edge in regards to spoken level of German, understanding the German culture, being open to other cultures in general and confidence in public speaking when working in an international environment.

## 7. Get in touch: [germanic@tcd.ie](mailto:germanic@tcd.ie)