



ROMS Frequently Asked Questions

Whom should I contact to discuss my questions about learning foreign languages (courses numbered 10-34) at Brandeis University?

For students of Spanish, French, or Italian contact Professor Hollie Harder at harder@brandeis.edu. Her office is in Shiffman 106 and her office telephone number is 781-736-3195.

Whom should I contact to discuss my questions about the upper-level study of literature and culture (courses numbered 109 and above) at Brandeis?

For students of Spanish, contact Professor Fernando Rosenberg at ferosen@brandeis.edu.

For students of Italian, contact Professor Richard Lansing at lansing@brandeis.edu.

For students of French, contact Professor Michael Randall at randall@brandeis.edu.

What is the language requirement at Brandeis University?

In order to graduate, students must be able to function at an intermediate level in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in a foreign language. Students can satisfy this requirement in several ways:

1) Students who would like to begin their study of a language can enroll in a sequence of three one-semester courses (10/ 20/ 30-level). When they complete the 30-level course with a passing grade, they will have satisfied the language requirement.

2) Students who would like to continue their study of a language can take a placement test to determine which course they should enroll in at Brandeis (For the French Placement Exam: <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/frentest.html>; For the Spanish Placement Exam: <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/spantest.html>; For the Italian Placement Exam: <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/italtest.html>). They are required to complete a 30-level class with a passing grade to fulfill the language requirement.

3) Students who have earned a 4 or a 5 on an Advanced Placement exam in language or literature are exempted from the requirement. In other words, they are not required to continue their study of language, but students who wish to continue studying a language can address questions to the appropriate faculty member listed above.

4) Students who have earned a 620 or higher on an SAT II language exam are exempted from the language requirement. In other words, they are not required to continue their study of language, but students who wish to continue studying a language can address questions to the appropriate faculty member listed above.

How can I be exempted from the foreign language requirement?

Students can be exempted from the requirement in several ways:

1) An Advanced Placement test score of 4 or 5 in language or literature

2) An SAT II score of 620 or higher

3) Taking an exemption exam. Please contact the professor in charge of your language to make these arrangements.

How do I know which course to choose?

If you are unsure about which course to take, feel free to contact the appropriate faculty member listed above. Usually the professor will suggest these paths of action:

- 1) Take the placement test for the language you would like to study. The test is available on line: For the French Placement Exam: <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/frentest.html>; For the Spanish Placement Exam: <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/spantest.html>; For the Italian Placement Exam: <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/italtest.html>. Once you have completed the placement test, you will score your test. Then you will answer a few questions and send the results of your placement test to Professor Harder. She will respond to you in an e-mail regarding the class you have chosen based on your placement test results. You should always feel free to contact Professor Harder by telephone if you prefer to talk in person, but it is useful for her to also have your e-mail message with the results of your placement exam.
- 2) Sometimes the results of the placement exam do not seem exactly right. In this case, you can either send an e-mail to or telephone Professor Harder to discuss your level.

Which 30-level course should I choose to enroll in?

At the 30-level in French and Spanish, you have a choice about which course to take, and your decision will depend on where your interests lie. In all of the courses at this level, students will read, write, speak, and listen in their foreign language, but each of the courses focuses on a specific skill or content area.

In French, two courses are offered:

French 32 is a conversation course where the students will work on oral expression.

French 34 is a course that allows students to explore cultural aspects of the French and Francophone world.

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Harder.

In Spanish, two courses are offered:

Spanish 32 is a conversation course where students work on oral expression.

Spanish 34 is a course that allows students to explore cultural aspects of the Hispanic world.

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Harder.

What opportunities to study abroad are available?

In the Office of Academic Affairs in Usdan 127, the Study Abroad Office (781-736-3483) can help you find out what study abroad programs are available to fit your needs. If a student participates in a program approved by Brandeis, credits from study abroad are transferable. The Study Abroad Office can also address questions regarding use of financial aid for study abroad.

How big are language classes at Brandeis?

Normally, language classes are limited to 18 students, and some conversation and composition courses are limited to 15 students. Classes usually range from 5-22 students.