

BA Philosophy and French
For students entering Part 1 in 2004

UCAS code: RV15

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

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Philosophy, Languages and Related
Studies
Programme length: 4 years

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification April 2005
Programme Director: Dr. D. Oderberg
Programme Adviser: Prof. P. Noble
Board of Studies: Philosophy and French
Accreditation: Not appropriate

Summary of programme aims

Both Departments share the aims and objectives laid down for the Reading graduate in the University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning. The Philosophy part of the programme aims to provide a grounding in the subject, enabling students to examine critically fundamental beliefs about truth and reality, right and wrong, to comprehend concepts essential for philosophical investigation, to develop an understanding of central philosophical problems, texts and figures, to develop an aptitude and enthusiasm for the subject, to engender a sense of belonging to a community of enquiry, and to prepare where appropriate for postgraduate study.

The French part of the programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

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 "selected" modules). 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, and the credit requirements in Philosophy and French are indicated for each Part.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

Students must take at least 40 credits in Philosophy and at least 40 credits in French. A further 20-credit optional module in French may be taken if desired.

In Philosophy students proceeding to Part 2 will require a minimum of 40 credits (or a maximum of 60) in Philosophy at Part 1, which can be generated from any of the following modules:

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP1MW	Mind & World	20	C
PP1VV	Values & Virtues	20	C
PP1MR	Metaphysics & Religion	20	C

In French Studies

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR101	<i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C

and either

FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
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or

FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
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Optional Module

either		20	C
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FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>		
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or

FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
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Or:

Intermediate French

Compulsory modules

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR102	<i>Intermediate French Language</i>	20	C

and either

FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
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or

FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
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Optional Module

either		20	C
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FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>		
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or

FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
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On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level

Students must take 60 credits in Philosophy and 60 credits in French.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the Department of French Studies.

In Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 60 credits from below (i.e. take at least 3 modules).

Two modules, PP2TK ‘Theory of Knowledge’ and PP2MP ‘Moral Philosophy’ are compulsory. In addition students should take at least one other module from the combined list of Core and Option modules. (Not every Option module will be available in every year.)

Compulsory Modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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PP2TK	Theory of Knowledge	20	I
PP2MP	Moral Philosophy	20	I

Core Modules

PP2EMP	Early Modern Philosophy	20	I
PP2LCT	Logic and Critical Thinking	20	I
PP2PA	Plato & Aristotle	20	I
PP2MIN	Philosophy of Mind	20	I

Option Modules

PP2LR	Language and Reality	20	I
PP2ANW	The Philosophy of Whitehead	20	I
PP2MPT	Modern Philosophical Texts	20	I
PP2AES	Aesthetics	20	I
PP2CPP	Contemporary Political Philosophy	20	I

In French Studies students take

Compulsory module

FR201	French Language 2	20	I
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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
FR2TRA	Language: <i>Translation</i>	20	I
FR202	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>The Crusades</i>	20	I
FR203	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>Medieval Love 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
FR207	18th & 19th Centuries: <i>France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870</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

Year abroad (three terms)

Students spend three terms in a French speaking country

Compulsory modules

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP3DIS	Dissertation in Philosophy	40	H
FR302	French Oral	40	H

Optional module

either

FR231 University study abroad 40 I

or

FR232 Assistantship abroad 40 I

or

FR233 Work placement abroad 40 I

Dissertation:

Students will prepare for their Dissertation, in consultation with their Dissertation Supervisor, during the summer Term of Part 2. The Dissertation itself will be written, in English, on a philosophical subject which has been given the approval of both Heads of Department, while the student is abroad (facilitated via regular email communication with the Dissertation Supervisor).

Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

Students must take 60 credits in Philosophy and 60 credits in French.

In the Philosophy Department : (40 credits from the following optional modules)

Optional modules: (Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.)

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PP3LAN	Philosophy of Language	20	H
PP3MBC	Metaphysics: Basic Concepts	20	H
PP3LWE	The Earlier Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3LWL	The Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein	20	H
PP3SNS	Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Sartre	20	H
PP3RL1	Philosophy of Religion 1	20	H
PP3RL2	Philosophy of Religion 2	20	H
PP3FL	Further Logic	20	H
PP3LAW	Philosophy of Law	20	H
PP3CAP	Philosophy of Crime and Punishment	20	H
PP3NS	Philosophy of Natural Science	20	H
PP3SS	Philosophy of Social Science	20	H
PP3INE	International Ethics	20	H
PP3EIN	Ethical Intuitionism	20	H
PP3CMT	Contemporary Ethical Theory	20	H
PP3PIS	Personal Identity and the Self	20	H
PP3EAN	Ethics and Animals	20	H
PP3EE	Environmental Ethics	20	H

French Studies

Compulsory module

FR303 *Advanced Language Skills* 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 *French for Managers* 20 H

FR3VER	<i>Version</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
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
FR319	<i>Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution</i>	20	H
FR320	<i>French-Canadian Cinema</i>	20	H
FR321	<i>France and Europe since 1945</i>	20	H
FR322	<i>Les droits de l'homme en question</i>	20	H
FR323	<i>Translation into French</i>	20	H
FR326	<i>Creative Writing in French</i>	20	H

Progression requirements

- a) To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 a student should achieve 40% in one Philosophy module and 40% in each of the compulsory French modules. In addition a student must also have an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination.
- (b) To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 a student should achieve an average of 40% in their Philosophy modules and a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory French modules.
- (c) In both cases a student should achieve not less than 30% in any modules 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, to proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French.

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

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching within the Philosophy programme combines lectures, small group seminars and essay supervisions, with appropriate visual aides and course materials being provided throughout. The final assessment for the majority of Philosophy modules in all Parts is by a combination of assessed coursework and unseen examination. See the Philosophy BA handbook for further details.

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.

To be eligible for Honours, students must normally have obtained an overall average of 40%.

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

UCAS Tariff: Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 320 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 French 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.

Career prospects

A survey by the Royal Institute of Philosophy found that although few Philosophy students find the kind of jobs they would want immediately upon graduation, most of them do find such jobs after a year or so. It also concluded that graduates with British Philosophy degrees consider their degree course to have been very relevant to their jobs, and report a very high level of job satisfaction. Our students seem to be no exception.

Philosophy graduates seem to have the same range of careers as other graduates in Arts and Humanities subjects (except for teaching in schools, since Philosophy is not generally a school subject in the UK). There is evidence that IT firms are keen on philosophy students, for example. Philosophy also makes an excellent preparatory subject for other graduate programmes.

Students graduating in French work in many different fields. A degree involving French, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, lead 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. Some French 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 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. Exceptional cases will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Educational aims of the programme

The central aim of the **Philosophy** component is to cultivate the ability to do, and not just to read, Philosophy. It introduces students to terms and concepts essential for philosophical investigation, exposes them to the distinctive nature of philosophical inquiry, develops a basic understanding of some central philosophical problems, and introduces some major figures from the history of philosophy. A programme of study is provided which introduces progressive intellectual challenges at each new level and requires students to study in more depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have a greater interest.

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 communications; appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management.

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
<p>In Philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key historical aspects of Philosophy• An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches• Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts• Awareness of current research in the field and its direction. <p>In French</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>Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.</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, it 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> 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>

Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <p>In Philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of philosophical texts• synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space• analyse the logical construction of arguments• produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure <p>In French</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. apply critically literary and historical concepts2. identify and solve problems3. analyse and interpret4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations. Plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module</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> The variety of assessment methods employed places 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>
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C. Practical skills – able to:

In Philosophy

- present a coherent talk delivered from notes
- produce concise and accurate written reports
- critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own.
- utilise problem-solving skills

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.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

Assessment

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.

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.

<p>D. Transferable skills – able to:</p> <p>In Philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manage time effectively and prioritise workloads • communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means • evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement. • Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations. • some IT skills, e.g. word processing and e-mail <p>In French</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 8. Careers Management 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> 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, but this skill is not formally assessed. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.</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.