

Modern Languages Graduates 2012 transcript

Interviews with graduating students from the University of Birmingham BA Modern Languages courses

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Title: Modern Languages Graduates 2012

Duration 4:33 mins

How does it feel to be graduating today?

It feels fantastic. It feels like the end of a lot of hard work and I'm pleased to have reached this stage.

Pretty cool, yes. Four years of work.

Yes, pretty wonderful. We spent a year in Germany so we're back and we've done it all and it's really exciting.

It's been a bit of a long time coming because we do a four year course, looking forward to the future.

I didn't think I'd see this day at the start of freshers week but I feel like it's time now to move on.

It's quite a lot of work and a lot of stress so to finish and get a good result, just to see everyone again before we all go our different ways, it's really nice.

I almost can't believe it's gone by this quickly, four years have absolutely flown by, but really pleased.

I'd say the same thing, the time span, it feels like yesterday that we were just meeting and arriving. It's brilliant, yes?

What was the highlight of your time at Birmingham?

The year abroad is obviously amazing. Going and experiencing a new culture and things but just some of the modules have been really interesting as well.

The year abroad and last year I was in Nantes working as an English primary school assistant and I absolutely loved that. It's been great being in Birmingham as well, but definitely France was very special.

You never get an opportunity to do that so young, it was a great experience and one I'd love to do again. Third year was brilliant.

I'd definitely say the year abroad was a highlight. Obviously, going out to a new country, working or studying abroad is something which not many people have the chance to do.

We're all friends and we know all the lecturers really well, so you really become part of the family and it's really lovely.

I thought that Russian would be something unusual, something a bit different, something that might stand out to employers and just a new challenge. So I started and just fell in love with it completely and kept it up.

Would you recommend your course?

Definitely. I think especially studying Russian, no-one really thinks about it at school because it is quite an unusual language, no-one really thinks about it. But it's just so rewarding and the Russian culture is so much fun. And now to be graduating and still relatively young at 21 and have lived abroad and in Russia, I think that I could do anything really.

They're actually really supportive in the German department. I was really surprised how brilliant they were.

In an academic sense, the module choice was far greater than in other universities, I think personally.

The freedom.

I think the French are very good at what they do. Excellent tutors. Professors. I think the teachers really enthuse you for the subject and they clearly like what they're doing.

I really would. The German department at Birmingham is really great in that it offers so many options for linguistics, politics, history and all sorts.

I think French at Birmingham is a very good course because it's not just solely the language, if you're interested in the whole of France, their history, literature, culture politics, then I think it's a really perfect course.

What are your plans for the future?

I've got a place on the Vodafone graduate programme which starts in September down in Reading.

I'm working with Aldi on the Aldi grad scheme in the northwest.

I'm off to Germany to do sports journalism in Munich.

I really enjoyed being in Moscow as part of my year abroad so I'd really like to go back in the near future, maybe for a couple of years and get a real job when I return!

I'm going to the University of York in September to train to be a French teacher at secondary school. I'm doing a PGCE course.

I came out of my last exam and three years later started working for a wine company.

I'd like to do something obviously using my languages as a language graduate, in export or somewhere like that, but I don't think it's worth studying a language for four years without using it afterwards.

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