

BA German and Politics
For students entering Part 1 in 2005

UCAS Code MR12

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
QAA subject benchmarking group(s): Languages and Related Studies, Politics and International Relations

Faculty of Arts and Humanities Length of programme: 4 years
Date of profile: Feb 2007
Programme Director: Dr I Roe
Programme Advisors: Dr J Wieczorek and Dr J Lester
Board of Studies: German and Politics

Summary of programme aims

The programme in German Studies seeks to develop students' 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, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use to them outside the confines of the discipline.

The programme in Politics gives students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and politics, and international relations. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. They progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

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 Politics will develop their abilities to deal with intellectual problems effectively by locating information, assessing it critically, communicating independent points of view logically and clearly (both orally and in writing), and substantiating opinions with evidence; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part, and also the Year Abroad, comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

In German Part 1 includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. In 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. 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. In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

In Politics, Part 1 requires the modules in Modern Politics as well as International Relations and Strategic Studies. In Part 2 students continue with a further compulsory modules in Comparative Government as well as an option. In the Year Abroad students write a dissertation in the Government, Politics and International Relations of Germany to be submitted by the first day of the Autumn term of Year 4. In Part 3 students take options in Politics.

Part 1 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

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

In German

Either (for students entering with A-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>Intermediate German Language</i>	20	C
GM1ICI	<i>Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate)</i>	20	C

In Politics

Compulsory Modules

PO1IRS	<i>Politics I, International Relations and Strategic Studies</i>	20	C
PO1MOP	<i>Politics II, Modern Politics</i>	20	C

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

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Politics.

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 German Studies.

In German (60 credits)**Compulsory module**

GM2L2	<i>German Language II</i>	20	I
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Optional modules

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

In Politics (60 credits)**Compulsory modules**

PO2 SOP	<i>Study of Politics</i>	20	I
PO2 CGP	<i>Comparative Government and Politics</i>	20	I

Optional module

Students must choose one option module to the value of 20 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental handbook.

Year Abroad (three terms)

Credits *Level*

Compulsory modules

GM3O40	<i>Oral and Aural German (full year)</i>	40	H
PO3LDS	<i>Dissertation (on an aspect of German Politics)</i> (to be assessed at Part 3)	40	H

Either

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

GM2ASR	<i>Placement/assistant's report</i> (this module includes 20 credits for <i>Work experience</i> that do not contribute to the final assessment)	40	I
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Part 3 (three terms)

Credits *Level*

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Politics.

In German (60 credits)**Compulsory module**

One of

GM3GPT	<i>Translation into German and English</i>	20	H
GM3GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H

Optional modules

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

In Politics (60 credits)

Students choose three 20-credit modules from two lists. At least one must be chosen from list A and one other must be from list B unless a government or theory option has been taken in Part 2. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

Progression requirements

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and qualify for the CertHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, and to have obtained at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules taken for German and International Relations.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and qualify for the DipHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.

In addition, students must normally have obtained at least 35% in each of the compulsory modules taken for International Relations and at least 40% in the compulsory German module.

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

Summary of teaching and assessment

(In German) Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad module *Scheine* 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.

(In Politics) Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 modules typically involve seminars only. All modules other than the Study of Politics, Dissertation and General Essay are assessed by a mixture of course work (25%) and examination (75%).

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 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 or j.s.golub@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.

In Politics, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay, a departmental Library and a photocopier.

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.

Over the years students who have followed this 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), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as child care, youth employment, probation and so on. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

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 on a work-placement, or at a university 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 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 Politics component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Politics and International Relations. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of the main sub-fields of the discipline and have acquired appropriate study skills.

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>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom.2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-19004. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues6. Methods of critical textual analysis7. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics8. The various approaches and the study of Politics9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3) Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6) Dissertation (any of 1-6 depending on chosen topic) Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-4) Oral examination (1-2) Dissertation (5-6, also 4) <i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically2. Identify and analyse problems and issues3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments4. Evaluate alternative critical views5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic	→	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad	→	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.</p>

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. give oral presentations
3. use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. manage time and work to deadlines
6. work independently and be self-reliant
7. take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. plan and evaluate career possibilities

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably 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.