



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2026/27

Course title: Kurdish Kurmanji Beginners - online

Course descriptor/objectives

Welcome to *Kurdish Kurmanji Beginners Part I*, an engaging and inclusive course designed for anyone eager to explore the Kurdish language and culture. Whether you are a complete beginner, a heritage speaker with limited literacy, or simply curious about the Kurdish language, this course offers a supportive environment to build foundational language skills and cultural understanding.

Through interactive, task-based sessions, you'll develop confidence in reading, listening, speaking, and writing in Kurmanji, the most widely spoken variety of Kurdish. Weekly classes feature practical exercises, role-plays, and group activities, with informal feedback from instructors to guide your progress.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Use everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet immediate needs such as greetings, introductions, and simple requests.
2. Introduce yourself and others, and ask/answer questions about personal details.
3. Engage in simple interactions, provided the other person speaks slowly and clearly and is willing to offer support.
4. For heritage speakers: Strengthen literacy skills in reading and writing Kurmanji, and improve spoken fluency through structured grammar insights

5. For new learners: Read and write basic Kurmanji using the Latin alphabet, enabling engagement with written materials and communication.

In seminars, participants will engage in practical exercises, role-plays, and group interaction to develop language-specific learning strategies. The instructor's role is to facilitate this process, provide appropriate tools and guidance, and support learners in becoming more independent and confident users of Kurdish.

Language-specific information:

Kurdish is spoken by an estimated 30–45 million people worldwide, primarily across eastern Turkey, northern Syria, Western Iran, and Northern Iraq, with significant diaspora communities in Western Europe, especially Germany, France, and the UK.

Kurmanji, the most widely spoken variety of Kurdish, with an estimated 15-20 million speakers, is also used in diaspora communities across Central Asia and the Caucasus, largely due to historical deportations and migrations during the Soviet era.

Kurmanji is written in the Latin alphabet, making it accessible for learners familiar with European languages. As a highly agglutinative and ergative language with a Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) word order, Kurmanji offers a rich linguistic experience

and valuable insight into the culture and identity of Kurdish communities.

Prerequisite:

This non-credit-bearing weekly course is open to participants from a variety of backgrounds — including complete beginners, heritage speakers with little or no literacy, and anyone interested in exploring the Kurdish language and culture for the first time in a structured setting. No prior formal study of Kurdish is required.

Technical requirements:

-PC, laptop or tablet with camera and microphone

-Stable internet connection

Delivery will be via Zoom or Microsoft Teams

Once the course is confirmed, your teacher will send you an invitation for the first online session. You can expect to receive this invitation one day before the first session.

Coursebook and/or learning

resources:

Worksheets, materials and resources are provided by the teacher.