

Romanian snapshot

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Romanian Language

Romanian is a Romance language spoken by over 25 million people all over the world, primarily in Romania and the Republic of Moldova, but also in large diaspora communities. Around 1.4 million Romanian speakers live in the UK, making it the second largest community of speakers.

In London Romanian is the first most spoken foreign language as of 2025.

Romanian community

The Romanian community in the UK is active. There are 4 consulates and 5 other honorific consulates all over the country. There are 5 local councillors of Romanian origin.

There are many supplementary schools that ensure the transmission of the language to the younger generations.

The Romanian government funds a special programme, *Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization*, that runs as an after-school club in several primary and secondary schools in the UK, primarily in London.

There are numerous community hubs that organise a plethora of events, from music and food festivals to job advice and all sorts of community-oriented events.

There are several newspapers and radio stations catering for the Romanian community as well.

There are numerous Romanian churches in the UK, covering all faiths and acting as venues for Saturday schools as well as a community liaison.

Educational projects

Romanian is offered at BA and MA level by UCL, School of Slavonic and East European Studies-[SSEES](#). Projects with the community are carried out by the Romanian department, especially outreach projects with secondary schools in the UK, such as the [PEEL](#) project (Proficiency in East European Languages) and the [RAP](#) project (Raising Aspirations in Heritage Speakers), as well as projects about Romanian identity and culture such as the *Searching for Romanian Heritage in London Museums* [project](#) with BA students from SSEES.

SSEES also offers [Romanian](#) as a short course for the general public, on 5 levels.

The Romanian Cultural Institute also offers online courses of Romanian language as well as cultural events to advertise Romanian talent and creativity.

GCSE in Romanian as a community language

An AQA Unit Award scheme has also been launched recently by a Saturday school in Kent, Rokent school, to recognise various levels of proficiency in Romanian language.

<https://www.rokent.co.uk/>

The lack of a GCSE in Romanian as a community language prompted active appeals, both from the community and from the official Romanian representative bodies in the UK, to request the introduction of this exam in order to recognise the importance of the community and its contribution to the British society, as well to offer the chance to young speakers to maintain the language and transmit it onwards.