

BA French and History of Art

Awarding Institution:

Teaching Institution:

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

For students entering Part 1 in 2004

Programme Director: Professor N.D. Segal

Programme Adviser: Prof. H. Tucker and Dr S. Lee

Board of Studies: French and History of Art

Accreditation: n/a

UCAS code: RV13

The University of Reading

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Languages and Related Studies,
History of Art, Architecture and
Design.

Programme length: 4 years

Date of specification: August 2004

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential and equip them with a range of skills to underpin their life-long development, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies.

The French Studies syllabus aims to produce graduates who understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy; who read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts; who write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style; and who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone literature, culture, history and politics,

The History of Art syllabus aims to give students a broad historical perspective on Western art and architecture since the Middle Ages, as well as to acquire a specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods. It also enables students to pursue their own interests through independent study and a substantial dissertation. A wide range of approaches will give students the ability to interpret both primary evidence and secondary literature relating to the discipline; to understand the methods of analysis particular to art historical enquiry, and to appreciate the changing nature of the discipline's priorities, approaches and focuses of study; to gain a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art and architecture and those of the past.

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) and career management.

Students 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). Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the programme Director.

Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part.

The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title.

PART 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

Students must take at least 40 credits in French Studies and at least 40 credits in History of Art. A further 20-credit optional module in French and/or in History of Art 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		
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
FR101 <i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C
AND		
FR103 <i>Contemporary France</i>	20	C
OR		
FR104 <i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>		
FR103 <i>Contemporary France</i>	20	C
OR		
FR104 <i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

Or:

Intermediate French

Compulsory modules

FR102 *Intermediate French Language* 20 C

AND

FR103 *Contemporary France* 20 C

OR

FR104 *French Cinema: Society, Culture and History* 20 C

Optional Module

FR103 *Contemporary France* 20 C

OR

FR104 *French Cinema: Society, Culture and History* 20 C

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

History of Art

Compulsory modules

Approaches to Art History 20 C

Approaches to Art History 20 C

Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied

Art and Art Historians 20 C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level

Credits Level

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

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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

History of Art

Compulsory module

HA2ST	<i>Study Trip abroad</i>	20	I
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Optional modules:

40 credits to be made up from the following:

HA2AP	<i>Art and Power in fifteenth-century Italy</i>	20	I
HA2AA	<i>Altars, Aristocrats and Guillotines. Aspects of Baroque, Rococo and Neo-Classical art and architecture.</i>	20	I
HA2HH	<i>Heroes and Hero Worship</i>	20	I
HA2MA	<i>Modern Art and Architecture , and its discontents</i>	20	I
CL2AP	<i>Greek and Roman Painting</i>	20	I

CL2AS	<i>Greek and Roman Sculpture</i>	20	I
TY2GC	<i>History of graphic communication</i>	20	I
TY2TT	<i>Theory of typographic and graphic language</i>	20	I

Year Abroad (three terms)

Students spent three terms in a French-speaking country. They must take modules to the value of 80 credits in French and 40 credits in History of Art.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
French			
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
FR302	<i>French Oral</i>	40	H
<i>Optional module</i>			
either			
FR231	<i>University study abroad</i>	40	I
or			
FR232	<i>Assistantship abroad</i>	40	I
or			
FR233	<i>Work placement abroad</i>	40	I
History of Art			
<i>Compulsory Module</i>			
HA3DI	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H

Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In French			
Students must take 60 credits in French: one-20 credit compulsory module and two-20 credit optional modules			
<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</i>	20	H

In History of Art

Optional modules: 60 credits to be made up from the following.

HA3BR	<i>Brunelleschi and Renaissance architecture</i>	20	H
HA3PA	<i>Palladio: architecture and science</i>	20	H
HA3NS	<i>Italian Renaissance Portraiture</i>	20	H
HA3TI	<i>Tintoretto and 16th-century Italian Art</i>	20	H
HA3DE	<i>Delacroix, Romanticism and French nineteenth-century painting</i>	20	H
HA3GO	<i>Goya: Reason and Superstition in the Spanish Enlightenment</i>	20	H
HA3RF	<i>Figuring the Female Body</i>	20	H
HA3LA	<i>Landscape Art in Britain and France: Place and Meaning</i>	20	H
HA3AW	<i>Art, War and Gender in the twentieth century</i>	20	H
HA3BD	<i>Bodies of Difference: Mapping contemporary art</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 considered, 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 History of Art.

To proceed from 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

In French

In French, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. The structure of the content modules in Parts 2 and 3 allows for classes normally of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students except for the grammar component of FR201 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access. Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework and/or formal examination. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

In History of Art

At Part 1, teaching in the History of Art Department is by lectures and seminars. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. At Parts 2 and 3, teaching is principally by

seminar. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor and is assessed only as coursework.

Weighting

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, 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.

Admission 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. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to 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, 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. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. 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 television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies.

The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper

room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. The Department has a comprehensive website at: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/french> containing information and learning material. The website is regularly updated. The grammar strand at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. French Career Management Skills at Part 2 has its own Blackboard site, containing computer-assessed learning activities.

Within the History of Art, additional support is provided through a subject-specific reading room containing essential course texts, reference works, some current periodicals and photocopying facilities. There is also a slide library containing 84,000 slides from all periods of art and architecture history which students will consult as part of their studies. It includes resources in video tapes and computers. First hand study of works of art is provided through the department's own collections mainly of drawings, through particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their academic tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme, supported by a comprehensive Programme Handbook issued to each student individually which includes extensive advice on study skills.

Career prospects

Students graduating in French work in many different fields. Some 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. A degree involving French leads, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, 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 can be a distinct asset.

A number of specialised careers are open to History of Art graduates, such as jobs in Museums, auction houses, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Their visual skills also make them attractive to the advertising industry. In addition the skills which History of Art graduates acquire, such as analytical abilities, problem solving, research skills, independence and adaptability, mean they are sought after for jobs in a wide range of fields, including publishing, teaching, social work, accountancy, personnel, banking and commerce, retailing, marketing, IT, civil service and local government. A number of students go on to post-graduate study in History of Art, both at MA and PhD level, both at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a Year Abroad either as an assistant teacher, on work placement or at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has a Socrates agreement.

Students in the Department of History of Art have the opportunity to spend a period of study abroad during Part 2 as part of the Socrates scheme. The department operates such an exchange with the University of Pisa and the University of Lyons.

Educational aims of the programme

The French programme aims to equip students with the ability to seek and identify sources of information; make articulate written and oral presentations; conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately; analyse the form and content of written and audio-visual communication; appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management.

Particular parts of the programme will also have enabled students to develop relevant IT and Career Management skills.

History of Art aims to provide a solid framework for exploring the changing nature and functions of the visual arts in Western culture. It aims to promote a critical understanding of the visual aesthetics, artistic and architectural practices, and aesthetic traditions of Western society. It will relate the production and reception of works of art to specific aspects of the culture and society in which they were produced. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art and architecture and those of the past. It aims to stimulate the student's academic and personal development and to extend and deepen their range of intellectual skills and abilities.

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

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The French language2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis <p>In History of Art</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. a broad range of Western art and architecture from the Middle Ages to the present day;2. specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods of art history;3. key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to history of art and architecture;4. key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to history of art and architecture;5. advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning;6. technical language of the subject.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 2, grammar is taught by Powerpoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context. <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3), an oral examination (1) and dissertation (2-3).</p> <p>In History of Art</p> <p>Basic knowledge is provided through formal lectures in Part 1, supported by set tasks for practising the elementary analysis of visual artefacts. Feedback is initially through tutorials, seminars and through formative assessed work. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in the guided selection of period options at Part 2, where the teaching is seminar and discussion based. Feedback is provided through written responses to seminar participation and in formative assessed work. In later parts of the programme, and beginning at Part 2, students will take increasing responsibility for their own learning, fostered through the guided selection of increasingly specialised options and independent study, including a dissertation. Feedback is provided through tutorials and written reports on seminar presentations.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. A dissertation and oral presentation also contribute.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <p>In French</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. critically apply literary and historical concepts;2. identify and solve problems;3. analyse and interpret;4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference. <p>In History of Art</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. analyse and interpret visual artefacts;2. use visual resources as evidence;4. plan, organise and write a coherent argument;5. transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another;6. plan, organise and conduct an independent enquiry.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>In French</p> <p>Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>The variety of assessment methods employed place great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.</p> <p>In History of Art</p> <p>How to analyse and interpret visual artefacts is constantly exemplified in formal lectures and in seminars from the start of Part 1. Lectures and seminars will also demonstrate how to use visual evidence in the construction of arguments and students will develop advanced skills in this through seminar presentations and coursework tasks. Such skills are additionally fostered through opportunities to study visual artefacts at first hand including in the compulsory module involving study abroad. The ability to transfer knowledge from one area of the programme to another is evidence of high level performance. The ability to organise and structure arguments is emphasised throughout but particularly in compulsory modules and through modules in independent study and the dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1-3 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme including coursework and unseen examinations which also include compulsory questions analysing visual artefacts. 4 and 5 are particularly assessed in compulsory modules in independent study and the dissertation.</p>
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C. Practical skills – able to:

In French

1. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

In History of Art

1. identify, locate and record visual sources;
2. memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources;
3. identify, find and organise written sources;
4. identify appropriate resources including the internet for the study of works of art.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies
In French**

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each course. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.

In History of Art

Identifying visual artefacts and sources is taught from Part 1, including assessed tasks which test the student's ability to find and select appropriate visual evidence for analysis and comparison. Such skills are additionally fostered in Part 2 where greater emphasis is placed on increasingly complex and sophisticated analyses, including the ability to recall and use visual and other data from often disparate and widely separated sources and locations. 3 and 4 are taught throughout the course but particularly emphasised in the independent study tasks in Part 2 and dissertation in Part 3.

Assessment

1-3 are assessed in all coursework, including oral presentations, and written examinations, and 4 is assessed in independent study tasks.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;
2. manage time and work to deadlines;
3. participate effectively in groups;
4. work independently;
5. find information and use information technology;
6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All courses require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different courses within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency – clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. It will be assessed by essay and dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing and technology-enhanced language learning, but these skills are not formally assessed.

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.