



NO.1

**CENTRE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES**  
**O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY**

JUNE 2025

WELCOME TO OUR

# *Biannual Newsletter*

## From the Director's Desk

Dear JGU Community,

It is with great pleasure that I present, on behalf of the Centre for Foreign Languages (CFL), the inaugural edition of the CFL Newsletter — a reflection of the intellectual vibrancy, cultural engagement, and collaborative spirit that define our language programs at O.P. Jindal Global University.

Although intended as a biannual publication, this inaugural edition covers highlights from both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, as the former had not been previously documented.

Over the past academic year, the CFL has hosted distinguished guest speakers from a range of esteemed institutions, including the University of Granada, Instituto Cervantes, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Institute of Philosophy and Technology in Athens. Our events ranged from lectures on Andalusian culture, Spanish poetry, and Ethical AI to thought-provoking discussions on Colonial narratives and European art history.

Students have actively participated in international study-abroad programs, such as the one at the University of Granada; cultural visits to Alliance Française; and on-campus language festivals, including 'Journée de la Francophonie' and 'Deutsch entdecken'. They have also shared moving testimonials about their personal and academic growth through language learning.

This edition also showcases our faculty's contributions to research and publications, as well as their broader impact outside JGU. It celebrates not only academic excellence but also the joy of multilingual discovery and cross-cultural exchange.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Prof. Padmanabha Ramanujam, Dean of the Office of Academic Governance and Student Life at JGU, for his support in bringing this initiative to fruition—a vital step toward shaping a strong and distinctive identity for CFL. I am equally grateful to our dedicated faculty and vibrant student community, whose enthusiasm and commitment continue to make CFL a truly dynamic space for learning.

Warm regards,

*Shruti Jain*

## ONLINE LECTURE: STRATEGIES TO PREPARE FOR THE DELE (SPANISH) EXAM

On October 3, 2024, Professor Aurora Biedma Torrecillas from the University of Granada, Spain, delivered an engaging online lecture on the Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE) exam. With over 27 years of experience in teaching Spanish as a Second Language (ELE) and Spanish literature, Professor Torrecillas is widely recognized across Spain and Europe as a leading teacher trainer. She is affiliated with numerous universities and serves on accreditation committees for foreign language proficiency exams, in addition to being an accredited DELE examiner for the Instituto Cervantes. In this informative session, she shared effective strategies for DELE preparation, offering valuable tips to strengthen vocabulary, grammar, and communicative skills. The online format enabled broad participation, providing accessible and practical guidance to students preparing for this internationally recognized Spanish proficiency certification.



### CENTRE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES

(Office of English & Foreign Languages)

cordially invites you to an online lecture on

### Strategies to Prepare for the DELE (Spanish) exam

on  
on October 3, 2024, at 4 p.m.  
Classroom T4 – G79

**Meeting Link:-** <https://zoom.us/j/99368233665>  
**Password:-** JGU



**Bio of the Speaker:**

**AURORA BIEDMA TORRECILLAS** is a professor at the University of Granada, Spain, with over 27 years of teaching experience at the University of Granada. She specialises in ELE (Spanish as a Second Language) and Spanish literature and is a sought-after teacher trainer across Spain and Europe. Recognised for her expertise by various universities and the Instituto Cervantes, she's also involved in language assessment, serving on the accreditation committee for foreign language proficiency exams and as an accredited DELE examiner.

Join our informative online lecture to gain valuable insights into the DELE exam and learn effective preparation strategies. The experienced examiner will provide comprehensive guidance on the exam format, content, and grading criteria. Discover essential tips for improving your Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills. This interactive session will equip you with the knowledge and tools to approach the DELE exam and achieve your desired score confidently.

**Faculty Coordinator:** Mohammad Jilani, Associate Professor of Practice,  
Email: [mjilani@jgu.edu.in](mailto:mjilani@jgu.edu.in)

**Centre Coordinator:** Prof. (Dr) Shruti Jain



### Centre for Foreign Languages

and  
Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities

cordially invites you to a

### GUEST LECTURE

## ANDALUSIAN CULTURE IN A GLOBALISED SOCIETY



**Prof. (Dr) Antonio Rafael Fernández Paradas**  
Professor, Departamento de Didáctica de las Ciencias Sociales  
Facultad de Ciencias de Educación, Universidad de Granada, Spain

Dr. Antonio Rafael Fernández Paradas is a Professor at Departamento de Didáctica de las Ciencias Sociales Facultad de Ciencias de Educación, Universidad de Granada, Spain. He holds a PhD in Educational Sciences from the University of Málaga, with a thesis entitled *Heritage as a Means for the Construction of Affective-racial Diversity: A Study of the Degree of Curricular Development in the Training of Future Primary School Teachers in Andalusia*. His line of research focus on religious iconography, festivals and monarchy, funerals and royal entranos, ephemeral architecture, art history, gender and homosexuality, baroque sculpture, the teaching of social sciences, etc. He has several publications in reputed international journals.

**ABSTRACT:**  
The objective of this talk is to analyse the characters and particularities that define Andalusian culture. Over time, in the Andalusian territory, a geographical space that has practically remained territorially speaking with the same configuration for more than 2,500 years, a series of identity markers have been generated that come to codify the Andalusian cultural essence. One of these primary markers is the festivals and the configuration of the festive space in the cities. Holy Week, Corpus Christi, Carnival, the Pilgrims and many other civil or religious traditions currently shape the Andalusian identity.

**Faculty Coordinator:**  
Mohammad Jilani,  
Associate Professor of Practice (Spanish),  
[mjilani@jgu.edu.in](mailto:mjilani@jgu.edu.in)

**TUE., 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024**  
**4:00 PM ONWARDS**  
**Classroom: G79**  
Aurora Biedma Torrecillas  
Academic Block (T4)  
O.P. Jindal Global University

## GUEST LECTURE: ANDALUSIAN CULTURE IN A GLOBALISED SOCIETY

Prof. (Dr.) Antonio Rafael Fernández Paradas, from the Department of Social Sciences Education at the University of Granada, Spain, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on August 6, 2024, exploring the unique cultural identity of Andalusia. He examined how, within a historically stable geographical region, distinct cultural markers have developed over centuries to shape the essence of Andalusian identity. Offering a rich historical and sociocultural perspective, he also addressed how this deeply rooted heritage continues to evolve in response to the dynamics of globalization. The session provided students with valuable insights into the interplay between tradition, identity, and cultural transformation.

## LECTURE: CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTEMPORARY SPANISH POETRY

Prof. Juan Carlos Abril from the University of Granada, Spain, delivered an insightful lecture on February 4, 2025, as part of an academic initiative by the Spanish section of the Centre for Foreign Languages. A renowned expert in contemporary Spanish poetry, Professor Abril explored the defining characteristics, central themes, and stylistic innovations that shape modern poetic expression in the Spanish-speaking world. His engaging analysis offered students and faculty a deeper appreciation of the evolution of Spanish poetry and the cultural and literary nuances it embodies.



**Guest lecture**  
on  
**Characteristics of Contemporary Spanish Poetry**  
by



**Prof. Juan Carlos Abril**  
(University of Granada, Spain)

**4 Feb 2025 (Tuesday)**  
**Location: T3 -T72                      Time: 16:30- 17:30**

Faculty coordinators: Prof. Mohammad Jilani, Associate Professor of Practice (Spanish), Centre for Foreign Languages, OEFL  
Email: [mjilani@jgu.edu.in](mailto:mjilani@jgu.edu.in)  
Prof. Neha Tyagi, Assistant Professor (Spanish), Centre for Foreign Languages, OEFL  
Email: [ncha@jgu.edu.in](mailto:ncha@jgu.edu.in)



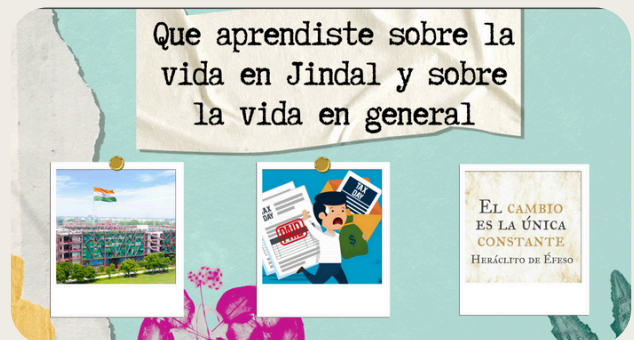
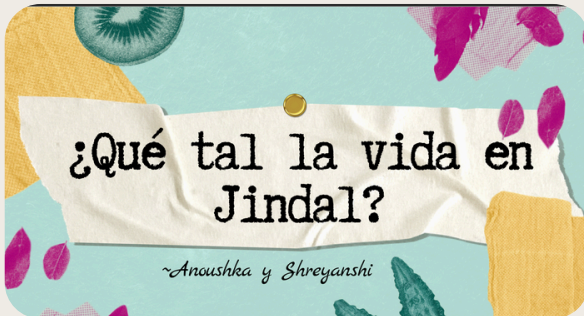
## MASTERCLASS: APRENDER ESPAÑOL PARA COMUNICARSE

Prof. María Gil Burman, Director of the prestigious Instituto Cervantes, conducted a highly anticipated Masterclass on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, hosted by the Spanish section of the Centre for Foreign Languages. Focusing on practical strategies and effective methodologies for learning Spanish, the session placed particular emphasis on developing communicative competence. Drawing on her extensive expertise in language acquisition, Prof. Burman offered participants valuable insights into enhancing fluency and confidence in real-life communication, making the session both enriching and impactful for learners at various levels.

THESE EVENTS, EXPERTLY FACILITATED BY MR. MOHAMMAD JILANI AND DR. NEHA TYAGI, UNDERScore THE SPANISH CENTRE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING ENRICHING ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE. THE DIVERSE RANGE OF TOPICS AND THE CALIBER OF THE GUEST SPEAKERS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE AND ITS MULTIFACETED CULTURAL LANDSCAPE.



# CREATIVE corner



In Spring semester 2025, the graduating students of BA GA 22 gave a presentation in Spanish facilitated by Prof. Deepika Teckchandani, about their life in Jindal. The students connected their past, present and future in a beautiful manner in Spanish language. It was not just another Spanish assignment for them but also a nostalgic experience. It was a proud moment as the students realized how far they had come. The words flowed, the expressions came naturally, and for the first time, they weren't translating in their head—they were thinking in Spanish and spoke fluently and confidently in Spanish classroom and outside of it. The celebration of their achievement continued outside the classroom as well as the students engaged in a free-flowing conversation in Spanish in an informal setting.





**SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA, SPAIN**

**Faculty  
SPOTLIGHT**

**MR. MOHAMMAD JILANI,**  
Associate Professor of  
Practice (Spanish) has been  
instrumental in organizing  
impactful short-term study  
abroad programs twice a year.



Earlier this year, from January 14th to January 27th, 2025, 27 enthusiastic students embarked on a transformative journey to Granada, Spain. Hosted by the prestigious Centro de Lenguas Modernas at the University of Granada, the programme titled "Doing Business in Spain and Spanish Language" provided students from various schools with a unique blend of language immersion and business insights within a vibrant cultural context. Participants engaged in intensive Spanish language sessions, explored the intricacies of the Spanish business landscape, and immersed themselves in the rich history and culture of Andalusia. The programme proved to be a resounding success, offering invaluable academic and personal growth for all involved.

*Successful  
Winter  
Program*  
**IN GRANADA**



**LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SUMMER OF 2025:  
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN SPANISH  
LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND HISTORY!**

FOR STUDENTS EAGER TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE AND ITS FASCINATING CULTURAL HERITAGE, WE HAVE OUR UPCOMING TWO-WEEK SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME IN SPANISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND HISTORY. THIS IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 2025 AND PROMISES AN ENGAGING EXPLORATION OF SPAIN'S LINGUISTIC ROOTS, ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS, AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVES. PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE THEIR SPANISH LANGUAGE SKILLS THROUGH INTERACTIVE LESSONS, DELVE INTO SPAIN'S RICH HISTORY THROUGH GUIDED TOURS AND LECTURES, AND EXPERIENCE THE VIBRANT SPANISH CULTURE FIRSTHAND THROUGH EXCURSIONS AND LOCAL INTERACTIONS.

# Student Testimonials

## My Experience of Learning Spanish

I began learning Spanish on my own during the lockdown and later continued studying it at university. It has truly been an amazing and rewarding journey. Spanish is not only one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, but also incredibly expressive and beautiful to speak and hear.

Studying it at university gave me the chance to deepen my understanding through structured courses, academic resources and the support of my professors. Their interactive teaching styles and cultural insights turned language learning into something I genuinely looked forward to. In class we focused on wide range of interactive and creative activities that helped build our speaking and listening skills. From role-plays and group discussions to presentations and multimedia assignments, the classes were always dynamic and enjoyable. These well-rounded activities and thoughtfully designed assignments made learning Spanish in an academic setting both effective and fun.

As a cognitive psychology student, I've come to appreciate how learning a new language benefits the brain by enhancing memory, flexibility, and metalinguistic awareness. Spanish, in particular, has given me not only linguistic skills but also helped deepen my cultural understanding and appreciation.

One of the highlights of my experience was attending a summer school program in Granada, Spain organized through the university. Immersed in a Spanish-speaking environment and surrounded by a vibrant culture deepened my connection with the language. Exposure to native environments is incredibly important for learning a language, and Granada played a key role in improving my speaking and listening skills that are often harder to develop when learning a language. I also discovered how Spanish varies across different regions in pronunciation, vocabulary, and expressions. This exposure helped me not just learn the language, but also understand and respect its diversity and adaptability.

Overall, learning Spanish has been an incredibly enriching experience that I would highly recommend to anyone interested in languages, culture, or cognitive development. – **Vrinda Bhatnagar, BA LH 2022**

Spanish was one class I would happily reach ten minutes early for. Every session was engaging – whether we were learning about businesses in Spain, practicing tenses, or drafting CVs and letters, it always felt connected to the real world.

What made it truly special were the fun games and activities our professors planned, creating a comfortable space where we could be ourselves, make mistakes, and learn along the way. The professors have been incredibly kind and supportive, always encouraging us to grow more confident with the language.

Las clases de español no solo me enseñaron un idioma, sino también una cultura y una nueva forma de ver el mundo. I'm grateful for the memories, learnings, and the wonderful classroom environment these classes gave me. – **Khushi Shah, IBM 2021**

# Student Testimonials

The Spanish course offered by CFL has been a fun and interesting learning experience. The course was structured by the professor in a way that makes it very simple and easy to understand the concepts. The curriculum does not feel heavy at all.

Rather than traditional book learning, professors make the class engaging by using additional resources such as videos, music, and small exercises every step of the way to make sure that the students are in pace with the curriculum and the test of the class.

Learning Spanish at JGBS for the past 4 years has been a tremendous and enjoyable experience for me. – **Shagun Singh, IBM 2021**

From the very beginning of my university journey, Spanish has been an integral part of my academic and personal growth. Studying this beautiful language opened doors to understanding the rich Spanish culture, its people, business practices, celebrations, cuisine, but also laid a strong foundation for my future in management.

I thoroughly enjoyed every class, especially the engaging activities that made learning so enjoyable. A highlight of my experience was the Short-Term Abroad Program at the University of Granada, Spain, where I had the incredible opportunity to study “Doing Business in Spain and Spanish Language” first-hand. This program offered invaluable practical exposure to international business practices and real-world language application. Visiting iconic places like The Alhambra, Plaza de España, Cathedral de Seville, and witnessing the authentic Flamenco show made the experience unforgettable.

I am deeply grateful to O.P. Jindal Global University for this life-changing opportunity and extend special thanks to all my Spanish professors, especially Professor Neha Tyagi, for their continuous support and guidance throughout this journey. – **Lovely Mohanty, IBM 2021**

Learning Spanish has been one of the most personal and exciting parts of my university experience and a class that I always looked forward to. What began as curiosity turned into a genuine love for the language and a personal connection with Prof Deepika. There is something incredibly fulfilling about understanding a song lyric, holding a conversation, or reading a poem in Spanish—and realizing how much I have grown. The classes were more than just lessons; they were spaces of laughter, patience, and discovery and so much competitive spirit wrapped in one kahoot quiz.

Spanish became not just a subject, but a part of who I am today with constant urge to hit my goals on Duolingo every single day. – **Shreyanshi Sikaria, BA GA 2022**

Learning Spanish with Prof. Deepika was an exciting experience, and a lot of fun!

~**Shounak Sarkar, BA PS 23**





## CULTURAL VISIT TO ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DELHI

The French section of the Centre for Foreign Languages organized a cultural visit to Alliance Française de Delhi on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Students explored The Book Station, viewed an exhibition of French literary works, and experienced the Pardon My French program. A major highlight was the Café des Poètes Open Mic, where students performed poetry in French and Indian languages. The visit offered an enriching blend of literature, culture, and creativity, fostering intercultural appreciation and linguistic engagement.



## BOOK LAUNCH & FRENCH READ ALOUD COMPETITION

On 17th October 2024, the French section of the Centre for Foreign Languages at O.P. Jindal Global University hosted a combined event featuring a Book Launch and the French Read Aloud Competition. This vibrant celebration of language and culture brought together A1 and A2 level students who showcased their fluency and spontaneity by reading French texts provided on the spot. The event highlighted the elegance of spoken French while fostering confidence and enthusiasm among participants. In addition to the competition, the audience actively engaged in an interactive quiz on French culture, with exciting prizes awarded to winners. The evening concluded with lively conversations over snacks and refreshments, creating an enjoyable and immersive experience for all French language enthusiasts.



## JOURNÉE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

On 21st March 2025, the French section of the Centre for Foreign Languages at O.P. Jindal Global University, organized Journée de la Francophonie to celebrate French Language and Culture. The event commenced with an inaugural speech by Prof. Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik, Registrar, JGU. The program featured student performances including French poetry recitations (La Poésie), songs (Les chansons), and a culinary experience (La cuisine) offering French desserts and salads. A creative poster exhibition themed La Francophonie du monde also captivated attendees. The event concluded with remarks and prize distribution by Ms. Alka Goel from the University of Delhi. With enthusiastic participation and creative performances, the event offered a vibrant platform for students to engage with the French language and culture.





# Faculty SPOTLIGHT

**DR. NAVREETI SHARMA**, Associate Professor (French), CFL published the book : Ah Bon ! J'Écris en Français (Compréhension et Production Écrites) A1/A2. This book is designed for university and college students at the A1 and A2 levels who are studying French language, culture, and literature. It aims to improve their reading, writing, vocabulary, and overall productive and comprehensive skills in French. Additionally, it provides cultural, social, and literary insights relevant to French and Francophone societies. The book is also a valuable resource for senior learners seeking to learn and practice French.





# Student Testimonials

Learning a new language is always interesting for me. Choosing French as the language, was just the cherry on top. I had the honour of being taught by 2 very patient and diligent teachers in Jindal; Navreeti Ma'am and Shilpa Ma'am. Both of them, helped me and my fellow classmates navigate this journey and ensured the basics were very clear from the start. My foundation was built strong hence, I could excel in my course. Merci Beaucoup mes Professeurs!" - **Neeti Phatarphekar, IBM 2021**

Learning French at Jindal has been one of the most enriching parts of my academic journey. What began as just another language requirement soon turned into a deep appreciation for French culture, history, and communication. The teaching style was immersive, encouraging us to move beyond the textbook and engage with the language in a real, meaningful way. - **Joyal Mogra BA GA 2022**

Studying French has been one of the most transformational aspects of my academic journey at Jindal. The thoughtfully designed course structure and constant guidance of Professor Navreeti helped us excel at learning the language. Only two semesters in, when I visited a Francophone country, to my surprise I was able to converse with the locals in French. That experience changed the way I approached language learning and made me realize how instrumental it is. Without OEFL's structured and immersive approach such fluency in a short time would not have been possible. Today, as I am looking at opportunities for a career in international affairs, the strong foundation I have gained in Jindal has given me the confidence and motivation to continue advancing in the language and pursue a higher proficiency in it. - **Suhani, BA GA 2022**

I was a slow learner when I started learning French, and in the beginning, it felt difficult and overwhelming. But with Professor Shilpa Gupta individual guidance and support, things began to improve. What made the course really fun were the creative activities singing in French, doing Shark Tank pitches it never felt boring. Now, I'm able to write and speak more confidently, though I still need to work on my fluency. Overall, it's been a very rewarding and encouraging journey. - **Neha Chowdary, IBM 2021**

# Student Testimonials

Learning French over the past four years with my college professor has been an incredibly rewarding experience. From the very beginning, Professor Shilpa Gupta created a welcoming and supportive environment that made learning both enjoyable and effective. Her polite and patient nature, combined with a deep passion for teaching, truly set her apart. Ma'am had a unique ability to simplify complex grammar and vocabulary, making each lesson easy to follow and engaging. Whether it was explaining the nuances of pronunciation or helping us with writing assignments, she was always there to support us in every possible way. What made the classes even more enriching were the numerous interactive activities she organized. These included role-plays, group discussions, and cultural presentations, which not only made the learning process fun but also helped us gain practical speaking skills and confidence in using the language. I am truly grateful for her dedication, encouragement, and the positive learning environment she fostered. - **Abhishek Jain, IBM 2021**

Learning French at Jindal has been one of the most enriching parts of my university experience. Throughout my time, I was able to explore a wide variety of topics, which kept things interesting and engaging. Being in Prof Navreeti Sharma's class brought with it lots of role-plays, interesting YouTube videos about French culture, and interactive exercises which made learning fun and dynamic. Professor was always supportive, even when I made mistakes, which gave me the confidence to keep trying. I'm truly thankful for her constant encouragement and guidance. I hope to continue learning French and becoming proficient in this beautiful language soon! - **Samridhhi Suresh, BA DFP 22**

From bonjour to full conversations, going through 8 levels of french was a journey of experiences. I was initially skeptical but after being able to comprehend the language with ease and utilize it in real word scenarios, I am grateful for the opportunity of learning such a wonderful language. - **Udit Atul Kaul, IBM 2021**





## STUDENT INTERACTION: “ASK-A-GERMAN”

The German section of the Centre for Foreign Languages organized “Ask-a-German” on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, an info-event for the students and faculty members who are interested in learning about Germany and its language, history, culture, society etc.

Dr. Michael Stadler, a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) – Lecturer appointed at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, addressed a wide range of topics, providing comprehensive insights into German football, Oktoberfest, the School System of Germany, Cuisine, Dialects etc. He also elaborated on the hobbies that Germans generally pursue in their spare time, differences among different European countries, as well as notable historical facts. A large number of participants attended this event, and they all engaged in the discussions with great enthusiasm and interest. Through this event, we achieved the goal of promoting a more profound understanding of the various dimensions of the German culture and society.

On March 7<sup>th</sup> 2025, the German section of the Centre for Foreign Languages organized a book talk titled “The Inhuman Empire: Wildlife, Colonialism, Culture” for students and faculty members interested in literature, folklore, colonial studies, and environmental humanities.

Prof. Sadhana Naithani, the author of this book. Prof. Naithani is a renowned Professor of Literature and Folklore at the Centre of German Studies, SLL&CS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is also a former President of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research. In her talk, Prof. Naithani presented critical insights from her book, which examines British writings on Indian wildlife from 1860 to 1960 within the broader framework of colonial rule. She shed light on the contrasting ways in which colonial and folk narratives portray nonhuman animals – the former often reducing them to 'game', while the latter recognize them as sentient beings. Her analysis weaved together hunting accounts, colonial ideology, folklore, and emerging perspectives from anthropology, natural sciences, and philosophy, revealing how narratives reflect and shape our understanding of human-animal relationships. The event was well-attended and stimulated meaningful discussions among participants. It successfully highlighted the intersections of environmental crisis, colonial history, and cultural narratives, while encouraging critical engagement with how we conceptualize nature and wildlife in both historical and contemporary contexts.

## BOOK DISCUSSION: ”THE INHUMAN EMPIRE: WILDLIFE, COLONIALISM, CULTURE”







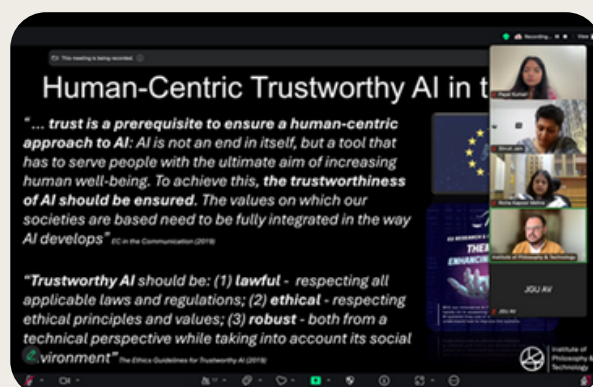
## **GUEST LECTURE: “EXPLORING GERMAN CRAFTSMANSHIP: A JOURNEY THROUGH EUROPEAN ART HISTORY FROM THE 15TH TO THE 20TH CENTURY”**

A special guest lecture on the rich history of European Art, with particular emphasis on the contributions of German artists from the 15th to the 20th century was organized in hybrid mode by the German section of the Centre for Foreign Languages on March 25th 2025. Dr. Mercy Vunghthianmuang Guite, Assistant Professor at the Centre of German Studies, SLL&CS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, provided a comprehensive overview of the evolution of art from the Renaissance through the Baroque, Romantic, and Modern periods, culminating in the emergence of abstract art in the 20th century. Dr. Guite highlighted the critical role German artists played in shaping European art movements and traced the cultural and historical contexts in which their work emerged. This engaging lecture drew active participation from students and faculty alike, fostering an appreciation for the historical depth and cultural significance of European and German art traditions. It successfully deepened the audience's understanding of visual culture and its broader intellectual heritage.

On April 7th 2025, the German section of the Centre for Foreign Languages organized a guest lecture titled “Trustworthy AI and Philosophical Ethics” for students and faculty members interested in technology, ethics, and democratic governance. The event took place online.

Prof. (Dr.) Giannis Stamatellos, Professor of Philosophy and President of the Institute of Philosophy and Technology in Athens, Greece, explored the ethical challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly the need for fairness, democratic access, and the inclusion of diverse stakeholders across the AI lifecycle. A significant part of the talk focused on virtue ethics. Prof. Stamatellos encouraged reflection on the traits that define a “good” student or person. He questioned whether ethical growth requires absolute self-reliance or whether seeking help is a valuable moral trait. These reflections helped personalize the broader debate around human and artificial autonomy. Importantly, the lecture emphasized that ethical AI must uphold human rights and freedoms, actively avoid bias in decision-making, and promote diversity and impartiality. Participants were urged to consider how technology impacts not only institutions but individual autonomy and responsibility.

## **ONLINE GUEST LECTURE: “TRUSTWORTHY AI AND PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS”**





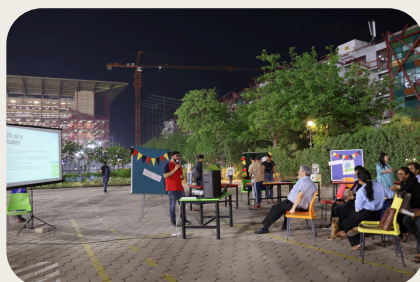
## CELEBRATING GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The German section of the Centre for Foreign Languages hosted an engaging and vibrant festival titled “**Deutsch entdecken: Spiele, Spaß & Kultur**” at Crossover Commons on 8th April 2025. Organized by the students of German Level 6 (JSIA) and Level 8 (JGBS), the event was a delightful exploration of German language and culture.

The two-hour celebration, held from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, brought together students and faculty for an immersive experience featuring language games, quizzes, and an array of culinary treats from Germany. From homemade cookies to traditional Black Forest Cake, Kartoffelsalat (potato salad) and Limonade, the event offered a true taste of German hospitality.

The festival not only created a joyful space for cultural exchange but also reinforced language learning through interactive and fun-filled activities.

Sponsored by Goyal Publishers & Distributors Pvt. Ltd., the event was a resounding success, leaving participants inspired and more connected with the German language and its rich traditions.



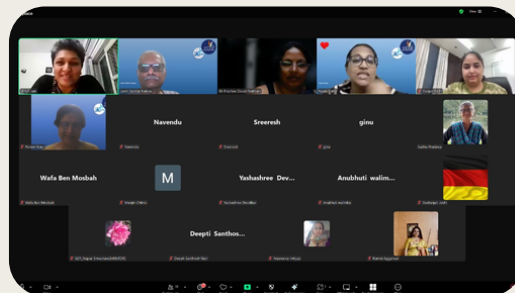


# Faculty SPOTLIGHT



**PROF. DR. SHRUTI JAIN**, Professor (German) & Director, CFL, continues to make significant contributions to the fields of literature, philosophy, and foreign language education through her research, publications, and academic engagement.

- Her book chapter titled "The Snail and its House: Anneliese as a Home Thinker in Lou Andreas-Salomé's Das Haus" was published in September 2024 in a Scopus-indexed edited volume by Bloomsbury, offering a nuanced exploration of domesticity, space, and identity in Salomé's writing.
- On 1st October 2024, she was invited to a Kafka centenary panel discussion at Ashoka University, where she reflected on the often-overlooked influence of Kafka's mother in his literary imagination.
- On 10th October 2024, Dr. Jain delivered a talk titled "Revisiting the Future: Nietzschean Perspectives in/and Indian Thought" at the GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON NIETZSCHE'S FUTURES organized by the prestigious Nietzsche Kolleg/Klassik Weimar Stiftung, Weimar, Germany, illustrating the contemporary Indian reception of Nietzsche's thought.
- She conducted a Masterclass for students at the Amity School of Foreign Languages, Noida, on 23rd November 2024, focusing on interactive and learner-centered strategies in foreign language pedagogy.
- Most recently, on 26th April 2025, Dr. Jain led a national online workshop organized by InDAF (Indo-German Teachers' Association) for German language teachers across India on the Role of Discursivity in Teaching Culture in the Foreign Language Classroom, foregrounding the importance of critical cultural discourse in language education.





# Student Testimonials

Learning Deutsch has been a truly enriching experience that extended far beyond the textbook. Under the guidance of Professor Shruti Jain, I had the opportunity to build a strong foundation in the language while also delving into the rich cultural context that shapes it. Her teaching was clear, engaging, and fueled by a deep passion for the subject, which made every class something to look forward to.

From interactive games and quizzes in class to German Day celebrations featuring movie screenings, cultural activities, and food, and even guest lectures, each of these experiences brought the language to life. They transformed learning into an immersive journey and allowed us to engage with Deutsch in creative and meaningful ways beyond the traditional classroom setting.

This experience has sparked a genuine interest in the language, one that I hope to continue nurturing in the years to come. Ich freue mich darauf, weiter Deutsch zu lernen! - **Harini Vallal J., BA GA 2022**

Enrolling in the German course was an incredibly enriching experience. The hands-on activities in classes played a huge role in helping us recall and apply what we learned. Over the span of four years, we organized two major events that were both fun and engaging, adding a dynamic and fun element to our learning journey. Even the assessments given to us by our professor, Prof. Shruti Jain was designed creatively, pushing us to put effort into making podcasts, videos, and other interactive projects. This course truly made learning German enjoyable and memorable. - **Pannaga A Kumar, IBM 2021**

Learning German over the past four years has been a truly enriching experience. Professor Shruti's interactive approach using tools like Wordwall, quizzes, and debates made the learning process both enjoyable and effective. I've gained confidence in speaking and understanding the language. Events such as German Day and Oktoberfest added a strong cultural dimension, allowing us to engage creatively with the JGU community and build lasting memories through meaningful experiences. - **Revathi A. Pillai, IBM 2021**

Learning German over the past three years has been an incredibly fun and enriching experience. The classes were always interactive and we played a lot of games that not only made learning enjoyable but also helped us understand the language better. Our professor, Prof. Shruti Jain was amazing and truly funny. She made sure every session was something to look forward to and encouraged us to enjoy learning rather than feel pressured. That made all the difference. I chose German again as an elective because ich mag Deutsch wirklich sehr. The way we learned through activities, conversations, and laughter made the language feel alive. I don't think I'll ever forget this language. Deutsch ist eine schöne Sprache and this course made me fall in love with it even more. - **Deiana Pahuja, BA GA 2022**

Over the past four years, learning German has been an incredibly enriching and enjoyable experience. The way the subject was taught went far beyond textbooks — we regularly engaged in interactive activities like flashcards, role plays, and real-life scenarios that made understanding and applying the language much more effective and fun. One of the most memorable aspects of this journey was the celebration of German culture through large-scale events. The German Culture Fest held at Crossover Commons in April was a highlight, bringing together language, tradition, food, and music in a vibrant and immersive way. These cultural events added depth to our learning, helping us connect with the language on a personal level. What truly made this experience stand out were our professors like Prof. Shruti Jain and Prof. Sergio Meira de Santa Cruz. Their passion for teaching and their ability to make even the most complex grammar topics feel simple made all the difference. This course has not only improved my language skills but has also deepened my appreciation for German culture. I'm truly grateful for the journey— **Samisha Passi, IBM 2021**

# Student Testimonials



## FROM LEARNING GERMAN TO LIVING IN GERMANY: MY JGU EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

During my academic pursuit at JGU I was honored to get the opportunity to go for **an exchange program at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main.**

Attending a semester abroad was a goal of mine since I joined JGU and I'm happy to report that it was all that I hoped for and some more. The interactions with faculty and students not just nationals of that country but other exchange pupils was my favorite aspect, the culture and student organizations like Erasmus promote personal exchanges and give you many opportunities to make friends. It's so amazing to have a friend in a different part of the world and it's fun to connect every now and then.

With the opportunity to study came the opportunity to travel and travel I did! I visited 8 countries all while backpacking with various other students. My professors were authors of the books they used to teach their course and I had the chance to experience new pedagogies for various courses.

Indeed an enriching experience that I suggest everyone should experience.

With a new country comes the opportunity to learn a new language! Fortunately for me the IBM program has courses from Centre for Foreign Languages as part of the curriculum for the first 4 years. And thankfully I chose German! My lovely instructors (Prof. Shruti Jain and Prof. Sergio Meira) had been teaching me the language through fun activities, assignments, events, videos, games and more. By the time the opportunity to go to Germany came around I had learnt the basics to communicate and the ability to understand necessary social and cultural cues which I'm grateful for because I think it was more than a regular language course would entail.

There were moments when I was the only German speaking member of a tour group and knowing what "der Bus ist kaputt, nicht fahren" meant at 2:00 am was one of my greatest accomplishments.

I genuinely feel grateful for the efforts of the faculty to teach us about the mannerisms, history and culture surrounding the language. It was an amazing experience and I hope everyone reading this tries to learn a language and visit the country they are learning the language of, furthermore as a JGU student there lies the amazing opportunity for my fellow juniors to take up German as their language course and apply to German universities for a semester exchange. I wish anyone motivated to try all the best! - **Gaurav Patel, IBM 2021**





## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: CREDIT STRUCTURE UPDATE FOR LANGUAGE COURSES

We are pleased to inform you that from the 2025 cohort onwards, all Level 1 language courses will be offered for 4 credits. This revised structure is part of our effort to enhance the depth and engagement of foreign language learning. These courses will also be cross-listed across schools, making them accessible to a wider group of students.

To ensure academic consistency for continuing students, Levels 3, 5, and 7 will continue to be offered as 3-credit courses in the Fall 2025. This decision respects the existing credit framework of currently enrolled learners.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation as we move toward a more robust and inclusive language learning environment.

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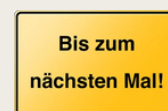


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