

Make a Major  
difference to your degree.  
Flexible Learning  
at Southampton





Studying a Minor subject allows you to broaden your educational experience

# Make a Major difference to your degree by choosing to study a Minor subject alongside your core discipline. You can broaden your learning experience by choosing one of the Minor subjects available to you.

## What is a Major?

Your Major is the main degree subject you chose to study, such as BSc Politics or BA History. This is the degree you applied for and that will appear on your degree certificate when you graduate.

## What is a Minor?

This is a different subject area in which you normally complete 5 modules during the course of your degree that are chosen from a defined 'Minor' group. If your degree is eligible, and you take enough modules to complete a minor, it will appear on your degree certificate as a 'with...' subject. For example, BSc Economics with a Minor in Music.

## Why the Minors could be important to you

Employers are seeking well rounded graduates with additional knowledge and skills other than their main discipline.

You will get the chance to study alongside students who are studying other subjects and find out how they view the world.

Learning from different perspectives can enable you to view your main subject area differently, therefore enhancing your learning.

You can customise your studies to suit your needs and interests, providing you with a more personalised experience.

## Languages minors

You can choose to study a Minor in one of the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, English as a Foreign Language, French, German, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

You need to begin a language Minor in semester one of your first year. You would therefore complete six modules during the course of your Minor instead of five.

Please refer to the website for further details regarding languages Minors (see page 9).

## Top five things you should know about the Minors

1. Minors give you the opportunity to broaden your learning in a recognised way.
2. Studying with students from other disciplines gives you new perspectives.
3. The Minor appears on your degree certificate - eg. 'BA History with a minor in Archaeology'.
4. You will be required to take and pass at least five modules from a defined group, usually starting from semester 2 of year 1.
5. If you change your mind, you can opt out at any time.

# The Minors available to you



## American Studies

This Minor enables you to acquire a fresh perspective on the United States, rooted in an enhanced understanding of the nature of American society. You will pursue a multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approach to the study of American life, history, and culture. American Studies has an intrinsic interest, but it will also complement a wider cultural engagement across the whole of your undergraduate programme.



## Anthropology

Social and cultural differences are an important contemporary issue. By taking this Minor you will develop skills for analysing cultural phenomena, through theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of other cultures.



## Applied Economics

All modules in this Minor will be covering contemporary economic issues of public concern, so they will be of immediate relevance in the world. This will enable you to develop skills for analysing economic events.



## Archaeology

A Minor in Archaeology enables you to discover a fresh discipline rooted in both the arts and the sciences. Working with forms of evidence you are unlikely to have encountered previously, you will acquire a long view of how men and women have developed as social beings. You will foster your intellectual curiosity, and acquire a set of skills that are unique, but nevertheless of inherent value beyond university.



## Creative writing

This minor enables you to develop your skills and confidence as a writer in specific genres and encourages you to be critically self-aware and capable of a self-reflexive grasp of the creative process. You will be trained to articulate a critical analysis of your own and others' creative work. You will gain an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual issues involved in writing.



## Criminology

This Minor allows you to study contemporary issues about the social and political aspects of crime and criminal justice. You will gain skills for analysing crime as a social and political phenomenon, through theoretical and methodological approaches.



### Demography

In this Minor you will learn about contemporary issues to do with population change and developments. You will develop skills for analysing issues such as population growth, migration and health, through theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of population.



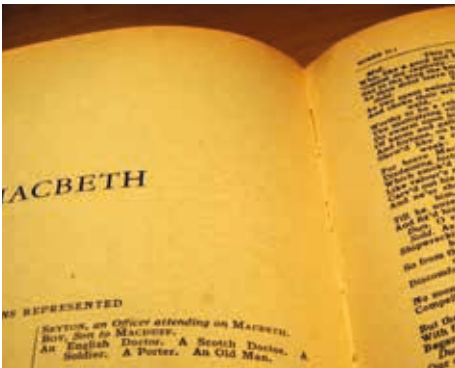
### Ecology and Evolution

This minor follows the 'Ecology and Evolution' stream that is part of the BSc Biology and BSc Zoology within the Centre for Biological Sciences. After a basic module in year 1, you will take one second year module in Ecology and one in Evolution. In year 3, you will take two modules from a choice of four, allowing a level of specialisation.



### Education

This Minor will enable you to understand the contribution that education can make in a changing world. You will develop your critical, analytical and communication skills. If you are interested in going into teaching in the future, it will give you a good basis for applying for teaching routes, but the knowledge and skills you gain can also be used in many different future careers.



### English

A Minor in English enables you to gain a rich acquaintance with literary culture and its forms. You will explore how literary debates and texts can enrich your understanding of other disciplines within and beyond themselves, whilst improving your analytical, discursive and writing skills.



### Film studies

A Minor in Film Studies enables you to gain fresh insight into the most influential form of communication over the past 125 years. You will develop an understanding of how film in a variety of forms shapes the way we view the world and enhance your understanding of other cultures through critical analysis of international cinema.



### Geography

This Minor allows you to pursue either Human or Physical Geography. You will learn key Geographical concepts and be part of an exciting community of scholars within a research-led teaching environment. Human Geography students get a chance to study topics such as Globalisation and Spatial inequalities. Physical Geography students focus on Global Climate Change and Geomorphological Processes. All students get an opportunity to study the new 'Dangerous Planet' Module.



### German Cultural Studies

This minor enables you to gain an advanced understanding of Germany and the German-speaking world, both historic and contemporary. You will actively pursue a multi-disciplinary perspective to explore a region which has influenced European culture, history and politics in powerful and complex ways.



### History

In this Minor you will explore the differences between the past and the present, and thereby develop an analytical and a critical awareness of today's problems. Become acquainted with less familiar societies from the past, ranging from the ancient to the contemporary world, and develop a set of communication and investigative skills invaluable in the world of work.



### International Relations

This Minor approaches the study of International Relations in theoretical and methodological ways. You will gain skills for analysing contemporary international and global events to identify the issues.



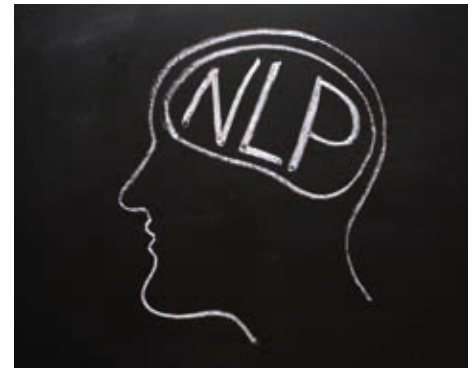
### Jewish History and Culture

This Minor will enable you to explore fully the unique experience of Jewish communities and individuals in the 20th century, not least the Holocaust and the founding of the state of Israel. You will be able to draw upon the unique resources and expertise of the Parkes Centre, with its world reputation as a focal point for Jewish Studies.



### Latin American Studies

This minor enables you to gain a unique insight into the history, politics, economics and cultural diversity of Latin America. You will also explore Latin America through a range of range of disciplinary approaches and acquire a knowledge and understanding of a range of Latin American countries and the processes which underpin the evolution of the region.



### Linguistics

It is language that makes us human and use of language underpins every other discipline. Every subject involves communication and this is made possible by language. A Minor in Linguistics enables you to gain a unique insight into the nature of language, and the basic principles of communication. You will explore in increasing depth conflicting and complementary theories about language acquisition and development, and their practical application.



### Modern Languages

A Minor in Modern Languages enables you to build upon your present capability in a foreign language, or gain linguistic competence in a new language. Where appropriate you can also enrich your other studies by reading texts in the original language. Please note, you should begin a languages Minor in semester 1 of year one. This will result in you taking 6 minor modules instead of 5 during the course of your studies. Please refer to the website for further details (see page 9).



### Music

This Minor enables you to study music from a wide range of genres and time periods, from rock to classical, from early music to contemporary. You will explore relationships between music, other artistic and cultural practices and historical developments. You will develop your music listening and appreciation skills, as well as your analytical and writing abilities.



### Philosophy

A Minor in Philosophy enables you to explore and try to resolve fundamental issues and profound questions which bear on any area of study, such as 'How should we live?', 'Is knowledge possible?', and 'What is the mind?' You will develop advanced skills in reasoning, argument, and critical thinking; skills which are invaluable both within and beyond the university.



### Politics

In this Minor you will learn about the contemporary issues in government and political events, many of which you see every day on the news. The skills for analysing these political events will be gained through theoretical and methodological approaches.



### Psychology

This Minor enables you to explore a scientific approach to understanding human thought and behaviour. Across the three years, you will be introduced to the essential tenets of psychological theory including cognition, and social and individual wellbeing. You can choose from key areas in psychology including cognitive psychology, neuroscience, individual differences, social psychology, perception and developmental psychology.



### Social Policy

A Minor in Social Policy demonstrates knowledge of contemporary issues in the development and analysis of Social Policy. You will gain skills for analysing the design and effectiveness of social policies through theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of Social Policy.



### Sociology

A Minor in Sociology demonstrates knowledge of contemporary social issues such as race, gender, and class. You will develop skills for analysing social change and events, through theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of society.



### Sustainability

The Sustainability Minor allows you to take a range of interdisciplinary modules that address the social, economic and environmental challenges of our age. Aligned to the Curriculum Innovation programme, you can tackle globalisation, ethics, health, economics, law, environmental management and social enterprise allowing you to apply an interdisciplinary approach to your studies that will appeal to future employers in a sustainable economy.



### The Ancient World

In this minor you will acquire new perspectives on the societies and cultures of the ancient world, including ancient Britain, Rome, the Hellenistic world, Egypt and the ancient Near-East. You will pursue multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches to the study of society, culture and politics of these societies. You will engage with and interpret different types of primary evidence, focus on specific aspects of the ancient world and form an understanding of the relationship between the ancient world and contemporary society.

#### Find out more

Please see the website for a full list of minor modules available to you:

**[www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information\\_for\\_students/find\\_your\\_degree/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information_for_students/find_your_degree/index.page)**



# How to register for a Minor

- Ensure the programme you are studying is eligible for the Minor [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/findyourdegree](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/findyourdegree)
- Decide which Minor you wish to take. You are advised to check your timetable to ensure that the modules you wish to take do not clash with your core studies. You can check this on SUSSED.
- Complete the Minor registration form. You can find copies in your Student Office and online at: [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/minorsubjects/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/minorsubjects/index.page)
- Either email or hand the form into your Student Office by the deadline provided.
- The forms will be processed by your Student Office and you will be notified of any queries with your selections.
- Your minor module choices will appear on your timetable.

## Important information to note

- Module availability is on a first come first served basis.
- As with all module choices, minor modules are subject to timetabling.
- Due to timetabling demands, it cannot be guaranteed that you will be allocated your first choice of minor options however every effort will be made to ensure that you can undertake your minor through alternative modules.
- Students can forward and backtrack onto their choice of module by one year, therefore if you are unable to select your first choice you may have the opportunity to choose the module in your continuing year.
- You must pass all of the five (or six) modules at the University standard pass rate to obtain your minor.
- You will not be permitted to retake modules that are part of your minor if you have qualified to progress on your main programme.
- The Minor qualification will appear on your degree transcript if you complete all the of modules.

## Further information

You can find detailed information about the Minors at [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/minorsubjects/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/minorsubjects/index.page)

For detailed information about the languages Minors please see [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information\\_for\\_students/minor\\_subjects/languages/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information_for_students/minor_subjects/languages/index.page)

To view your timetable please login to SUSSED <https://sused.soton.ac.uk/>

For timetabling queries please email [timetabling@soton.ac.uk](mailto:timetabling@soton.ac.uk)

You can locate your Faculty Student Office via the main University website [www.southampton.ac.uk/faculties](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/faculties)

For general queries about the Minors you can contact [cip@soton.ac.uk](mailto:cip@soton.ac.uk)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a Major?

Your Major is the main degree subject you chose to study, such as BSc Politics or BA History. This is the degree you applied for and that will appear on your degree certificate when you graduate.

## What is a Minor?

This is a different subject area in which you normally complete and pass five modules during the course of your degree that are chosen from a defined 'Minor' group. You do not apply for a Minor, you select the modules once you get here. If you pass enough modules to complete a minor, to complete a Minor, it will appear on your degree transcript as a 'with...' subject. For example, Economics with a minor in Music.

## Which degrees have Minors available for study alongside their main subject?

The degree subjects currently offering the option to take a Minor are:

- All Single Honours degrees in Social Sciences
- All Single Honours and some Joint/Combined degrees in Humanities
- Single honours in Physics, Geography and Education.

Take a look at the Find your degree section of the website below to see if your degree programme enables you to study a Minor.

[www.soton.ac.uk/cip/information\\_for\\_students/find\\_your\\_degree/index.page](http://www.soton.ac.uk/cip/information_for_students/find_your_degree/index.page)

## Why are languages minors different?

Languages are normally taught in two-part stages at Southampton and each part of a stage is usually studied in one semester. Therefore it is preferable for you to complete one whole stage of your language per year of your minor. For example, you would take French stage 3A in semester 1, year 1 and stage 3B in semester 2, year 1.

## How much extra work will I have to do to earn a Minor?

The Minor will not add to your normal workload. In each year of your degree you will take eight modules, six of which contribute to your main degree subject (your major). You can choose to use the remaining two modules for a number of different options within your Faculty and elsewhere, including taking modules that will lead towards a Minor in a designated subject area.

## Will I get a Joint honours degree?

No, your Minor will be shown as a 'with a minor in...' subject on your degree transcript, eg. BA English with a minor in Social Policy.

## Can I start a Minor in my second or third year?

This will depend on your degree regulations. To complete a Minor you will normally need to take five modules from within the Minor subject during your time here. The requirements of your second and third years may not allow you to take enough modules in a Minor subject in your remaining years of study, but you should speak to your Tutor to discuss this.

## What are the benefits of taking a Minor?

Taking a Minor enables you to clearly show the variety of what you have studied, not just your major subject. It signals to employers, and others, that you have depth across subjects. By studying alongside students from other disciplines, you will hear and learn from others' perspectives and discover how to work together.

## What should I do if a Minor module that I want to take is full?

Minor modules will be grouped according to your Year of study and there will be a number of different modules available to you each year. In Year 1 and 2 you will be able to forward or backtrack by one year, giving you more options to choose from if your first choice is full.

## Are there restrictions on the numbers of students able to take Minor modules?

Some modules being offered as part of a Minor grouping are also core modules on other main degree programmes. This may have an impact on the number of students wanting to take those modules. Priority will be given to those students who need to take it as a core module. The remaining places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis to students for whom the module is optional.

## Can I take Minor modules in addition to my eight modules (120 CATS) per year?

No. You take Minor modules as your optional modules each year, so that you take a total of eight modules in each year.

## How are Minor modules assessed?

This will depend on the module itself, but the assessment methods will be the same for all students taking a module, whether as a Minor module or as part of their main discipline.

## Can I stop doing a Minor once I have started?

Yes. In that case, you should simply choose any other optional modules available to you or additional modules within your Major subject.

## What if I don't want to take a Minor subject?

That's fine; you can choose to take other combinations of optional modules allowed by your degree regulations, such as interdisciplinary modules or further modules in your major subject.

# What you need to do next...

## Before you arrive at Southampton

If you think that you may be interested in pursuing a minor during your time at the University of Southampton, **for most minor subjects, you do not need to take any action before you arrive.**

However, there are some key points that you should consider:

- Not all of the Major programmes (degrees) at the University are eligible to include a minor subject alongside them. To check whether you will be able to pursue a minor, you should read the information contained in this booklet and check the website for further details (website listed on page 9).
- Think about which minor subject interests you – consider all of your options.
- Most of the minor subjects include more than one module option in year one; you should think about which module you may like to choose.

## Language minors

- If you are interested in pursuing a minor in one of the languages on offer, it is preferable for you to select two modules in your chosen language in year one (one per semester) due to the way in which languages are taught at Southampton.

Please refer to the website for further information:

**[www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information\\_for\\_students/minor\\_subjects/languages/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information_for_students/minor_subjects/languages/index.page)**

## After you arrive at Southampton

If your degree programme is eligible, you will be contacted during your first weeks at Southampton with further information about the Major/minor initiative and instructions about how to register your interest in a particular minor.

## Further information

Please read through the information contained within this booklet and visit the website for up to date details about how to pursue a minor.

If you have any queries before or after you arrive, please email [cip@soton.ac.uk](mailto:cip@soton.ac.uk).

[www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip)