

## **BA German & Linguistics** **For students entering Part 1 in 2004**

**UCAS Code: QIR2**

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Programme Director: Dr Roe

The University of Reading  
The University of Reading  
Modern Languages, Linguistics  
Programme length: 4 years  
Date of specification: October  
2005

Programme Advisor: Professor Garman  
Board of Studies: German and Linguistics

### **Summary of programme aims**

The programme seeks to develop students' full intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to postgraduate study or a wide range of careers, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and able to demonstrate rigorous and critical analysis of language. The programme also aims to equip them with a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers. The Linguistics part of the programme aims to enable students to achieve their full intellectual potential by means of the rigorous and critical study of language; to provide students with the foundation skills for further independent study and research; and to equip them with a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

### **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 Linguistics 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. They will also gain an awareness and experience of the application of information technology to language studies, and basic computing skills.

### **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.

At Part 1 German includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture, while Linguistics introduces students to the levels of linguistic analysis that relate to sound, grammar and meaning – this constitutes the 'core' of the discipline. It also introduces applications of linguistics, in individual and social aspects of language. At Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take a compulsory module on German culture from 1945 to the present; a second broadly-based culture module allows a wide range of choice. Linguistics consolidates the core areas, and extends them in optional modules for sound structure and grammar and meaning. Running alongside these core modules is a further obligatory module in research methods training, and a wide range of option modules that allow students to explore further applications of linguistics, beyond the core. 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. At Part 3 in German Studies students must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options. In Linguistics there is the completion of the dissertation, which allows students to follow their particular interests in their own investigation. This, together with a further wide range of option modules, provides flexibility and the opportunity for specialisation in two-thirds of the credits in the final year.]

### **Part 1 (three terms)**

Students are required to take 120 credits at Part 1, of which at least 40 and a maximum of 60 must be in Linguistics, and at least 40 and a maximum of 60 must be in German, made up from the modules above. Any remaining credits may be made up of any combination of 10- and 20-credit modules offered in the university, subject to the requirement for Part 1 examination.

<b>In German</b>	Credits	Level
<b>Either (for students entering with A-level German or equivalent)</b>		
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
GM1AGL <i>Advanced German Language</i>	20	C
GM1AGC <i>Advanced German History and Culture</i>	20	C
<i>Optional module</i>		
GM1VAG <i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
<b>Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)</b>		
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
GM1IGL <i>Intermediate German Language</i>	20	C
GM1IGC <i>Intermediate German History and Culture</i>	20	C
<i>Optional module</i>		
GM1VAG <i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
<b>In Linguistics</b>		
<i>Compulsory modules:</i>		
LS1SG <i>Sounds, Grammar and Meaning</i>	20	C
LS1IS <i>Language in the Individual &amp; in Society</i>	20	C
<i>Optional module</i>		
LS1IA <i>Introduction to Applied English Language Studies</i>	20	C

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that assessed coursework will be undertaken in the Christmas and Easter vacation. Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

### **Part 2 (three terms)**

Students take 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Linguistics. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by career management skills (level I) and will be delivered in the Department of German Studies. Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

## In German

Modules totalling 60 credits, as follows:

### Compulsory modules

		Credits	Level
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

The German Option Module I will be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided.

## In Linguistics

Modules totalling 60 credits, as follows:

### Compulsory modules:

Autumn term:		Credits	Level
LS2LG	<i>Core Linguistics</i>	20	I

Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS2RM	<i>Research Methods</i>	20	I
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### Optional modules

LS2ASD	<i>Approaches to Spoken Discourse</i>	10	I
LS2AWD	<i>Approaches to Written Discourse</i>	10	I
LS2CB	<i>Corpus-Based Approaches to Language Description</i>	10	I
LS2CL	<i>Child Language Development</i>	10	I
LS2EG	<i>English Grammar</i>	10	I
LS2EP	<i>English Phonology</i>	10	I
LS2EW	<i>English in the World</i>	10	I
LS2FD	<i>Field Linguistics</i>	10	I
LS2PP	<i>Principles of Phonetics &amp; Phonology</i>	20	I
LS2PS	<i>Principles of Syntax &amp; Semantics</i>	20	I
LS2SL	<i>Sociolinguistic</i>	10	I

Of the 120 credits at Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (level I).

## Year Abroad (three terms in a German-speaking country)

In this Part, students will take a further 120 credits.

The *Oral and Aural German* module contributes 20 credits in Linguistics and is examined in Reading at the beginning of Part 3.

For credit accounting purposes, the German Dissertation is listed as two distinct modules, GM3LS contributing 20 credits in German in the Year Abroad, and LS3GM contributing 20 credits in Linguistics in Part 3, but its preparation and completion are conceived and assessed as a single piece of work contributing 40 credits to the whole programme.

### Compulsory modules

		Credits	Level
GM3O40	<i>Oral and Aural German (full year)</i>	40	H
GM3LS	<i>German Dissertation (preparation)</i>	20	H

## Either

GM2S40	German Scheine (full year)	40	I
LS3A1	Year Abroad Module –1	20	H
<b>Or</b>			
GM2ASR	Placement/assistant's report (this module includes 20 credits for Work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment)	40	I
LS3R1	Year Abroad Report- 1	20	H

For students on this programme, the module Oral and Aural German contributes 20 credits in German and 20 in Linguistics.) Where possible, Year Abroad Module 1 will be drawn from a range of options made available to students in the host institution. The Oral module is examined in Reading at the beginning of Part 3.

### Part 3 (three terms)

Students take 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Linguistics. Not all modules 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. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the programme Director.

### In German

Modules totalling 60 credits, as follows:

#### One of

		Credits	Level
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

GM3PL	<i>The German Play t</i>	20	I
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
GM3GDR	<i>The GDR: Politics, Society and Culture</i>	20	H
GM3BU	<i>Beyond Unification: German Novels of the 90s</i>	20	H

### In Linguistics

Modules totalling 60 credits, as follows:

#### Compulsory module:

Autumn and Spring terms:

LS3GM	<i>German Dissertation (completion)</i>	20	H
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Optional modules totalling 40 credits

Autumn or Spring Summer term:

LS3AA	<i>Linguistic Aspects of Aphasia</i>	10	H
LS3AP	<i>Advanced Phonetics &amp; Phonology</i>	20	H
LS3AS	<i>Advanced Syntax &amp; Semantics</i>	20	H
LS3ASD	<i>Approaches to Spoken Discourse</i>	10	H
LS3AWD	<i>Approaches to Written Discourse</i>	10	H
LS3CB	<i>Corpus-Based Approaches to Language Description</i>	10	H
LS3CL	<i>Child Language Development</i>	10	H
LS3EG	<i>English Grammar</i>	10	H
LS3EP	<i>English Phonology</i>	10	H
LS3EW	<i>English in the World</i>	10	H
LS3FL	<i>First Language Acquisition</i>	10	H
LS3LP	<i>Language Pathology</i>	10	H

LS3LSE	<i>Literacy in Society and Education</i>	10	H
LS3PL	<i>Psycholinguistics</i>	10	H
LS3RT	<i>Research Topics in English Grammar</i>	10	H
LS3SL	<i>Sociolinguistics</i>	10	H
LS3SLT	<i>Second Language Learning &amp; Teaching</i>	10	H

### **Progression Requirements**

To proceed to Part 2 students must obtain a mark of 40% in their compulsory modules in German and 40% average across the compulsory Linguistics modules 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.

In addition, in Part 1 and in Part 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in German and 40% average over the Linguistics modules taken.

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. In the Linguistics part of the programme, modules are taught by lectures, seminars and small group practical work. The Dissertation completion module additionally is supported by individual supervision. Some modules are assessed wholly by coursework, some wholly by examination, and others by a mixture of the two: details are given in the module descriptions. Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework (one third) and formal examination (two thirds). The Year Abroad modules 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.

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](mailto: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 School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies provides an induction course in Academic Writing. Each student is provided with a course handbook which contains full details of the degree programme, the staff and facilities in the School, and a range of useful information including advice on note-taking in lectures, preparation of written work especially the dissertation, and dates of terms and examinations, and the University's procedure for assessment. Each Part of the programme has a Course Tutor to advise students on selection of modules, learning and assessment. Learning on core modules is supported by small group seminars. Learning is also supported by dedicated facilities in the School. The Corpus Facility has 6 networked PCs that are intended in the first instance for students researching corpora and databases, such as the British National Corpus and CoBUILD. We also have our own research corpora and databases, and these can be accessed from these machines. The facility uses the latest software in language and speech analysis. Also available for students are word-processing and statistics, e-mail, and Internet access. Further PCs are located in the student common room for student use. The Speech Research Laboratory is well equipped with a wide range of instrumentation for the investigation of many aspects of speech, and the technical staff and phonetics lecturers are available to advise and help with its setting up and use. The Communication Disorders Centre includes a speech and language therapy clinic in the local NHS Trust, and provides students with opportunities for learning and research. There is also a Language Acquisition Laboratory, which provides an essential testing ground for linguistic theories.

### **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.

Students graduating in Linguistics are equipped to enter a range of professions that obviously concern themselves with written or spoken language: for example, publishing, broadcasting, advertising and translating, as well as academic Linguistics. In some cases, further study and qualifications will be necessary, for which Linguistics forms an excellent foundation, as in teaching, including second and foreign language teaching, and speech and language therapy. More broadly, employers have come to recognise that graduates in Linguistics have the ability to organise complex data and to work in IT environments, and these are skills that are in demand in many types of employment that are not directly concerned with language.

### **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 an

ERASMUS/SOCRATES exchange agreements. 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 in German 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;
- 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.

The programme in Linguistics aims to enable students to achieve their full intellectual potential by means of the rigorous and critical study of language; to develop students' skills in core areas of linguistics including phonetics, phonology, syntax and semantics; to allow students to develop their own interests in the applications of linguistics in a variety of areas; to provide students with the foundation skills for further independent study and research; and, by exposing students to a variety of learning experiences, to equip them with a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

### **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> Core areas, represented in 1-6:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the systems for the production and perception of human speech sounds</li> <li>2. the principles of phonological contrast and organisation of linguistic sound systems</li> <li>3. the principles of derivational and inflectional morphology</li> <li>4. the principles for determining syntactic constituents and their inter-relations</li> <li>5. the principles of semantic contrast, and the role of sense, reference and denotation</li> <li>6. the principles of pragmatics, including speech acts, entailment and presupposition</li> </ol> <p>Additionally,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied</li> <li>8. the German language</li> <li>9. German history, politics and/or literature and culture</li> </ol>		<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b> 1-6 are achieved through Part 1 module <i>Sounds, Grammar and Meaning</i> and Part 2 module <i>Core Linguistics</i>, by lectures and small group seminars. Additionally, small group phonetics practical sessions focus on 1. Further knowledge and understanding in areas 1-6 are offered in option modules at Parts 2 and 3, by lectures, small group seminars and guided assignments. 7 is achieved through Part 1 module <i>Language in the Individual &amp; Society</i>, by lectures and small group seminars, and through further Part 2 and 3 option modules, by lectures and guided assignments. 8 is achieved through the language modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3, and during the Year Abroad.</p> <p>9 is achieved through the other German modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3, and additionally the Year Abroad in a German-speaking country offers immersion in German culture.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> 1-7 are assessed by coursework and written examination; 1 is additionally assessed by oral examination. Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute in core and applied areas. 8-9 are assessed by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination, coursework essays, an oral examination and dissertation.</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

#### **B. Intellectual skills – able to:**

1. think logically
2. analyse and solve problems
3. operationalise abstract concepts for testing of hypotheses
4. assimilate rapidly-evolving concepts and models of language
5. generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others
6. plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic
7. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1-2 are achieved through demonstration and example in all lectures and small group seminars; additionally, through language practicals at Parts 1 and 2, and the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.

3 is achieved mainly through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.

4 is achieved through the progression of concepts particularly in the modules *Sounds, Grammar and Meaning* at Part 1 and *Core Linguistics* at Part 2; further opportunities are offered through option modules, especially those in core and applied areas at Part 3.

5 is achieved through the combination of core and applied modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3.

6. is achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.

7 is achieved by means of 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.

#### **Assessment**

1-5 form part of the evaluation of the quality of students' coursework and their written examinations. Additionally, 6 is assessed through small-scale and subsequent larger project work, respectively, in the modules *Research Methods*, and the *Dissertation*.

7 is assessed by a variety of assessment methods employed which place great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate these skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.



**C. Practical skills – able to:**

1. perceive, produce and transcribe a full range of sounds produced by the human vocal tract
2. analyse an unknown language at all levels of linguistic organisation
3. identify patterns in complex linguistic data and account for them in terms of appropriate levels of representation and generative rules
4. address and assemble the information contained in modern electronic linguistic corpora
5. run appropriate statistical tests on numerical data
6. speak, write, read and understand German at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
7. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic analysis;
8. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
9. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1 is achieved through small group phonetics practical sessions, based on general information provided in the main core lectures on the sounds of language.

2-3 are achieved through small group language practical sessions at Parts 2 and 3 which exercise field linguistic techniques, based on lectures on the core areas of language structure and function; also, through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.

4 is achieved through introductory sessions and assignment in the module *Research Methods*, and through the option module *Computer-Based Corpus Studies*.

5 is achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*

6-9 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 German. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of German to a high level.

**Assessment**

1 is assessed by oral examination.

2-5 are assessed by assignment;

3-4 are additionally assessable by written examination, and 5 by evaluation of the *Dissertation*

6 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is also regular unassessed coursework.

7-9 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

1. use IT (word processing, using standard and statistical software)
2. define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by means of hypothesis-formulation and testing
3. give oral presentations
4. work as part of a team
5. use library resources
6. manage time
7. formulate and implement career plans
8. be responsible and self-reliant
- 9 assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others, especially from another culture.



**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1-6 are achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*  
2, 5 and 6 are additionally achieved through the *Dissertation*  
3 is additionally achieved in a number of option modules, and in the *Second Year Conference*  
5 and 6 are also required for successful execution of assignments throughout the programme  
7 is achieved through the 5-credit Part 2 distributed module *Career Management Skills*  
8-9 are a particular focus of the year abroad, their importance being taught during preparatory sessions in Part 2.

**Assessment**

1 is assessed by coursework and is also assessable in the *Dissertation*  
2 is assessed by group presentation and individual writing up of the project carried out in the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and in the *Dissertation*  
3 is assessed by staff observation and contributes to coursework on relevant modules  
4-6 are not specifically assessed but contribute to success in forms of assessment generally  
7 is assessed by three equally weighted assignments.  
8-9 are not specifically assessed but jointly contribute to success in forms of assessment generally.

*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.