

Language Achievement Levels Common European Framework (CEFR)

The School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham, uses the Common European Framework (CEFR) as a guide to learning and progression on our Modern Language degrees, for the Inter-Faculty programme taught in our Language Centre and also for students studying European languages at our campuses in China and Malaysia. Students can use the CEFR to gauge their developing language ability as they progress through their degree. The CEFR also provides a guide to employers about the level of language proficiency achieved by students graduating from our courses.

The CEFR is a benchmarking framework used to describe learners' foreign language proficiency in four areas: receptive, productive, interactive and mediating skills at 6 levels of achievement A1 (Basic User) to C2 (Proficient User).

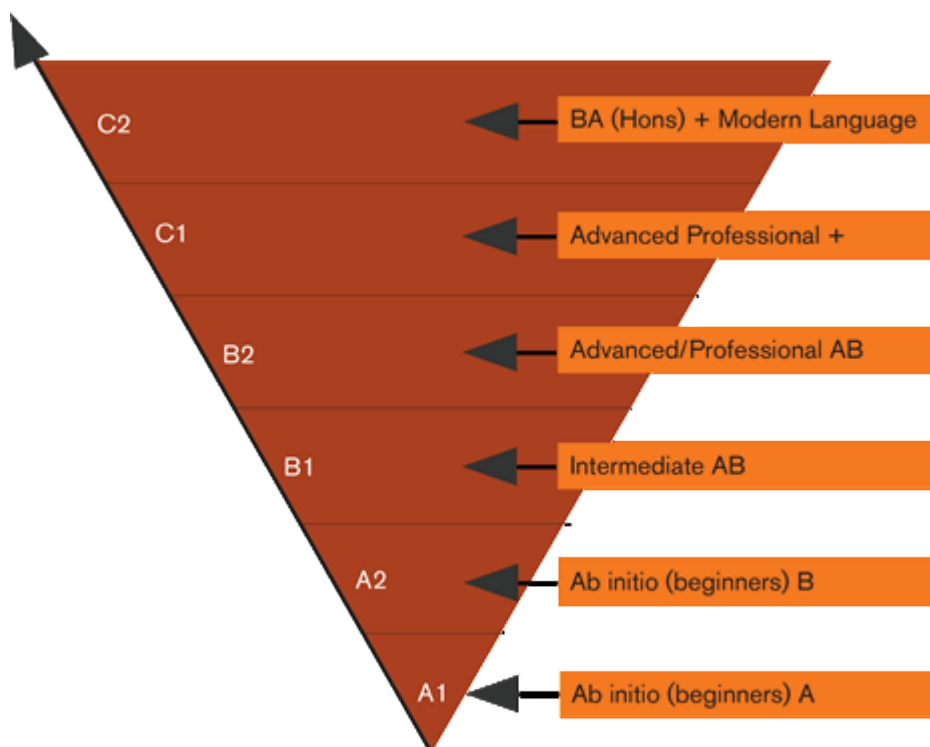


Table 1 provides an approximate guide to the CEFR level achieved at the end of each year of academic study by students studying European languages on our specialist language degrees. It applies to all European languages available for study and is relevant to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Ab initio (beginners) learners are those that start their studies with no prior knowledge of the language. All of the languages listed can be taken from ab initio through to degree level. Students graduating from our undergraduate degrees perform in a range between C1 and C2 of the CEFR in each of the European languages taken

through to graduation. This is regardless of whether they began their university studies with an A level in the language or as an ab-initio learner. This is consistent with the QAA benchmark statement that defines graduate-level language proficiency as lying between 'threshold' (C1) and 'typical' (C2) levels of performance.

Table 1: Undergraduate-Masters achievement levels

French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian/Croatian, Slovene and Spanish	Beginners	Post A-Level
Year 1	A2/B1	B1/B2
Year 2	B1/B2	B2/C1
Year 3	C1	C1
Year 4	C1/2	C1/2
<u>Masters</u>	C2	C2

Table 2 is a guide to the CEFR levels achieved by students studying European languages on the Inter-Faculty programme delivered by the Language Centre. Students with no prior knowledge begin at stage 1. Those with knowledge gained through prior study or by other means such as living in the country, begin at a higher stage. Students in the highest stage (stage 6) of the Inter-Faculty programme achieve a level of proficiency in the C1/C2 range. This is equivalent to the level achieved by graduates from our specialist language degree programmes. Please note that not all languages are available at all six levels.

Table 2 - Language Centre achievement levels

Stage 1	A1/A2
Stage 2	A2/B1
Stage 3	B1
Stage 4	B1/B2
Stage 5	B2/C1
Stage 6	C1/C2

More information

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