

Customise  
your curriculum.  
Flexible Learning  
at Southampton





Study with peers from other disciplines: take a Curriculum Innovation module

# Customise your degree by choosing from the list of interdisciplinary, language and other disciplinary modules available to you.

For most degree programmes you take eight modules in each year of your degree. Some of these will be compulsory modules that you must take, but in most cases you also take some optional modules alongside these. You can choose to use these modules to:

- Deepen your knowledge by taking more modules in your home discipline(s).
- Broaden your studies by taking interdisciplinary modules, languages or other modules outside of your home discipline.

## What is Flexible Learning?

In February 2011, a number of interdisciplinary modules were introduced which were designed to give you new perspectives and access to innovative approaches to teaching and assessment.

By taking one of these interdisciplinary modules, you can develop transferable skills for your future, whatever you go on to do.

The list of these modules evolves and develops each year and includes modules such as Global Health, The Human Brain and Society, A Search for Life in the Cosmos and many more.

## What are the details?

Places on these interdisciplinary modules are allocated on a first come, first served basis as numbers have been capped to provide you with the best possible experience.

If your programme is eligible, you will be able to select these modules via the Online Option System. All modules are treated the same as other optional modules within the University and are subject to the same regulatory requirements.

Some other modules, including Languages, from across the University have been opened up to students from other disciplines.

## Top five things you should know

1. You must check which modules are available on your programme. You can do this by visiting the website: **[www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip)**
2. All modules are subject to timetabling. If your chosen optional module clashes with a core/ compulsory one from your main programme, the latter will take precedence.
3. The interdisciplinary modules are set at second year level to allow for forward and backtracking for first and third years where appropriate.
4. Studying with students from other disciplines gives you new perspectives.
5. Taking a module from outside of your main discipline will broaden your studies.

# Interdisciplinary modules\*



## Work and Employment in Theory and Practice

This module aims to introduce a broad range of perspectives on work, working lives and work organisations with a particular emphasis on how these are affected by variables such as globalisation, migration, technology and financial crisis.



## Business Skills for Employability

This module aims to help you to promote yourself to prospective employers and to understand the issues that drive success in business. Using a tried and tested interactive computer simulation, that has been used to train managers in international companies such as Tesco and Mars, students will practise managing a business and learn what effective management practice is.



## Design Skills for Presentations and Maps

This is an exciting opportunity to develop skills in communicating graphically, producing presentations, graphs and diagrams. Through lectures and practical learning, you will learn to create maps with Google Earth and produce a 3D fly through tour.



## Education for Health and Wellbeing

This module aims to introduce common health issues such as obesity, heart disease, alcohol abuse and smoking to students. By working directly with local secondary school pupils, students will learn how to communicate this knowledge to the public and how to promote ways of preventing these conditions. The module is very hands-on and is assessed using a portfolio of evidence and a series of observations.



## Global Health

This module presents an exciting opportunity to study situations, such as the outbreak of swine flu in Mexico in 2009 that quickly spread around the world, and risk factors, such as smoking and sedentary lifestyles, that lead to chronic diseases like cancer and diabetes. Students will review the varied global impacts of these diseases and be asked to provide and discuss policies and other activities that could address them.



## Living with Environmental Change

Understanding the differential nature, rate and impact of environmental change is fundamental for grasping the challenges it poses to society. Learning through lectures, interactive tasks and small group discussions, students will carry out research into how environmental change is investigated and the social and physical implications.

\* Please check the website for a full list of modules available to your programme:

[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)





### Digital Humanities: Critical Thinking in the Information Age

In this module students will look at the ways in which their own discipline interconnects with developments in digital technologies. It will increase their ability to evaluate and exploit digital trends which are having an ever greater impact on industry and employment.



### Living and Working on the Web

This module is for students who want to learn more about how the ways we live, learn, work and interact online are changing. It will develop the skills necessary for successful navigation of the increasingly blurred boundaries between online and offline social and professional activities.



### Ethics in a Complex World

This module will help students grapple with difficult questions, as well as explore complex ethical concepts. Using group discussion supported by a variety of collaborative technology and social media, students will investigate a contemporary subject in real depth, and gain an insight into practical problem solving based on theoretical perspectives.



### Global Challenges

The Earth's population is estimated to be 8 billion by 2050. This will drive a perfect storm of rising food and energy costs, increased migration and conflict. Arguably the greatest challenge we face is how to survive, one that will require trans-disciplinary responses - work that crosses disciplinary boundaries and is conducted in groups that could include: scientists, economists, philosophers, politicians and poets.



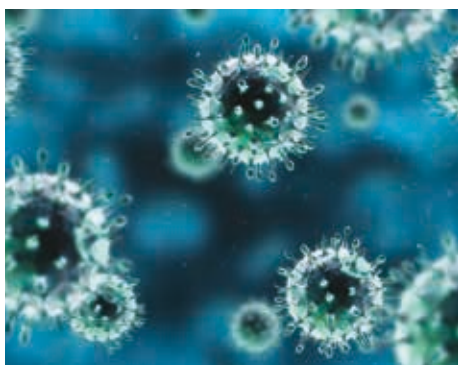
### The Management of Risk and Uncertainty

Effective risk management practice begins with uncertainty management. Through this module students will explore this idea, and consider how current risk management practices can be critiqued and improved. Students will study the philosophical and conceptual underpinning for effective risk management practice across a wide variety of organisational contexts, and look at how risk management can integrate with other organisational practices.



### Online Social Networks

This module aims to develop understanding of the emergent interdisciplinary area of online social network analysis by drawing upon technological, social, network science and organisational perspectives.



### Pathological Mechanisms of Disease

Pathology is the study of disease processes such as inflammation, cell death, and the development of cancer. It explains disease in a mechanistic way. Students will study a number of topics including: disease and its effects on evolution (and vice versa), and the relationship between disease mechanisms and the global impact of disease.



### Piracy, Security and Maritime Space

Who owns the oceans and under what authority are they policed? How do we define piracy? What do we mean by 'maritime security', and is it possible to attain it globally? This module takes piracy as a core theme and offers students the opportunity to study the increasingly fraught global debates about the security and ownership of maritime space.



### Sustainability in the Local and Global Environment

The environment is in a constant state of change, whether by nature or human led processes. Sustainability is about trying to manage this change through balancing social, economic and environmental needs, both locally and globally for present and future generations. Students will study sustainability in the context of different disciplines, utilising the University's world class research, and investigating different perspectives on the issues facing us in the future.



### The Human Brain and Society

The aim of this module is to provide tomorrow's leaders and policy makers with a basic understanding of how the human brain functions and an appreciation of the importance of mental health for 21st century society. Topics will be delivered by senior academics of the Southampton Neuroscience Group (SoNG).



### Intercultural Communication in a Global World

We are increasingly working and studying alongside people from different cultures and linguistic backgrounds. Misunderstandings and miscommunication can and do arise, but the benefits of such encounters are many. We gain from these experiences, grow as individuals, develop new relationships and enhance employability through the intercultural competence we acquire.



### Understanding Modern China

China is now the second largest economy in the world and is predicted to catch up to the United States within 10 years. This module will introduce students to key aspects of Chinese economy, culture and society and provide opportunities for exploring and analysing contemporary issues including those arising from China's ascendancy as a world power.





### Economics with Experiments

The objective of this module is to teach students the principles of economics with experiments that are effective and enjoyable. You will learn by being participants in the experiments, not by sitting and listening.



### More or Less

This module is driven by the use that is made of mathematical/statistical ideas and results in the media, advertising and politics. It aims to provide a framework for active citizens to understand, manipulate and respond to this data which they encounter every day. You do not have to be a mathematician to follow this module.



### Sustainable Enterprise

This is an interactive and practical module aiming to inspire students to social entrepreneurship by providing a comprehensive introduction to the social enterprise sector. The emphasis in this module is the translation of knowledge into action, and to raise an awareness of the support available to students for social enterprise activities at the university.



### The Portus Field School

Led by the University of Southampton, The Portus Project was established six years ago with an aim to study the maritime port of Imperial Rome, Portus, located at the mouth of the Tiber (Italy). Now the project has extended its delivery of research informed teaching via a new field school. This provides a vehicle to leverage this expertise, a challenging and engaging learning environment, and the ability to learn interdisciplinary, team-based employability skills.

NB – this module takes place in the summer vacation and will incur some additional costs.



### The Arab World in and Beyond the Headlines

Since early 2011 and the beginning of what has come to be known as 'the Arab Spring', the Arab world has rarely been out of the headlines. The region is an important global player, though one that is subject to frequent misunderstanding and stereotyping. This module will introduce students to key themes of relevance to contemporary life in the Arab world in order to go beyond the headlines.



### Tall Tales: Understanding Buildings

This module is intended to provide a brief but comprehensive account of the social archaeology of buildings from prehistory up to the present day. It will include a balanced mixture of practical architectural analysis and discussions of more theoretical aspects of building space, usage and organisation through time. It is also devised specifically to cater for and add to the on-going learning experience of students from a wide variety of non-archaeological disciplines.



### Ethics in Science, Engineering and Technology: Jekyll and Hyde

This module will consider how science shapes society and how society reacts to the process of discovery. This module will give students the intellectual tools to debate relevant issues and will enhance their ability to communicate their conclusions to a particular target audience.



### Health Policy and Economics

The module will introduce students to the use of economic concepts and theory when talking and thinking about health, health care and health care systems. The importance of health for any human being, the size of the health sector, the limited resources available to meet the needs of an ageing population (with higher levels of chronic disease) make health economics an important aspect of everyday life.



### How Musical Instruments Work

This module describes and discusses the physical concepts of science and music, such as wave motion, resonance and sound radiation, making use of animation, simulation and visualisation technologies to make the concepts accessible to students without a background in maths or physics.



### Life in the Cosmos

Perhaps one of the biggest questions facing humanity now is the possibility of life existing elsewhere in the universe. This module is aimed specifically at the non-scientist and it will look at the ways we are seeking extra-terrestrial life through observations and debate. We will explore the concepts behind star and planet formation, as well as looking in detail at the extreme forms of life on our own planet.



### Science and Models in Society

Would you like to know how science is used to not only understand our planet but how we should respond to global challenges such as climate change, hunger and poverty? This module explores these issues and gives you a hands-on, demystifying experience of scientific models and how they have been used in the real world.



### Engineering Replacement Body Parts

This module will introduce you to some of the current, cutting-edge research on the use of tissue engineering, stem cells and bionic implanted devices in medicine. It will also encourage you to think about the ethical and societal implications of these technologies now and in the future.





### Body and Society

This module brings together Archaeology, Anatomy and Anthropology to explore a range of different disciplinary approaches to the human body in past and present. It examines how the body has been perceived as a physical object and a social construction. Through the study of the human body, you will study issues of contemporary relevance within an interdisciplinary framework.



### Making Sense out of the Senses: How the Brain Works

This module provides an introduction to how the brain works and how it makes sense out of sensory input. Functional neuroscience is fundamentally an interdisciplinary subject that links neuroscience, cognitive science, psychology, electrical engineering, computer science, maths and physics. You will be introduced to the goals and methods of neuroscience, covering the architecture, function and properties of basic classes of neurons, neural networks and learning.



### Securities, Emergencies and Technologies of Control

How are different emergencies acted upon, responded to and governed by authorities? How have digital technologies changed the way emergencies are thought of and how we are secured against them? By taking this module, you will examine these questions and more. You will explore and critically assess security and emergency governance in a way that is relevant across Faculties.



### Natural Capital in Society

Given the importance of nature to human wellbeing, the current period of global change is exacerbating a disconnect between people and the natural world. The combination of local cause and global effect leads us to ask what we understand by nature and how we value it. This module considers values of nature and develops your skills to quantify values of local nature and natural capital and to track the value chain through to human wellbeing.



### What is Human?

What is a human being? What is our purpose? What is freedom of speech?

These complex questions about human nature, experience and behaviour have been asked for centuries and are the focus of the arts and humanities. This module gives you the opportunity to engage with these questions, be exposed to the way in which the arts and humanities approach them and try to answer them from your own perspective.

Whether you are interested in taking an interdisciplinary module, a language module or an Open Disciplinary module, you must visit the website to check which options are available to you. The 'Find your degree' page provides a full list of the options available to each programme within the University as well as a downloadable module menu for you to refer to.

You will also find detailed information about each module, including videos of the module leaders and student views about the modules they have taken.

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



# Language modules

Languages form an integral part of today's job market and the ability to speak another language will give you the edge in an increasingly competitive job market. Businesses in the UK are expanding globally at a rapid rate and with over 200 countries trading with the UK worldwide, they need employees who can speak multiple languages.

The Modern Languages Department offers 11 different languages:

Arabic	Japanese
Chinese	Latin
English for non-native speakers	Russian
French	Spanish
German	Portuguese
Italian	

All languages start from Stage 1 up to Stage 7. These Stages are dependent on your ability and experience. For further information visit the Centre for Language Studies website:

[www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/undergraduate/language\\_modules.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/undergraduate/language_modules.page)

Further information can also be found at [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information\\_for\\_students/languages/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/information_for_students/languages/index.page)

# Open disciplinary modules

A number of modules from several areas of the University have been opened up for students from other disciplines to take as elective modules. You could study modules from a range of disciplines: from Archaeology to Chemistry and Law to Psychology.

The availability of these modules is dependent on the main programme you are studying.

For full details of the options open to you, please visit the website:

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



# How to register

- Ensure that you are able to take interdisciplinary modules on the programme you are studying by visiting:  
**[www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/findyourdegree](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/informationforstudents/findyourdegree)**
- Decide which module(s) you wish to take.
- You are advised to discuss your options with your academic advisor.
- Use the Online Option Choice System as usual to select the module(s) from your optional list.
- Your 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, interdisciplinary, Language and Other modules are subject to timetabling.
- Due to timetabling demands, it cannot be guaranteed that you will be allocated your first choice module(s).
- You can usually forward and backtrack onto your 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.
- The name of the module you choose will appear on your degree transcript.

## Further information

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

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

## Interdisciplinary and other available modules

### What are the benefits of interdisciplinary modules?

You will be able to develop awareness of the cross-disciplinary implications of current subject matter. This should enrich your understanding of the world and prepare you for future projects in more open and creative ways. You will experience new perspectives from your fellow students who have a different disciplinary background to your own. Some of these modules will also allow for increased internationalisation and meet the need for broader language skills.

### Are the interdisciplinary modules core, compulsory or optional?

The modules are optional and will be treated as any other module in a programme. It will be shown on your final transcript and count towards your degree classification.

### At what level are the interdisciplinary modules run?

A student with no prior experience of the discipline should be able to engage with the learning, cope with the studies and successfully pass the module. These plans will need to be reconciled with the accreditation demands of regulating bodies, where applicable. The modules are set at Year 2 (Level 5), as the NQF will allow forward and backtracking between Year 1 to 3.

### Can I take an interdisciplinary or other available module in addition to my 8 modules (60 ECTS (120CATS)) per year?

No. You may only take an interdisciplinary or other available module as a replacement for another optional module.

### How many credits will I gain from taking an interdisciplinary module?

Each interdisciplinary module is worth 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS).

### How do I choose an interdisciplinary or other available module?

You can choose the modules via the online option system at the appropriate time of year when the option system is open for all optional choices, or via your Student Office up to the first two weeks of the semester in which the module runs.

### Will the module count towards my degree?

Yes. If you select an interdisciplinary module it will be in replacement of an existing optional module choice, and will count towards your degree classification and overall percentage mark.

### What happens if more students want to take these modules than there are places available?

We will aim to use technology-enhanced delivery to reduce some of the number constraints. One of the reasons for offering menus of choice tailored to specific programmes is so that the number of students given access to a module will be more manageable. However, as with any optional module, there may be circumstances where you are unable to secure a place on your first choice module. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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

We cannot guarantee places to students as the system works on a first come, first served basis. Due to the number of students choosing options during the time when the option system is open, we are unable to hold waiting lists for the modules that are over-subscribed. It may be worth checking available space on the modules with your Student Office during the weeks after the system closes, in case others change their minds and places become available. In this case, you would need to follow the normal change of module procedure to move from an existing option to an interdisciplinary module.

### How do interdisciplinary and other modules work for degree programmes which have professional accreditation requirements?

Most programmes allow some choice at some stage, although this may be different in different programmes e.g. early in some, later in others. In some cases we have opened discussions with the professional bodies to explore the implications for accreditation.

### Why are only some modules available to me?

In order to ensure that there is some academic coherence to the choices available to you, you will be offered a choice of modules which are deemed by your Director of Programmes to complement your degree programme. This should still allow you to exercise choice and personalise your learning, but in a way that has a benefit to you and is manageable logistically.

## Languages

### How are the modules assessed?

The modules will follow the same assessment regulations as all other modules within the University. The type of assessment used will be module-dependent and you can find further information on this via the module profile information.

### Have you asked students if they want choice and flexibility?

We recognise that some students will want flexibility and breadth in their studies, whereas others will want depth in their main subject. To ensure their views are represented, students are involved with development of these modules in many ways. We also hold regular student focus groups to gather their opinions. SUSU have helped in obtaining student views from a broad spectrum of students, not just from student reps.

### What is the feedback from students who have already taken one of these modules?

Overwhelmingly positive. They tell us that they enjoy learning about a different subject and having the opportunity to discuss and understand others' perspectives. By working with other students from different backgrounds, they get to learn much more and discover how to work together. They also enjoy the innovative delivery methods, such as small group work and closer interaction with lecturers. For more student feedback, visit the 'What students think' section of the website: [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip).

### How will this make me more employable?

As the next generation of graduates, you may take jobs that do not exist yet. It is our responsibility to do our best to prepare you appropriately. The flexibility and ability to view things from different perspectives which you will gain from these modules will be invaluable. Consultations with students who have already taken an interdisciplinary module tell us that they believe they have gained skills and experience that they can articulate to potential employers.

### What levels of language study are offered to students on non-language degree programmes?

You can choose to start a language in which you have no previous knowledge or continue to study one that you have learnt in the past. We offer a range of levels depending on your previous experience. See the languages website for advice and guidance about which level of study would be right for you.

### How could studying a language in addition to my main discipline benefit me in the future?

Acquiring some degree of foreign language competence in addition to your main subject area could add to your employability since employers are beginning to recognise the need for language skills in the global market-place.

### Can I study abroad?

You don't have to go abroad if you study a language (although it helps) and very often you don't have to have a foreign language if you do study abroad since increasingly foreign universities are offering courses in English. However, there are many personal benefits to be gained by studying abroad and you will acquire a number of useful and transferable skills. More information about international exchanges is given on the International Exchanges page of our University website.

### Is the amount of language study available to me as an addition to my main non-language discipline enough to be worthwhile?

Any level of language competence acquired will be useful to you, since even being able to exchange simple information in a foreign language will be appreciated by speakers of that language.

### What other language opportunities are available to me at the University of Southampton?

There are a number of language learning opportunities available. These include studying a credit-bearing language module, taking a language through the Lifelong Learning programme or studying a language independently at the Language Resource Centre at the Avenue Campus. Find out more on the Languages at Southampton portal at <http://www.languagesatsouthampton.soton.ac.uk/>.





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