**BA PHILOSOPHY AND ITALIAN**  UCAS code: RV35
**For students entering Part 1 in 2004**

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s): Philosophy; Languages and Related
Studies

Faculty of Arts & Humanities Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: April 2005
Programme Director:  Dr. Emma Borg
Programme Adviser: Dr C. Wagstaff
Board of Studies: Philosophy and Italian
Accreditation: Not Appropriate

**Summary of programme aims**
The BA Philosophy Course aims to give students an understanding of central philosophical
principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures, and to provide a programme of study which
introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experience at each new
level. To allow students to study in depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have greater
interest and to develop students' aptitude for Philosophy, engender a sense of belonging to a
community of inquiry, and encourage intellectual development. Also to prepare students, where
appropriate, for possible postgraduate study and provide a supportive learning environment with
full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

The Italian programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress
to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of
learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent
communicators in spoken and written Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of
Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests.

**Transferable skills**
The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic
transferable skills which all 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 career management, communication (both written and oral), information
handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. The
Philosophy degree will help students develop skills such as: presenting a coherent talk delivered
from notes, producing concise and accurate written reports, the ability to critically discuss
particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as
articulate the student's own views. The Philosophy degree also encourages the ability to handle
abstract ideas and utilise problem-solving skills. Students of Italian will, in particular, 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. In the course of such activities, they will gain
experience of using information technology, working in groups, and organising their own time.
The year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased cultural
awareness and self-reliance.

**Programme content**
The following profile states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with
lists of modules in any Part from which students must make a selection (the option modules).
Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their
programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part.

Part 1 in Philosophy introduces some major figures from the history of philosophy and introduces students to philosophical examinations of our most fundamental beliefs, for instance about truth and reality, or right and wrong. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to explore the ideas and approaches emerging in Part 1 in greater depth, including a range of primarily historical courses (e.g. studying Classical Greek thought or the ideas of the British Empiricists) and more topic driven courses (e.g. studying theories of knowledge, or critical thinking and logic). Part 3 encourages increasing specialisation in the subject, allowing students to choose more advanced courses from an extremely wide range of options. Independent research is also encouraged through the provision of a dissertation option at this level.

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

During the year abroad the experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones: by the end of this period the differences between former beginners and other students will have been eliminated. Students further broaden their knowledge of Italian culture by pursuing courses of their own choice (to a value of 40 credits) at an Italian University; and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

Part 3 comprises one module of further Italian language study, and two additional modules chosen from a range of specialised topics relating to many different aspects of Italian culture.

Each programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits must be made up from optional Philosophy and Italian modules and/or modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, remaining credits must be made up from modules in Philosophy or Italian, or elsewhere.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

**In Philosophy** students must acquire a minimum of 40 or a maximum of 60 credits from the modules below.

Other credits to be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy programme.

| Mod Code | Module Title | Credits | Level |
|----------|-------------|---------|-------|
| PP1MW | Mind & World | 20 | C |
| PP1VV | Values & Virtues | 20 | C |
| PP1MR | Metaphysics & Religion | 20 | C |

**In Italian** students must take at least 40 credits from the modules below. A further 20-credit module in Italian may be taken if desired. Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from outside the Italian programme.

*Compulsory modules*

For advanced students:

| IT1001 | *Advanced Italian Language I* | 20 | C |
|--------|-------------------------------|----|---|

| IT1002 | *Twentieth-Century Italian Culture* | 20 | C |

For students without 'A' level, including beginners:

| IT1003 | *Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture* | 40 | C |

*Optional module (open to all students):*
| IT1004 | *Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)* | 20 | C |

| **Part 2 (three terms)** | *Credits* | *Level* |

**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 one other module from the combined list of Core and Option modules. (Not every Option module will be available in every year.)

*Compulsory Modules*

| Mod Code | Module Title | Credits | Level |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 Italian** students must acquire 60 credits from the following modules.
*Compulsory modules in Italian (to total of 20 credits)*

*Either:*
| IT201 | *Advanced Italian Language II* | 20 | I |
***Or:***
| IT202 | *Intermediate Italian Language* | 20 | I |

*Two of the following optional modules (to total of 40 credits).* (Not all optional modules will be available in any one year; the availability of all optional modules is subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants.)

| IT203 | *History of the Italian Language* | 20 | I |

Either
| IT205 | *Italian Cinema I* | 20 | I |

| Or IT206 | *Italian Cinema II* | 20 | I |
|---|---|---|---|
| IT207 | *Italian History and Society since 1945* | 20 | I |
| IT208 | *Italian Modernism* | 20 | I |
| IT209 | *Italian Narrative and Poetry in the Nineteenth Century* | 20 | I |
| IT2WW | *Writing Women in Early Modern Italy (1300-1650)* | 20 | I |
| IT2CON | *Contemporary Italian Literature* | 20 | I |
| IT2WCI | *Women in Contemporary Italy (1900-2000): from Invisibility to Feminism* | 20 | I |

**Year abroad (three terms)**                              *Credits   Level*
*Compulsory modules (to total of 120 credits)*

| IT331 | Italian Oral | 20 | H |
|---|---|---|---|
| IT332 | Italian Written and Oral Presentation | 20 | H |
| IT231 | Credits from Italian University course (1) | 20 | I |
| IT232 | Credits from Italian University course (2) | 20 | I |
| PP3DIS | Philosophy Dissertation | 40 | H |

**Part 3 (three terms)**                                      *Credits   Level*

**In Philosophy** students must acquire 60 credits from any modules below.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional Part 3 modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

| *Mod Code* | *Module Title* | *Credits* | *Level* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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, Nietzche, 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 |

**In Italian** students must acquire 60 credits from the following modules.
*Compulsory module in Italian (20 credits)*

| IT301 | Advanced Italian Language III | 20 | H |
|---|---|---|---|

***Two of the following optional modules in Italian (to total of 40 credits).***

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional Part 3 modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IT303 | *Aspects of the Renaissance in France and Italy* | 20 | H |
| IT305 | *Dante* | 20 | H |
| Either: | | | |
| IT3EC1 | *European Cinema I* | 20 | H |
| Or:<br>IT3EC2 | *European Cinema II* | 20 | H |
| IT312 | *Modern Movements in Poetry1900-1920* | 20 | H |
| IT314 | *The South since 1860: Images and Reality* | 20 | H |
| IT315 | *Umberto Eco: Fiction, Cultural Criticism and the Theory of Signs* | 20 | H |
| IT3CC | *Court Culture in the Italian Renaissance* | 20 | H |
| IT3FL | *Fantastic Literature in Italy 1860s-1980s* | 20 | H |
| IT3WE | *Women's Everyday Life in Italy from the Middle Ages to the French Revolution* | 20 | H |
| HS3T09 | *The Republic of Venice from 1454 to 1571* | 20 | H |

**Progression requirements**

(a) To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 a student should achieve an average of 40% in Philosophy modules taken and an average of 40% in Italian modules, and an 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 an average of 40% in their Italian 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
(a) obtain a mark of at least 40% in either *Advanced Italian Language II* or *Intermediate Italian Language;*
(b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
(c) achieve not less than 30% in any module (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 the Year Abroad to Part 3 students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of studies at a University in Italy and have handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

**Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching within Philosophy consists of lectures and small group seminars, 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 BA Course Handbook for further information).

In Part 1 in Italian language modules are always taught in small groups and the other modules are taught by a mixture of lectures and seminars. In Parts 2 and 3 students are normally taught in small groups for all modules, and when lectures are used they are informal. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination.

The Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university. The Oral in Italian and the Written and Oral Presentation will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.
The dissertation comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study.

**Weighted Finals:**
To reflect the notion of progression through the programme, Part 3 examinations will have a greater impact on a student's Final Degree Classification, with Part 2 examinations and Year abroad modules at I level contributing 33% of the Final grade and Year abroad modules at H Level and Part 3 examinations contributing 67%.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook

The University's honours classification is as follows:
| Mark: | Interpretation |
| --- | --- |
| 70%-100% | First class |
| 60%-69% | Upper Second class |
| 50%-59% | Lower Second class |
| 40%-49% | Third class |
| 35%-39% | Below Honours standard |
| 0%-34% | Fail |

**Admission requirements**
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
Grade C or better in Maths in GCSE; and achieved
UCAS Tariff: 24 points or equivalent (260 under the new tariff)
International Baccalaureate: 30 to include 5 points in Maths
Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBCC in 5 Higher Level subjects
Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

No previous qualification in Italian is necessary.
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have achieved:
UCAS Tariff: Either: 280 points over 4 subjects, including at least 2 full A-levels, or: 260 points over 3 subjects, including at least 2 full A-levels.
International Baccalaureat: 30 points
Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC
Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level.

*Mature Students*: Applications from mature students are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its relative merits. We recommend you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

*International Students*: Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: Dr. P. Stratton-Lake

Information on courses may be obtained via the Internet on:
        http://www.rdg.ac.uk/AcaDepts/li/Italian/degree.html

**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.

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.

Within the Department, information and guidance is offered through the Part 1 Handbook, and the B.A Course Handbook (covering Parts 2 and 3). There is also a Part 1 co-ordinator and an Honours Course co-ordinator who can be consulted on module choices within each part of the programme. Finally, the Part-time Programme co-ordinator is available to assist with all issues relating to the Part-time course.

The Italian 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 Italian television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of Italian culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space.

**Career prospects**
Over the years students who have followed the Philosophy programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), and the civil service. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for computer firms and large finance and insurance companies. In general, there is some evidence that IT firms appreciate the logical and analytic skills of the Philosophy graduate. Furthermore, a survey by the Royal Institute of Philosophy found 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

Students graduating in Italian work in many different fields. Some use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; others proceed to post-graduate courses in various areas, including translating. A degree involving Italian can also, like degrees in other arts 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 Italian can be a distinct asset.

**Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The Department of Italian Studies participates in SOCRATES exchanges with the Universities of Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Trieste, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, Salerno and Venezia. Students spend the whole of the third year studying at one of

these Universities. Further information on these Universities is available on the Internet at
http://www.rdg.ac.uk/AcaDepts/li/Italian/abroad.html

**Educational aims of the programme**

The aims and objectives for the Philosophy programme are as follows:

- to give students an understanding of central philosophical principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures
- to enable Joint Honours students to study Philosophy alongside another discipline
- to provide a programme of study which introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experiences at each new level
- to require students to study in more depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have a greater interest
- to develop students' aptitude for Philosophy, engender a sense of belonging to a community of enquiry, encourage intellectual development and prepare students, where appropriate, for possible postgraduate study
- to provide a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support
- to broaden access by providing a part-time mode of study.

The central *objective* of the BA Philosophy course is to cultivate the ability to do, and not just to read, Philosophy.

The Italian programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society.

The programme therefore aims to equip students with:

•       a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated Italian person in the reception and production of spoken and written Italian;
•       a sound body of knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian Studies chosen in accordance with their academic interests;

**Programme Outcomes**
On successful completion of a BA course, students will have:
- gained a knowledge and understanding of the main areas of Philosophy and of the views of great figures in the history of Philosophy
- gained a deeper appreciation of particular issues in Philosophy, and at the forefront of philosophical debate, through studying a range of units informed by the research interests and professional activities of staff
- acquired the abilities to think clearly and reason logically, critically to evaluate arguments, and to question the assumptions of any given viewpoint
- acquired transferable skills of use in a wide variety of employment, thus enhancing their career opportunities
- developed the skills necessary to pursue academic research or further study.

| A. Knowledge and understanding of: | Teaching/learning methods and strategies |
|---|---|
| **Philosophy:** <br> • Key historical aspects of Philosophy <br> • An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches <br> • Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts <br> • Awareness of current research in the field and its direction. <br><br> **Italian**: <br> 1. A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom; <br><br> 2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English); <br><br> 3. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture; <br><br> 4. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered. | Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator. <br> *Assessment* <br> Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations; while the module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams. <br><br> **Italian:** <br> 1, 2.. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but after the year in Italy all students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow University courses. <br><br> 3, 4. These areas are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research. <br><br> *Assessment* <br> Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University courses are assessed by oral examinations. Modules on literature and culture are assessed by a combination of coursework essays and examination or, in one case, by an independent dissertation |

**B. Intellectual skills** – able to:

**Philosophy**:
- 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

**Italian:**

1. analyse and interpret literary or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;

2. apply literary and historical concepts;

3. conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;

4. think critically and independently.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

**Philosophy:**

As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises.

*Assessment*

Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations, plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module. The module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams.

**Italian:**

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

*Assessment*

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework essays and examination. The independent dissertation is a key element, and there are further opportunities for writing extended essays

**C. Practical skills** – able to:

**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

**Italian:**
1. speak, write, read and understand Italian at high or near-native levels of proficiency;
2. seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it critically;
3. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations;
4. plan and carry out limited research projects;
5. apply key methods and concepts of literary, historical and linguistic analysis.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
**Philosophy:**
Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

*Assessment*
Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations; while the module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams, or assessed coursework where relevant.

**Italian**:
Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular coursework: the marks for this work are given for guidance and do not contribute to the final module mark. The Year Abroad provides a range of experiences in the use of everyday and academic Italian. Primary source material and much secondary literature is in Italian. Bibliographies are provided for all modules, students are trained in library use, and many modules provide experience searching for information via the Internet. Departmental Handbooks provide guidance in preparing coursework essays and dissertations. Students regularly give oral presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme the dissertation and, in some cases, extended essays provided experience of researching topics independently.

*Assessment*
Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-5 are assessed by a combination of coursework, examinations and dissertation.

**D. Transferable skills** – able to:
**Philosophy:**

- 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.
- use some IT skills, e.g. word processing and e-mail

**Italian:**
1. construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;
2. think critically and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
3. locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. participate effectively in group activities;
5. be self-reliant, organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
6. show sensitivity to cultural differences;
7. make informed career plans

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
**Philosophy:**
Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

*Assessment*
Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.

**Italian:**
Skills 1-6 are developed progressively throughout the programme. Participation in seminars and oral classes develops skills in self-expression and teamwork. Critical thought, the construction of arguments, and information skills are all developed through essay writing and the dissertation, and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills are enhanced by the regular production of language work and the meeting of strict essay deadlines. Sensitivity to cultural difference informs the whole programme and, together with the development of self-motivation and self-reliance, is greatly encouraged by the Year Abroad. Career management is taught through a distinct module linked with preparation for the Year Abroad.

*Assessment*
Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, including the examinations in Italy. The location of information forms part of the activity involved in the dissertation, but word-processing skills are not formally assessed. Skill 4 is not directly assessed. There are strict, clearly-defined penalties for lateness in handing in assessed work and for plagiarism.

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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.