

## **BA German and Italian**

**UCAS Code RR23**

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
For students entering Part 1 in 2004  
Programme Director: Dr Ian Roe  
Programme Advisors: Dr Francesca Medioli  
Board of Studies: German and Italian Studies

The University of Reading  
The University of Reading  
Modern Languages  
Programme length: 4 years  
Date of profile: January 2005

### **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 German and Italian, who are well-informed about German and Italian 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 German and Italian 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 profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part 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. In Part 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in German includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture and history. Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Other students take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies: this also permits qualification for Part 2. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

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. In Italian students take one compulsory 20-credit language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Italy and in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German and Italian culture, and they 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 German and Italian 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)** *Credits    Level*

Students must take modules worth a minimum of 40 credits in both German and Italian and must choose additional modules from this or other programmes to make 120 Part 1 credits in total.

*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)**

LA1PG4	<i>Intermediate German Language</i>	20	C
GM1IGC	<i>Intermediate German History and Culture</i>	20	C

**Either (for advanced students of Italian)**

IT1001	<i>Advanced Italian Language I</i>	20	C
IT1002	<i>Twentieth-Century Italian Culture</i>	20	C

**Or (for beginners in Italian)**

IT1003	<i>Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture</i>	40	C
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*Optional modules*

IT1004	<i>Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture</i> <i>(in translation)</i>	20	C
GM1VAG	<i>The Visual Arts in Germany</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 Italian.

**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
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GM2OP1      *German Option Module I*      20      I  
 (*German Option Module I* will be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided)

**In Italian**

*One of*

IT201      *Advanced Italian Language II*      20      I  
 IT202      *Intermediate Italian Language*      20      I

*Two of*

IT205      *Italian Cinema I: Introduction to Film Study, Neorealism, War and Resistance*      20      I  
 IT206      *Italian Cinema II: Popular Genre Cinema*      20      I  
 IT203      *History of the Italian Language*      20      I  
 IT2CON      *Contemporary Italian Literature*      20      I  
 IT209      *Narrative and Poetry in the Nineteenth Century*      20      I  
 IT208      *Italian Modernism*      20      I  
 IT210      *Women's Everyday Life In Italy from the Middle Ages to the French Revolution*      20      I  
 IT21WW      *Women's Writing in Early Modern Italy*      20      I  
 IT207      *Italian History and Society since 1945*      20      I

**Year Abroad (three terms)**      *Credits*      *Level*

*Compulsory modules*

GM3DSI      *Dissertation*      40      H  
 GM3O20      *Oral and Aural German (half year)*      20      H  
 IT331      *Italian Oral*      20      H  
 GM2S20      *German Scheine (half year)*      20      I  
 IT231      *Credits from Italian University*      20      I

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

**In German**

*One of*

GM3GPT      *Translation into German and English*      20      H  
 GM3GSC      *German Structure and Composition*      20      H

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

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

## **In Italian**

### *Compulsory module*

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
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*Two to be chosen from a list of available options, currently including*

IT303	<i>Aspects of the Renaissance in France and Italy</i>	20	H
IT309	<i>Italian for Managers</i>	20	H
IT305	<i>Dante</i>	20	H
IT307	<i>Italian Cinema III: The Cinema of Fellini, Antonioni and Bertolucci</i>	20	H
IT308	<i>Italian Cinema IV: Social Comedy</i>	20	H
IT310	<i>Italian Renaissance Poetry: The Inner Self, the Outer World and their Representation</i>	20	H
IT311	<i>Italian Women's Studies</i>	20	H
IT312	<i>Modern Movements in Poetry 1900-1920</i>	20	H
HS3T09	<i>The Republic of Venice, from c.1454 to 1571</i>	20	H
IT314	<i>The South since 1860: Images and Reality</i>	20	H
IT315	<i>Umberto Eco: Fiction, Cultural Criticism and the Theory of Signs</i>	20	H

(Not all optional modules in German and Italian 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 Italian modules, and must have achieved an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 examination 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 a module in Italian language, must obtain an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits taken at Part 2, 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 successfully completed an approved programme of study or employment in Italy and in a German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

### **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 *German Scheine* and *Italian credits* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian and Italian 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**

**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 (and, where appropriate for the level of entry, Italian).  
(No previous knowledge of Italian is required for this programme)

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](mailto:german@reading.ac.uk) or (for Italian) [c.j.h.duggan@reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.h.duggan@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 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 German Seminar Library and the Italian Departmental 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 German and Italian television by satellite. The Department of German Studies has 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. The Department of Italian Studies has a Part 1 Co-ordinator and a Programme Adviser responsible for degree course students of German and Italian.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in German and Italian 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 German and Italian 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 their third year abroad, normally at universities with which the University of Reading has Socrates exchange agreements. For Italian these are the Universities of Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Trieste, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, Salerno and Venezia; the Department of German Studies has exchanges with (in Germany) Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Regensburg, Potsdam, Trier, Tübingen, and (in Austria) Graz, Linz, Vienna.

### **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 German and Italian;
- a sound body of knowledge within the field of German and Italian 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*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A wide range of German and Italian vocabulary and idiom.</li><li>2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German and Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)</li><li>3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900</li><li>4. A selection of specialist topics in German and Italian history, society, literature and culture</li><li>5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues</li><li>6. Methods of critical textual analysis</li></ol>	→	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3) Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6) Dissertation (any of 1-6 depending on chosen topic) Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-6) Oral examination (1-2) Dissertation (5-6, also 4) <i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically</li><li>2. Identify and analyse problems and issues</li><li>3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments</li><li>4. Evaluate alternative critical views</li><li>5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another</li><li>6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena</li><li>7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic</li></ol>	→	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <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><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>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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**C. Practical skills** – able to:

1. Communicate in German and Italian at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German and Italian
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

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**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

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.

**Assessment**

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.

**D. Transferable skills** – able to:

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

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**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

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.

**Assessment**

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.



*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.