Department of Romance Studies
Frequently Asked Questions

Whom should I contact to discuss my questions about learning French, Spanish or Italian (courses numbered 10–108) at Brandeis?
For questions about French and Francophone, Hispanic, or Italian Studies, please contact the Director of Language Programs in Romance Studies, Professor Hollie Harder (harder@brandeis.edu).

Whom should I contact to discuss my questions about upper-level, literature and culture courses (numbered 109 and above) in French and Francophone, Hispanic, or Italian Studies at Brandeis?
For French and Francophone Studies, please contact the Undergraduate Advising Head for French and Francophone Studies, Professor Martine Voiret (voiret@brandeis.edu).
For Hispanic Studies, please contact the Undergraduate Advising Head for Hispanic Studies, Professor James Mandrell (mandrell@brandeis.edu).
For Italian Studies, please contact the Undergraduate Advising Head for Italian Studies for spring 2015, Professor Paola Servino (servino@brandeis.edu).

How do I complete the language requirement at Brandeis?
In order to graduate, students must be able to function at an intermediate-level in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in a foreign language. They may satisfy this requirement in several ways:
1. Study of a language at Brandeis: Completion of a 30-level course with a passing grade satisfies the language requirement.
2. A score of:
   a. 620 or higher on the SAT II language exam,
   b. 4 or higher on an Advanced Placement exam in language or literature, or
   c. 5 or higher on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels Exam
satisfies the language requirement. We encourage students to continue their studies in French and Francophone, Hispanic, or Italian Studies.
3. A passing score on the Proficiency Exam that shows you have gained an intermediate-level of proficiency in French, Spanish, or Italian. Please contact Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) to make arrangements.
4. Completion of Spanish for Heritage Speakers (HISP 108a): Students who grew up speaking Spanish at home but lack reading and/or writing skills may enroll in this course. In addition, this course serves as a gateway to upper-level Hispanic Studies courses (HISP 104 and above depending on the student’s level of proficiency).

How do I enroll in a Romance Studies language course (FREN 10–106, HISP 10–108, or ITAL 10–106)?
All students need a consent code to enroll in Romance Studies language courses numbered 10–108.
Students currently enrolled in language courses will receive instructions about consent code distribution before the beginning of registration.
All others should email Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) as far in advance of Registration as possible with a description of their background in French, Italian or Spanish including classes taken, standardized test scores, and/or other experience with the language.

How do I choose the appropriate level to begin my French and Francophone, Hispanic, or Italian studies?
Please use the information below to choose the best level for you. A full listing of the current semester’s course descriptions and prerequisites is on the ROMS website, www.brandeis.edu/departments/roms/courses/index.html. For the most up-to-date information, please see the Schedule of Classes on the Registrar's website, www.brandeis.edu/registrar/registration/schedule.html.
• Students who have never studied French, Spanish, or Italian before OR who have studied it for less than one semester, generally enroll in a level 10 language course.
• Students who have studied French, Spanish, or Italian before but not at Brandeis OR who scored below 620 on the SAT II exam, below 3 on the AP exam, below 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels Exam, or who took the IB Standard Levels Exam should take a placement test to determine their level. Please email Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) for on-line consent to the French, Spanish, or Italian Placement Test.

• Students who scored 3 on the French, Spanish, or Italian AP exam, are not required to take the placement test; however they must email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) in order to receive a consent code for a 30-level course.

• Students who scored 620–710 on the French, Spanish, or Italian SAT II exam, 4 on the AP exam, or 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels Exam usually enroll in a 105 course.

• Students who scored 720 or above on the French, Spanish, or Italian SAT II exam, 5 on the AP exam, or 6 or above on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels Exam, usually enroll in a 106 course.

• Students who grew up speaking Spanish at home but lack reading and/or writing skills usually enroll in HISP 108a, Spanish for Heritage Speakers.

If you’re still not sure, please feel free to email the Director of Language Programs in Romance Studies, Professor Hollie Harder (harder@brandeis.edu).

Which 30-level course should I take?
In French and Francophone Studies and Hispanic Studies, 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, you will read, write, speak, and listen in the studied language, but each of the courses focuses on a specific skill or content area.

1. In French and Francophone Studies, two courses are offered. Both are intermediate-level courses and completion of either will fulfill the language requirement.
   FREN 32 focuses on oral expression.
   FREN 34 emphasizes cultural aspects of the French and Francophone world.
   If you have further questions, please contact Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu).

2. In Hispanic Studies, two courses are offered. Both are intermediate-level courses and completion of either will fulfill the language requirement.
   HISP 32 focuses on oral expression.
   HISP 34 emphasizes cultural aspects of the Hispanic world.
   If you have further questions, please contact Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu).

3. In Italian Studies, only ITAL 30 is offered. It allows students to work on oral expression and cultural aspects of the Italian world.
   If you have further questions, please contact Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu).

What if I speak Spanish at home?
HISP 108a, Spanish for Heritage Speakers, is designed specifically for students who grew up speaking Spanish and who would like formal training to improve their skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking about Hispanic and Latino cultural themes (usually offered every spring).

You may use this course to fulfill the language requirement or as a gateway to upper-level Hispanic Studies courses (HISP 104 and above depending on your level of proficiency).

I'm still not sure which course to take, now what?
Please feel free to email your questions to the Director of Language Programs, Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu).

What opportunities to study abroad are available?
Visit the Study Abroad Office in Usdan 169 for help finding the best study-abroad program for you. If you participate 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. Please visit their website at http://www.brandeis.edu/abroad/or call them at 6-3483.