

BA German and History of Art

UCAS Code RV24

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Modern Languages and History of
Art and Architecture
Programme length: 4 years
Date of profile: January 2005

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2004
Programme Director: Dr Ian Roe
Programme Advisors: Dr Ian Roe and Dr Christine Stevenson
Board of Studies: German and History of Art

Summary of programme aims

The programme as a whole 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 German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use to them outside the confines of the discipline. The History of Art component gives students a broad perspective on Western art and architecture since the Middle Ages, as well the ability to acquire specialist knowledge of chosen periods. The programme will provide a basis for interpreting primary and secondary sources of evidence, and understanding methods of analysis, appreciate the changing nature of each discipline's priorities and approaches, and will promote a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art and architecture and those of the past. All this will be achieved through structured progression from Parts 1 to 3.

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 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.

Students of History of Art will learn to think historically, comparatively and cross-culturally, and will be skilled at visual analysis, learning how to describe evidence from visual sources in oral and written forms. Students utilise the powerful tools of research, analysis, and presentation associated with information technology in several ways, such as in the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, the production and presentation of student work and, where appropriate, the use of more sophisticated databases and exploitation of the internet. Through practical and field work they will also have the opportunity to develop proficiency in decision-making, and a sense of personal and group responsibility.

Programme content

The profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part, and also the Year Abroad, comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in German includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. In History of Art and Architecture, Part 1 provides an introduction to the history of western art and architecture which ensures students have a solid background in the subject and become familiar with different approaches. In Part 2 students continue with the study of 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: History of Art and Architecture provides students in Part 2 with the opportunity to study certain periods in more depth and includes a study trip abroad where works of art and architecture are studied at first hand.. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students must take one module of further German language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised options. In History of Art and Architecture, there is an increasing specialisation and progression to approach topics in greater depth through the provision of optional units and the opportunity to research a dissertation topic.

Part 1 (three terms)

Credits Level

Students must take the compulsory modules worth 40 credits in German and 40 credits in History of Art and must choose additional modules from this or other programmes to make 120 Part 1 credits in total.

In German

Compulsory modules

Either (for students entering with A-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)

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------------------|----|---|
| LA1PG4 | <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 |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----|---|

In History of Art

At least 40 credits to be made up from the following:

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|
| HA1AA | <i>Art and its genres: an introduction</i> | 20 | C |
| HA1AB | <i>Art and ideas: an introduction</i> | 20 | C |
| HA1AC | <i>Makers and making: artist, architects and their practices</i> | 20 | C |

Part 2 (three terms)

Credits Level

Students must take modules to the value of 60 credits in German and 60 credits in History of Art.

In German

Compulsory modules

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

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.)

In History of Art

Compulsory module

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|----|---|
| HA2ST | <i>Study Trip abroad</i> | 20 | I |
|-------|--------------------------|----|---|

Optional modules

40 credits to be made up from the following:

60 credits

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|
| 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)

Credits *Level*

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------------|----|---|
| GM3O40 | <i>Oral and Aural German (full year)</i> | 40 | H |
| HA3DI | <i>Dissertation in History of Art</i> | 40 | H |

Either

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|--------|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| GM2S40 | <i>German Scheine (full year)</i> | 40 | I |
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Or

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| GM2ASR or GM2WPL | <i>Placement/assistant's report (this module includes 20 credits for Work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment)</i> | 40 | I |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|

(Students spending Part 3 at a German or Austrian university and taking the “German *Scheine*” module are encouraged to take one course in History of Art as one of the qualifications that make up this module.)

Of the 120 credits in the Year abroad, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (level I)

Part 3 (three terms)

Credits *Level*

Students must take 60 credits in German and 60 credits in History of Art.

In German

One of

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------------|----|---|
| GM3GPT | <i>Translation into German and English</i> | 20 | H |
| GM3GSC | <i>German Structure and Composition</i> | 20 | H |

Two to be chosen from a list of available options, currently including

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|---|
| GM3GAR | <i>Germany in the Age of Revolution</i> | 20 | H |
| GM3V19 | <i>Nineteenth-Century Vienna</i> | 20 | H |
| GM3WR | <i>Culture and Society of the Weimar Republic</i> | 20 | H |
| GM3BU | <i>Beyond Unification: German Novels of the 90s</i> | 20 | H |
| GM3AU | <i>Schreiben nach Auschwitz (Writing after Auschwitz)</i> | 20 | H |
| GM3UR | <i>Unification and the Integration of the GDR</i> | 20 | H |

In History of Art

Optional modules

60 credits to be made up from the following:

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|----|---|
| HA3IM | <i>Issues and Methods</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3BR | <i>Brunelleschi*</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3RA | <i>Raphael</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3VE | <i>Myths of Venice*</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3EB | <i>English Baroque Architecture*</i> | 20 | H |

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|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|
| HA3GO | <i>Goya</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3RF | <i>Representing the figure: Late 19th and early 20th century painting</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3AW | <i>Art, War and Gender in the twentieth century</i> | 20 | H |
| HA2OI | <i>Object and Installation in Modern Sculpture</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3MB | <i>Modern Bodies: Modern Art</i> | 20 | H |
| HA3TP | <i>Theories and practices in twentieth century architecture*</i> | 20 | H |

(Not all optional modules in German and History of Art will be available in any one year; all optional modules, including possible additions to the above list, are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants)

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% in their compulsory modules in German and History of Art, and must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole and have no module mark under 30%, 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 module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of 40% in *German Language II* and in the compulsory module in History of Art and must obtain an overall average of 40% and have no module mark under 30%, 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 module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

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 German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

Summary of teaching and assessment

German language modules are taught in small groups; other German 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 module *Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and the Oral/Aural module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

In History of Art teaching at Part 1 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.

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

Either 260 pts from 3 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,
Or 280 pts from 4 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,
Or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German.

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought,

where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutors, who may be contacted via german@reading.ac.uk

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 Department of German Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The German Seminar Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

The History of Art and Architecture Departmental programme Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their academic tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme. 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 particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad, as well as through the department's own collections mainly of drawings. The University Library is well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of archaeology and history of art and architecture.

Career prospects

Students graduating in German 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 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.

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

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad, as an assistant teacher or at a university with which the University of Reading has a Socrates exchange agreement: (in Germany) Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Regensburg, Potsdam, Trier, Tübingen, and (in Austria) Graz, Linz, Vienna.

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 programme aims to equip students with:

- a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated German person in the reception and production of standard (non-technical) spoken and written German;
- a sound body of knowledge within the field of German Studies that is suited to their interests;
- subject-specific knowledge in History of Art and a critical understanding of the visual art, artistic and architectural practices, and aesthetic traditions of Western society, including a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art and architecture and those of the past
- ability to relate the production and reception of works of art and other material culture to specific aspects of the culture and society in which they were produced
- familiarity with the theories and methods of the various disciplines covered in both subject areas, and the ability to develop their own expertise and develop and present their arguments in these areas, using the visual and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

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

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| <p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom.2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-19004. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues6. Methods of critical textual analysis7. A broad range of Western art and architecture from the Middle Ages to the present day;8. Specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods of art history9. Key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to history of art and architecture10. Advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning | <p>→</p> <p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6)</p> <p>Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)</p> <p>Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6)</p> <p>Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6)</p> <p>Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)</p> <p>In History of Art (see 7-10), 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 options at Part 2, where the teaching is increasingly seminar- and discussion-based. 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.</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

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| <p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <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 | → | <p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i> (German) Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading, lectures and seminars, essay assignments and feedback, language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7). (History of Art) Modules at all levels deal with questions of evidence and interpretation. 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 in History of Art involving study abroad.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> (German) 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. (History of Art) These skills are assessed by a combination of coursework, essays, oral presentations, dissertation and unseen examinations. Examinations in History of Art also include compulsory questions analysing visual artefacts.</p> |
| <p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing 2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in 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 7. To gather, organise and deploy evidence and information, including visual sources, and to show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence; 8. To develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument 9. To have effective bibliographical, internet and library research skills; 10. To plan and carry out a primary research project, working independently. | → | <p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i> 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. (History of Art, 7-10) 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 additional 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. 7 to 10 are taught throughout the course but particularly emphasised in the independent study tasks in Part 2 and dissertation in Part 3.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework, practicals, essays, oral presentations, dissertation and examination.</p> |

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| <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>→</p> | <p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></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> |
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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.