

## **BSc Biology / Biochemistry / Biotechnology with a Language for Science**

### **Information about the third year language project (16 ECTS)**

The project should be related to your own interests and should be based on material in the foreign language. It could include topics of local historical, geographical or cultural importance. It should not be of a highly technical nature. The required length is around 10,000 words. It should be written in French / German / Spanish. The Centre for Co-Curricular Studies will be pleased to advise you on the choice of topic if you would like to discuss it.

**Aim:** The aim of your project is to show that you have coherently researched and reported on an aspect of your host country's culture or history during your year abroad and that you are able to present your findings in appropriately sophisticated French / German / Spanish both in written and oral form.

**Length:** Your project report should be around 10,000 words (including footnotes but excluding your bibliography). Your word count must be clearly stated at the end of your report.

**THE PROJECT MUST BE YOUR OWN WORK.** You must include a list of references, websites and a bibliographical section with all the materials you have used. The usual Imperial College rules on plagiarism apply.

You are encouraged to use **interviews** when researching your project, where this is appropriate, as this will help develop your language skills. Where interviews have been used as basis for your research, include their transcripts as an appendix to your work.

The **organisation and presentation** of the project are important. Make sure there is a table of contents, an introduction, conclusion and bibliography. Where appropriate, include graphics: photographs and diagrams.

**Project viva voce:** You will have to discuss the project in French/German/Spanish in your **oral exam** on your return. The date for this will normally be by the end of October, following your return. Please contact your Language Coordinator in due course so that we can fix a suitable date/time. The oral exam, lasting about 30–45 minutes, will include questions and answers about your project and a more general conversation about your study abroad, including your main degree subject study.

#### **Important dates:**

- **Decide on your topic** as soon as possible, so that you can start gathering material early on.
- Let us know your topic as soon as possible, at the latest by Christmas.
- Send the Co-ordinator an outline of your project by **31<sup>st</sup> January** at the latest.
- You may **submit a 1<sup>st</sup> draft** of your essay for comments **by the end of June** (optional).

**Submission:** Your project should be formatted in double spacing. It is your responsibility to keep a backup copy in case of mishap. You should submit two printed and bound copies by the relevant deadline and also supply an electronic copy should the examiners request it.

**TWO COPIES** of the finished project must reach us **at least two weeks before the oral examination-** usually by mid-September- so that we can read it beforehand.

