

BA English and German
For students entering Part 1 in 2005

UCAS code: QR32

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: August 2007
Programme Director: Dr Andrew Nash
Programme Adviser: Dr Ian Roe
Board of Studies: English and German
Accreditation: not appropriate

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
English and Modern Languages
Programme length: 4 years

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, cultural and historical texts from a range of periods, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis, and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written German. The course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

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 develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

In addition, students on this joint degree programme are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: the ability to formulate and evaluate arguments, use of library and relevant information resources, self-reliance, effective time management, and cultural awareness.

Programme content

Students must choose modules from the following lists or, where permitted, from modules on other programmes, to make a total of 120 credits in each Part of the degree. In Part 1 students take 60 credits in the School of English and 40 credits in German. In Parts 2 and 3 they must normally take 60 credits in both English and German in each Part, but may, in consultation with their programme adviser, choose to take up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the university. The Year Abroad takes place in the third year of the degree programme.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

Credits Level

In English (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

EN1LL	<i>Languages of Literature</i>	20	C
EN1RS	<i>Revisioning Shakespeare</i>	20	C
EN1WKT	<i>What Kind of Text is This?</i>	20	C

In German (40 credits)

Either (for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

GM1AGL	<i>Advanced German Language</i>	20	C
GM1IMG	<i>Icons of Modern Germany</i>	20	C

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

LA1PG4	<i>IWLP German Level 4</i>	20	C
GM1ICI	<i>Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate)</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

Credits Level

In English (60 Credits)

Students choose three modules in Part 2, at least one in the Autumn and one in the Spring terms. At least one of the chosen modules must be an asterisked module. Not more than one module may be chosen from each group.

Autumn Term

Group A

EN2RTC	<i>*Renaissance Texts & Cultures</i>	20	I
EN2MC1	<i>Modernism and Modern Poetry</i>	20	I
EN2RR	<i>*The Eighteenth-Century: Restoration to Romantics</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2CMN	<i>*Chaucer and Medieval Narrative</i>	20	I
EN2NCN	<i>Nineteenth-Century Novel</i>	20	I
EN2WA1	<i>Writing America 1</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2RDR	<i>*Renaissance Drama</i>	20	I
EN2LCT	<i>Literary Criticism & Theory</i>	20	I
EN2WW1	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 1</i>	20	I
EN2OEL	<i>*Introduction to Old English</i>	20	I

Spring Term

Group A

EN2ERE	<i>*English Renaissance Epic</i>	20	I
EN2MC2	<i>Modernity, Crisis and Narrative Fiction</i>	20	I
EN2RD	<i>Romantics to Decadents</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2LV	<i>*Lyric Voices 1340 – 1650</i>	20	I
EN2MD	<i>Modern Drama</i>	20	I
EN2WA2	<i>Writing America 2</i>	20	I
EN2CAW	<i>Communications at Work</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2SH	<i>*Shakespeare</i>	20	I
EN2WW2	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 2</i>	20	I
EN2FN	<i>Film Narrative</i>	20	I

In German (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

GM2L2	<i>German Language II</i>	20	I
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And the following two modules

GM2OP1	<i>German Option Module 1</i>	20	I
GM2OP2	<i>German Option Module 2</i>	20	I

German Option Modules 1 & 2 will each be made up of short topics chosen from an extensive list to be provided.)

Of the 120 credits at Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills

Students may choose to replace one non-asterisked English module, or the 20-credit German optional module, with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

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

Compulsory modules

GM3O40	<i>Oral and Aural German (full year)</i>	40	H
GM2LP	<i>German language project</i>	20	I
EN3GER	<i>Joint Dissertation preparation</i>	20	H

Either

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

GM2ASR	<i>Placement/assistant's report (includes 20 non-assessed credits for Work Experience)</i>	40	I
or			
GM2WPL			

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

Compulsory

EN3GJD	<i>Joint Dissertation (to be completed)</i>	20	H
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In English (40 credits)

Students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits.

Optional modules: A complete list of options is available from the Programme Advisor in English and in the English Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Advisor in English.

In German (60 credits)

Compulsory module

Either

GM3GPT	<i>Translation into German and English</i>	20	H
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Or

GM3GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H
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Optional modules

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

GM3PL	<i>German Department Play</i>	20	I
GM3GAR	<i>Germany in the Age of Revolution</i>	20	H
GM3V19	<i>Nineteenth-Century Vienna</i>	20	H
GM3UR	<i>Unification and the Integration of the GDR</i>	20	H
GM3TGL	<i>Trends in Modern German Language</i>	20	H
GM3CWR	<i>Cinema of the Weimar Republic</i>	20	H
GM3MGN	<i>Modern German Narratives</i>	20	H

(All optional modules, including additions to the above list, are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants.)

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; (ii) achieve a

minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in German; and (iii) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, students must (i) obtain a mark of 40% in *German Language II*, (ii) achieve an overall average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules and across English Part 2 modules, (iii) achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

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

Summary of teaching and assessment

German language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures, small-group seminars and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. The Year Abroad module *German Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian universities, and *Oral and Aural German* will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

Conventions for degree classification are explained in the Programme Handbook, but you should note that the weighting between various Parts of the degree is as follows: Intermediate-level credits contribute 33% of the final assessment, and Honours-level credits contribute 67%.

Admission requirements

Entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: *either* 280 points from three A2s, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature; *or* 320 points from 3 A2s + up to two AS, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature

International Baccalaureate: 31 points with at least 6 for Higher level English Literature

Scottish Highers: ABBBB

Irish Highers: ABBBB

GCSE/O: At least Grade C in GCSE German

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will be usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level English, or equivalent qualifications, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

Admissions tutor: Mrs Carolyn Lyle

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Study Advice Team, the University's Special Needs Adviser, Hall Wardens, the Students' Union and the Careers Advisory Service. 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 Learning Resource Centre with some 200 workstations. 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. Transferable skills are supported by the Skills Opportunities At Reading (SOAR) website with links to information about resources and events offered by the Library, IT Services, Study Advisers, RUSU, Mathematics Support Centre and the University Language Centre.

The School of English and American Literature also offers students specific help to improve and develop their essay writing skills through the Royal Literary Fund Fellowship scheme, which provides a resident professional writer whose role is to advise students individually, from first-year to postgraduate level, on raising the level of their academic writing.

Within the School of English students receive a Handbook which gives details of the programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 4. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the School of English, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and an expanding collection of videos for loan to students. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. In the Department of German Studies additional support is provided through a programme adviser for each part of the programme. A series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. The Library is well-stocked with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases on-line and on CD ROM, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

In recent years students who have gained a degree on this programme have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. Joint degrees involving a language (like degrees in other arts subjects) can also lead to careers in such areas as marketing and computing, or may be a prelude to study in law or accountancy. 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. A Reading degree in English and German provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research. In addition to the help provided by the University Careers Advisory Service, SEAL has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English on researching and planning their career choices.

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, on a work placement, or at a university, in most cases one with which the University of Reading has a Socrates exchange agreement: (in Germany) Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Regensburg, Potsdam, Trier, Tübingen, and (in Austria) Graz, Linz, Vienna.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme seeks to develop a sophisticated knowledge and understanding of both English and German culture, and to promote an informed and self-reflective awareness of the procedures of critical and cultural analysis. The overall aims are to provide students with a variety of learning experiences, to enable them to achieve their full intellectual potential, and to equip them with a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

Programme outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p>In English</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama3. Methods of critical textual analysis4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts5. A range of approaches in English studies6. Selected special fields of English <p>In German</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom8. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)9. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-190010. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-190011. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-190012. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>→ Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1-5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 4 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation.</p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (7-8, 10-12) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (9) Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (3, 10-12) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (7-12) Dissertation (any of 1-12 depending on chosen topic) Study or other residence abroad (7-8; also 9).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> [in English] In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 – 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 4, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation. [in German; all parts] Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (3, 7-12) Oral examination (7-8) Dissertation (3, 12, also 10-11) <i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (7-8).</p>
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Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills :

1. Capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identification of problems and issues
3. The ability to read closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions
5. Ability to understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
6. Ability to transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
7. Ability to analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
8. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), through close guided study of texts (3), seminar preparation and discussion (1-3, 5-6), and essay writing and feedback through tutorials (1-6); through language classes (7) and the completion of the dissertation (8)

Assessment

1 – 3 and 5 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays and unseen exams, 6 is assessed specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme 1- 5 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials. 7 is assessed in certain language examinations, 8 by means of the dissertation.

C. Practical skills:

In English

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of texts
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language
4. Bibliographical and research skills
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. An ability to relate the study of English to cultural and social issues

In German, the ability to:

7. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
8. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
9. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
10. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
11. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
12. Organize and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 – 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.

In German, skills 7-8 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 9 and also 10 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 10 and 11 in the preparation for and presentation of the dissertation; skill 12 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.

In German, skills 7-10 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 10 and 11 are assessed through the dissertation; 12 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

D. Transferable skills:

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments
3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches
4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
6. Time-management skills
7. A creative approach to problem-solving
8. Group and interpersonal skills
9. An ability to work independently, to self-evaluate and self-reflect
10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing
11. Ability to take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
12. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions(1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations (1 – 9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, essay writing and research for the dissertation. Time-management skills (6) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (9) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 11. We require that all summatively assessed essays (in German all assessed essays) are word-processed (10). Career management (12) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

1 – 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. 11 is not directly assessed but informs a student's work throughout the programme, especially in the third and final years.

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 be expected 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 the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.