

BA French and German

Awarding Institution:

Teaching Institution:

QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

For students entering Part 1 in 2004

Programme Director: Prof. G.H.Tucker

Programme Advisors: Prof G.H.Tucker, Dr I. Roe

Board of Studies: French and German Studies

Accreditation: n/a

UCAS code: RR12

The University of Reading

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Languages and Related Studies

Programme length: 4 years

Date of specification: August 2004

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French and German, who are well-informed about French and German literature, culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working, information technology (word-processing and use of web-based material), career management. Students of French and German will develop their abilities to deal with intellectual problems effectively by locating information, assessing it critically, communicating independent points of view logically and clearly (both orally and in writing), and substantiating opinions with evidence; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter) cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part, plus 120 credits assigned to the Year Abroad to make a total of 480 credits for the whole degree. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title.

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Part 1 in French and German includes the study of both languages and an introduction to aspects of modern French literature, culture, history and politics, and German culture and history.

In Part 2 students continue with the study of the French and the German language, and take a compulsory module on German history and culture from 1945 to the present; a second broadly-based module on culture and literature allows a wide range of choice.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in France and in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of French and German culture. They also engage in independent study for their dissertation.

In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study in each subject and are free to pursue their interests within French and German studies by selecting from a range of specialised

cultural options. Up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

Students must take at least 40 credits in each of French and German. A further 20-credit optional module in French and/or in German may be taken if desired. Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those offered in the Part 1 Handbook.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In French			
Either:			
Advanced French			
Compulsory modules		Credits	Level
FR101	<i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>			
either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
Or:			
Intermediate French			
Compulsory modules		Credits	Level
FR102	<i>Intermediate French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>			
either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

In German

Compulsory modules

Either (for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)

GM1AGL	<i>Advanced German Language</i>	20	C
GM1AGC	<i>Advanced German History and Culture</i>	20	C

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

GM1IGL	<i>Intermediate German Language</i>	20	C
GM1IGC	<i>Intermediate German History and Culture</i>	20	C

Optional module

GM1VAG	<i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
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Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level

Students must take modules to the value of 60 credits in French and 60 credits in German. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered by the Department of French.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In French			
<i>Compulsory module</i>			
FR201	French Language 2	20	I

Optional modules

Students must choose two 20-credit additional modules from the list below. Students may replace 20 of these credits with modules from other programmes. **Note:** the following modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information.

FR2MAN	Language: <i>French for Managers 2</i>	20	I
FR202	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>The Crusades</i>	20	I
FR203	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>Introduction to Medieval Literature</i>	20	I
FR204	16th & 19th Centuries: <i>The poet's art: French poetry and prose poetry of the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries</i>	20	I
FR205	17th & 18th Centuries: <i>The Ingénue's Progress (Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries): L'Ecole des Femmes, La Princesse de Clèves, Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i>	20	I
FR206	18th Century: <i>La littérature au siècle des Lumières: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot</i>	20	I
FR207	18th & 19th Centuries: <i>France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870</i>	20	I
FR208	19th & 20th Centuries: <i>Realism and desire in four French novels, 1846-1926: Balzac, Flaubert, Proust, Gide</i>	20	I
FR209	19th & 20th Centuries: <i>Five Wars and Three Republics: France 1870-1962</i>	20	I
FR211	20th Century: <i>Introduction to the Francophone Literature of the Maghreb</i>	20	I
FR213	20th Century: <i>Le quatrième pouvoir : la presse et les médias en France</i>	20	I

In German

Compulsory modules

GM2L2	<i>German Language II</i>	20	I
GM2DU	<i>Divisions and Unities</i>	20	I

Optional modules

One of

GM2RRR	<i>Reality, Reason and Revolution</i>	20	I
GM2OP1	<i>German Option Module 1</i>	20	I

(German Option Module 1 will be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided.)

Year Abroad (three terms)

Students spend one and a half terms in a French-speaking country and one and a half terms in Germany or Austria. They take 120 credits from the following modules:

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR3GM	<i>Joint Dissertation</i>	40	H
FR302A	<i>Oral in French</i>	20	H
FR231A	<i>University study in France</i>	20	I
GM3O20	<i>Oral and Aural German (half year)</i>	20	H
GM2S20	<i>German Scheine (half year)</i>	20	I

Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

Students normally must take modules to the value of 60 credits in French and 60 credits in German, but 20-credits taken elsewhere in the University may be substituted for one of the non-language modules below.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In French			
<i>Compulsory module</i>			
FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>	20	H

Optional modules

Students must take two modules from the list below. They may replace 20 credits with a Special Subject chosen from those offered within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. **Note:** the following modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information.:

FR3MAN	<i>French for Managers</i>	20	H
FR304	<i>Provençal</i>	20	H
FR305	<i>The Legend of Tristan and Iseut</i>	20	H
FR306	<i>Warriors and Heroes : the Medieval French Epic</i>	20	H
FR307	<i>Between Rome and France: exile and displacement in French Renaissance poetry and prose</i>	20	H
FR308	<i>Seventeenth-century French tragedy</i>	20	H
FR309	<i>Aspects of the Eighteenth-Century French Novel</i>	20	H
FR310	<i>Women & men in the French récit</i>	20	H
FR313	<i>French-Canadian Novel</i>	20	H
FR314	<i>The Algerian Novel of French Expression</i>	20	H
FR315	<i>French Cinema</i>	20	H
FR316	<i>The French Right since 1940</i>	20	H
FR317	<i>André Gide 1869-1951</i>	20	H
FR319	<i>Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution</i>	20	H
FR320	<i>French-Canadian Cinema</i>	20	H
FR321	<i>France and Europe since 1945</i>	20	H
FR322	<i>Les droits de l'homme en question</i>	20	H
FR323	<i>Translation into French</i>	20	H
FR326	<i>Creative Writing in French</i>	20	H

In German

<i>One of</i>			
GM4GPT	<i>Translation into German and English</i>	20	H
GM4GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H

Two to be chosen from the list below:

GM4PL	<i>German Department Play</i>	20	I
GM4GAR	<i>Germany in the Age of Revolution</i>	20	H

GM4V19	<i>Nineteenth-Century Vienna</i>	20	H
GM4WR	<i>Culture and Society of the Weimar Republic</i>	20	H
GM4GDR	<i>The GDR: Politics, Society and Culture</i>	20	H
GM4BU	<i>Beyond Unification: German Novels of the 90s</i>	20	H

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, or from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

In addition, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and in German.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French-speaking country.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad modules University Study abroad and German Scheine will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian and French universities, and the Oral/Aural modules will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbooks, but it should be noted that Part 2 modules and Year Abroad I-level modules will count for 33% of final assessment, and Year abroad H-level modules and Part 3 modules will count for 67% of final assessment.

Admissions requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 280 points from 4 subjects ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, plus GCSE German, or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in French and German.

While such candidates will normally be expected to have the entry qualifications given above, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to

Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. Guidance and welfare support is also provided by the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

In addition the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students in both subjects provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The French Departmental Library and the German Seminar Library both contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. The Access Point for Individual Language Learning (APILL) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French and German television by satellite. The Department of French of Studies and the Department of German Studies both have a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and during Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

Career prospects

Students graduating in French and German go on to work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; and increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French and German can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; others proceed to post-graduate courses in various areas, including translating.

Opportunities for study abroad

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend the Year Abroad as an assistant teacher, on a work placement or at one of the Higher Education Institutions with which the Departments of French and German Studies have a Socrates agreement.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to equip students with:

- a competence which comes close to that of an educated native-speaker in the reception and production of standard (non-technical) spoken and written French and German;
- a sound body of knowledge within the field of French and German Studies that is suited to their interests;
- familiarity with the theories and methods of the various disciplines covered and the ability to develop their own expertise and develop and present their arguments in these areas.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A wide range of French and German vocabulary and idiom.2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of French and German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)3. A selection of core and specialist topics in French and German history, society, literature and culture4. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues5. Methods of critical textual analysis	→	Teaching/learning methods and strategies <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-5) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3) Group work in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-5) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-5) Dissertation (any of 1-5 depending on chosen topic) Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-5) Oral examination (1-2) Dissertation (4-5) <i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)</p>
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Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically;2. Identify and analyse problems and issues;3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments;4. Evaluate alternative critical views;5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another;6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena;7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.	→	Teaching/learning methods and strategies <p>Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.</p>
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<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate in French and German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing 2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in French and German 3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way 4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources 5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work 6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad 	→	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.</p>
<p>D. Transferable skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently 2. give oral presentations 3. use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources) 4. demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills 5. manage time and work to deadlines 6. work independently and be self-reliant 7. take account of different linguistic and cultural environments 8. plan and evaluate career possibilities 	→	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.</p>

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.