



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2024/25

Course title: Introduction to Breton

Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of this course is to bring together a wide variety of people, who are interested in learning Breton, and to gain an understanding about the culture of Breton-speakers. Participants will be introduced to the words, sounds, sentences, and meanings of the target language that will lead to an increased awareness of the idioms and nuances of spoken and written Breton.

The course offers an introduction to the basics of Breton for communication purposes. Therefore, by the end of the course participants will be able to:

1. Understand very simple messages, for example notices, leaflets and place names, etc.
2. Understand simple phrases about themselves or people they know.
3. Conduct very short dialogues in a range of everyday situations and talk about themselves and people they know
4. Write very short simple notes and fill in registration forms with personal details

Participants will develop some basic reading, listening, speaking and writing skills through a series of task-oriented sessions and will be provided with informal formative feedback during contact hours. In

seminars, participants will have to engage in practical exercises and group interaction, in order to develop relevant language-specific learning strategies. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide useful tools and encourage participants to become independent learners and basic users of the language, too.

Language-specific information:

Breton is a Celtic language spoken primarily in Brittany. It belongs to the Brythonic branch of the Celtic language family, which also includes Welsh and Cornish.

During the 19th and first half of the 20th century, the French government attempted to eliminate regional languages such as Breton with the aim of creating a national culture and single national language.

From the middle of the 20th century Breton slowly recovered, notably through music by Alan Stivell, schools (DIWAN/DIVYEZH), cultural associations, radio, newspaper... Today more than 300 educational establishments offer bilingual French-Breton education from pre-school in Brittany and Breton is recognised as one of the regional languages of France.

The number of Breton speakers is estimated at around 225,000.

Prerequisite:

This non-credit bearing weekly course is intended for complete beginners who wish to explore Breton for the first time.

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 provided in class