

BA French and Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2006

UCAS code: LR11

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

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Languages and Related Studies,
Economics

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: October 2006
Programme Director: Dr J. Felix
Programme Adviser: Mrs P. Feuillée-Kendall
Board of Studies: French and Economics
Accreditation: Not applicable

Programme length: 4 years

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme in which students take modules in both departments alongside single subject students. It contains an inter-disciplinary element in the form of a compulsory joint dissertation in which students study a topic from the perspectives of both disciplines.

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 literature, history, culture and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

The Economics part of the programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in the subject. It focuses on coverage of economic principles and their relevant application: the areas of economic principles are compulsory in the second part of the degree, and relevant applications are compulsory in the final part. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the basic elements of economic theory and of relevant uses and applications.

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 optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part, plus 120 credits assigned to the Year Abroad to make a total of 480 credits for the whole degree. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level

Students must take a minimum of 40 credits in French and 40 credits in Economics. A further 20-credit optional module in French may be taken if desired. Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those offered in the Part 1 Handbook.

In French:

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

		Credits	Level
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

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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Or:

Intermediate French

Compulsory modules

		Credits	Level
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

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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On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

In Economics

Compulsory modules

EC1F1A	<i>Introductory Economics I</i>	20	C
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EC1F1B	<i>Introductory Economics II</i>	20	C
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Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

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

Credits Level

In French:

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
FR202	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>The Crusades</i>	20	I
FR203	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>Introduction to Medieval 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
FR206	18th Century: <i>La littérature au siècle des Lumières: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot</i>	20	I
FR207	18th & 19th Centuries: <i>France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870</i>	20	I
FR208	19th & 20th Centuries: <i>Realism and desire in four French novels, 1846-1926: Balzac, Flaubert, Proust, Gide</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

Economics

Compulsory Modules

EC201A	<i>Microeconomics I.1</i>	20	I
EC201B	<i>Microeconomics I.2</i>	10	I
EC202A	<i>Macroeconomics I.1</i>	20	I
EC202A	<i>Macroeconomics I.2</i>	10	I

Year abroad (three terms in a French-speaking country)

		Credits	Level
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
FR3EC	<i>Dissertation in Economics</i>	40	H
FR305	<i>French Oral</i>	40	H
<i>Optional module</i>			
either			
FR231	<i>University study abroad</i>	40	I
or			
FR232	<i>Assistantship abroad</i>	40	I
or			
FR233	<i>Work placement abroad</i>	40	I

Where University Study is selected, the credits gained abroad will be based on one course taken on a French topic and one course taken on an Economics topic at a French University.

Part 3 (three terms) Honours level

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

		Credits	Level
French Studies			
<i>Compulsory module</i>			
FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>	20	H
<i>Optional modules</i>			
Students must take two modules from the list below:			
FR3MAN	<i>French for Managers</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
FR309	<i>Aspects of the Eighteenth-Century French Novel</i>	20	H
FR310	<i>Women & men in the French récit</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
FR317	<i>André Gide 1869-1951</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</i>	20	H
Economics			
<i>Optional modules (to total of 60 credits):</i>			
EC308A	<i>Business Economics 1</i>	20	H
EC308A	<i>Business Economics 2</i>	10	H
EC311A	<i>International Economics 1</i>	20	H
EC311B	<i>International Economics 2</i>	10	H
EC312A	<i>Economics of Development 1</i>	20	H
EC312B	<i>Economics of Development 2</i>	10	H
EC314A	<i>Public Economics 1</i>	20	H
EC314B	<i>Public Economics 2</i>	10	H
EC315A	<i>Economics Issues in Historical Perspective 1</i>	20	H
EC315B	<i>Economics Issues in Historical Perspective 2</i>	10	H
EC316A	<i>European Economic Integration 1</i>	20	H
EC316B	<i>European Economic Integration 2</i>	10	H
EC320A	<i>Money & Banking 1</i>	20	H
EC320B	<i>Money & Banking 2</i>	10	H
EC324A	<i>European Urban & Regional Economics 1</i>	20	H
EC324B	<i>European Urban & Regional Economics 2</i>	10	H
EC328A	<i>Economics of Land, Development & Planning 1</i>	20	H
EC328B	<i>Economics of Land, Development & Planning 2</i>	10	H
EC330	<i>Comparative International Management</i>	20	H
EC334A	<i>Environmental Economics 1</i>	20	H
EC334B	<i>Environmental Economics 2</i>	10	H

EC337A	<i>Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change 1</i>	20	H
EC337B	<i>Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change 2</i>	10	H

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved 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 modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause. In addition, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory modules in French and in Economics.

To progress from Part 2 to the Year Abroad a student must:

- achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules totalling 120 credits;
- obtain a mark of at least 40% in French Language 2 (FR201);
- achieve not less than 30% in any French 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 with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.
- achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% in Economics modules totalling 60 credits;
- achieve not less than 35% in any Economics module at Part 2 (i.e. no marks of less than 35% will be condoned).

A mark (or marks) of 35 – 39% will be permitted in Economics modules totalling a maximum of 20 credits.

To proceed from 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

In Part 1, 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.

In Economics the delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is one third, other than in special cases.

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

Weighting

In order to be eligible for a four-year Bachelor's degree in the School of Modern Languages which incorporate a language year abroad a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which not less than 180 shall normally be at H level or above, except in the case where a candidate is deemed to

have achieved a Pass). 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

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 280 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 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 degree involving French, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; many students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be a distinct asset.

In recent years graduates from the French and Economics programme have entered a variety of careers in both the private and the public sectors. Examples include jobs in banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, and universities.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend the Year Abroad as an assistant teacher, on a work placement or at one of the Higher Education Institutions with which the Department of French Studies has a Socrates agreement.

Educational aims of the programme

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 communication; appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management. Particular parts of the programme will also have enabled students to develop relevant IT and Career Management skills.

By the end of the Economics programme students are expected to have acquired a thorough knowledge of basic economic analysis and its relevant application. They are expected to be competent to apply economic analysis to practical problems and, with further training at postgraduate level (if suitably qualified) to be able to work as professional economists in government, academics, or private sector, especially in contexts relevant to the other part of their degree. Students are expected to have acquired an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. Students are expected to have developed the ability to express themselves clearly and concisely in both written and spoken contexts.

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> <p>In French</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The French language;2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture;3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis. <p>In Economics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising micro-economics and macroeconomics;2. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods;3. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>In French</p> <p>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, grammar 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.</p> <p>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> <p>In Economics</p> <p>Formal lectures, classes and practical sessions, supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study. Students undertake project work and write essays, in which they learn to apply economic concepts to relevant real world issues.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>In French, 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 (1-3). Economics modules are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <p>In French</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. critically apply literary and historical concepts;2. identify and solve problems;3. analyse and interpret;4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference; <p>In Economics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. think logically;6. apply analytical principles to a range of problems;7. organise tasks into a structured form;8. assess the impact of recent and current changes on business and organisational circumstances;9. transfer appropriate techniques and knowledge from one topic within the subject matter to another;10. plan, organise and write a report on an independent project.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module 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></p> <p>In French, 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> <p>In Economics, 5-8 are covered extensively in the core modules; 9-10 are given wide scope in the optional modules; 10 is assessed directly by means of the essays prepared in Parts 2 and 3 in all modules.</p>
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C. Practical skills – able to:

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;

In Economics

5. understand and develop a chain of economic reasoning
6. formulate and analyse economic problems
7. evaluate economic policies
8. write critical analyses of economic questions.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 module. 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.

In Economics, the core subjects concentrate on formal economic reasoning. Problem solving forms an important part of class work especially in Parts 2 and 3. The specialised options involve writing detailed assessments of set topics.

Assessment

In French, 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.

In Economics, most skills are tested through a combination of coursework, including both problem solving and essays, and through unseen examinations.

- D. Transferable skills** – able to:
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

In Economics

9. use IT (word-processing);
10. communicate ideas in a logical way;
11. give oral presentations;
12. contribute to group discussions ;
13. use library resources both on- and off-line;
14. manage time.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules 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 modules 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.

In Economics, the use of IT is required throughout the Part 2 and 3 modules. Seminars in Parts 2 and 3 involve group discussions and oral presentations. Library resources have to be used continuously in the preparation of essays and project work. the highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work requires good time management.

Assessment

In French, 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 and technology-enhanced language learning. These skills are not formally assessed. In Economics, most skills are tested indirectly through the preparation of course and project work.

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.