

# Multilingual London

The facts about languages in our Capital

## What are the top languages spoken in London?

After English, the top ten languages spoken fluently by London residents are French, Spanish, Polish, Hindi, Italian, Urdu, German, Russian, Bengali and Portuguese.

[The world in one city](#), RLN London (2008)

## How many languages are spoken in London?

Over 300 languages are spoken in London.  
Baker and Eversley (2001)

## How many don't have English as their first language?

Over 1 million Londoners speak a language other than English at home.  
Labour Force Survey (2003)



## Which languages are studied at university?

The most popular languages studied in higher education in London are French followed by Spanish, German, Russian, Arabic, Chinese and Italian. London has 5,460 language students – the largest share in the UK. HESA (2005/06)

## Where do London's overseas students come from?

The top five countries of origin are China, USA, India, Greece and Germany. There are over 87,000 overseas students in London's universities. HESA (2006/07)

## What are the top languages for trade?

The priority languages for international trade and investment in London are Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. [The world in one city](#), RLN London (2008)

## What are the top languages for tourism?

Based on countries of origin, key languages for tourism in London are French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Japanese and Russian. Demand for Polish, Turkish, Hungarian and Chinese is expected to grow by 2012. Visit London (2006)

## Want to find out more?

Visit RLN London's website at [www.rln-london.com](http://www.rln-london.com) or download our report '[The world in one city](#)'.