

University of Exeter – Modern Languages & Cultures

The best preparation for coming to study languages and cultures at Exeter is to keep in touch online with what's going on in the societies you are interested in (which also helps to keep your language skills fresh). You're probably familiar with the home websites of the major newspapers and television stations and it is a good idea to spend 15 minutes or so three times a week catching up with current affairs, reading and watching news reports. So find out what's happening in your countries over the summer: What are the main political or social stories? What films and books are they talking about? What sport is making headlines? Who are the people that dominate the news?

If you are a beginner in your chosen language, you can search the BBC website or your favourite UK newspaper for stories. Just being familiar with the main political figures or parties in the country you are interested in will give you a bit of a head start.

For world news in each of our languages, we recommend www.euronews.com (switch the language top left). We discuss current affairs in language classes, especially the oral language classes, so it will all come in useful.

Apart from the language classes you'll also study cultural modules which might involve history, film, literature, the visual arts, gender studies or linguistics. Because of this very wide choice, it's hard at this stage to recommend books or films that will fit your particular profile, but once you have made your module choices, you will be able to see what reading each tutor recommends. You can also follow up on online-sources that list a country's top popular novels and films – these are usually considered to be the 'classics' and might also give you an idea which period (pre-War, post-War, current and so forth) you find particularly interesting. Many museums offer online-access – why not visit one a week in Berlin, Madrid, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Buenos Aires, Moscow, Lisbon, Beijing, Mexico City, Brasilia or elsewhere?

To get a flavour of the activities of our students and staff, you can also follow the department on Twitter at: [@exetermodlangs](https://twitter.com/exetermodlangs); on Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/exetermodlangscultures/channel/> and you can find us on [Facebook](#) (search for Department of Modern Languages University of Exeter).

We also have our very own newsletter, written by students and staff: <https://flc-resource.wixsite.com/language-exepress>

Please get in touch if you have any questions at all (u.c.zitzlsperger@exeter.ac.uk). We all look forward to welcoming you in September!

Professor Ulrike Zitzlsperger, Associate Professor of German