BA Applied English Language Studies with German

UCAS code: Q3R2

For students entering Part 1 in 2007

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

Faculty of Arts & Humanities

Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	Jan 2007
Programme Directors:	Dr Jane Setter, Dr Ian Roe
Programme Advisers:	Ms Clare Furneaux, Dr Tony Simons
Board of Studies:	Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
Accreditation:	Not appropriate

Summary of programme aims

The programme in Applied English Language Studies with German aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in those subjects. There is special emphasis upon the use of the English language in its social context, and upon the application of knowledge about language to problem solving in the contemporary world. The German part of the programme aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who have a sound critical understanding of German language and culture, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development. The programme is distinctive in situating theories and descriptions developed in linguistics within an interdisciplinary and applied perspective.

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.

On completion of the programme, students will have mastered contemporary methodology for the study of language in use which involves the development of computer and IT skills, while techniques of text and language analysis will be relevant to a wide range of professional and personal contexts.

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. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.

The compulsory modules provide a thorough and staged grounding in (1) theories and descriptions of the phonology, grammar, lexis and discourse of English; (2) the relation of knowledge about language to issues in society and education; (3) semiotics and stylistics; (4) German language and translation, and (5) further modules on aspects of German language in business environments. The compulsory dissertation allows students to conduct a more specialised and guided investigation. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of language and the potential for its application through the structured progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 1 (a) provides the basic resources for the description of the sounds, grammar and semantics of English, and (b) provides a broad overview of the scope of Applied English Language Studies and introduces a sociolinguistic perspective to the study of language. Students additionally get a German language module suitable to their level of entry, and a further module on aspects of German culture. Part 2 provides further grounding in English phonology and grammar, and adds to this the theory and description of discourse, and training in research methods. Further German language learning is provided, as well as a module on German for business purposes. Part 3 (a) develops understanding of language development in education, and (b) provides grounding in the theories of semiotics and stylistics, drawing upon them to develop skills for the description and analysis of both linguistic and multi-modal communication. Further advanced modules in German language and linguistics are provided. The dissertation provides the opportunity to research, independently though under supervision, a more specialised topic.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level   *Credits   Level*
Students are required to take 120 credits at Part 1, of which 40 must be in Applied Linguistics, and 40 must be in German, made up from the modules below. The remaining 40 credits may be made up of any combination of 10- and 20-credit modules offered in the university, subject to the requirement for Part 1 examination.

Applied Linguistics
Compulsory modules
Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS1SG	*Sounds, Grammar & Meaning*	20	C
LS1ELS	*English Language and Society*	20	C

Optional modules totalling 20 credits:
Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS1ELU	*English Language in Use*	20	C

German
Compulsory modules
For those with 'A' or 'AS' Level German

GM1AGL	*Advanced German Language*	20	C

and

GM1IMG	*Icons of Modern Germany*	20	C

For those with GCSE German

LA1PG4	*German Language Level 4*	20	C

and

GM1ICI	*Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate)*	20	C

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that assessed coursework will be undertaken in the Christmas and Easter vacation.

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level   *Credits   Level*
Students take 120 credits in Part 2, made up as indicated.
Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills.

Applied Linguistics (80 credits)
Compulsory modules
Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS2ILS	*Issues in Language & Society*	20	I
LS2AD	*Approaches to Discourse*	20	I

LS2RM	*Research Methods*	20	I

Autumn term:

LS2EG	*English Grammar*	10	I

Spring term:

LS2EP	*English Phonology*	10	I

Subject to the permission of the programme directors, in order to take 20 credits of IWLP or single honours BA AELS option modules, students may take LS2LS *Sociolinguistics* (10 credits) and one of LS2ASD *Approaches to Spoken Discourse* (10 credits) or LS2AWD *Approaches to Written Discourse* (10 credits) in stead of the two 20-credit modules LS2AD *Approaches to Discourse* and LS2ILS *Issues in Language & Society*. This will be subject to availability of modules.

German (40 credits)
Compulsory modules

GM2L2	*German Language II*	20	I
GM2GMB	*German for Business Purposes*	20	I

An alternative Part 2 module in German may be substituted for GM2GMB with the agreement of the Programme Director.

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that those modules running entirely in the Autumn term will be assessed by assignments to be completed over the Christmas vacation.

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

Students take 120 credits in Part 3, made up as indicated.

Applied Linguistics (80 credits)
Compulsory modules
Autumn and Spring terms:

LS3LIT	*Literacy: Social, Educational and Cognitive Perspectives*	20	H
LS3SS	*Semiotics & Stylistics*	20	H
LS3DI	*Dissertation*	40	H

Subject to the permission of the programme directors, in order to take 20 credits of IWLP or single honours BA AELS option modules, students may take LS3LSE *Literacy and Society in Education* (10 credits) and LS3SEM *Semiotics* (10 credits) in stead of the two 20-credit modules LS3LIT *Literacy: Social, Educational and Cognitive Perspectives* and LS3SS *Semiotics & Stylistics*. This will be subject to availability of modules.

German (40 credits)
At least **one** of the following:

GM3GSC	*German Structure and Composition*	20	H
GM3GPT	*Translation into German and English*	20	H

Optional modules
Students who do not take both the modules listed above will take one further Part 3 module in German. These currently include German for Business & Management, The Language of Politics, and other topics on German culture, literature and media.

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 3-7 of the Summer term, save that those modules running entirely in the Autumn term will be assessed by assignments to be completed over the Christmas vacation.

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2, a student must (a) obtain an average of at least 40% across the compulsory modules, and (b) achieve an overall average of at least 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination. To proceed to Part 3, a student must obtain an average of 40% across all Part 2 modules. In each case, the student must have no module mark less than 30%, 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.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is delivered in modules that involve lectures, seminars and (in some modules) workshops. Seminars will involve oral presentation by students, and workshops will include training and practice in the description and analysis of texts and transcripts. German language modules are taught in small groups. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination, with the proportion of coursework increasing as the degree progresses. The final-year dissertation comprises a piece of independent research, directed through a series of one-to-one tutorials, and assessed entirely by coursework.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but it should be noted that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

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

Any combination of 'A' levels (or equivalent) will be considered. However, English Language and German 'A' levels will be considered an advantage. It is also recommended that applicants should have an 'A' level (or equivalent) in one or more of the following: English Language, English Literature, combined English Language and Literature, German, a language other than English or German, Sociology.

Entrants to this programme will normally be required to have obtained:

GCSE English:	Grade C
GCSE German:	Grade A*
UCAS Tariff:	280 points from 3 A Levels or 300 points from 3 A Levels and 1 AS Level
International Baccalaureat:	Pass with 31 points
Irish Leaving Certificate:	Five B grades
Access:	Students graduating from Access programmes will be considered on an individual basis
Edexcel/BTEC (Level 3):	Distinction Merit Merit
Scottish (Advanced) Highers:	280 UCAS points from three Advanced Highers, or from five Highers
European Baccalaureat:	75% overall
German Abitur:	Pass with average of 2.2/2.3
Greek Apolytirion:	18/20 + two A Levels or equivalent

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

Mature and international applicants. It will be appreciated from the extensive list of qualification routes above that we welcome applications from candidates with a range of backgrounds,

including mature candidates and those from other countries. While the list above is indicative, it is not intended to be exhaustive, and all such candidates can be sure that their applications will be considered individually and by taking account of particular circumstances. International candidates who are not offering one of the listed set of qualifications are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitably of their qualifications.

The Admissions Secretary is Mrs Lesley Owen, who will pass on any enquiries to the Admissions Tutor, and can be contacted by:
Telephone – (0118) 931 8140 (+44 118 prefix for callers from outside the UK)
Fax – (0118) 975 3365
Email – l.k.owen@rdg.ac.uk
or by post.

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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

At Part 1, students receive an induction course in Academic Writing. Each student is provided with a course handbook which contains full details of the degree programme, the staff and facilities in the School of Languages and European Studies, and a range of useful information including advice on note-taking in lectures, preparation of written work especially the dissertation, and dates of terms and examinations, and the University's procedure for assessment. Each Part of the programme has a Course Tutor to advise students on selection of modules, learning and assessment. Learning on core modules is supported by small group seminars. Learning is also supported by dedicated facilities in the School. The library of the University houses an important specialist collection of books, journals, dissertations and theses, reports and conference proceedings on Applied Linguistics, German and the Teaching and Learning of English. The Language Research Laboratory in the Department of Applied Linguistics has 6 networked PCs that are intended students researching corpora and databases, such as the British National Corpus and CoBUILD, as well as a wide range of instrumentation for the investigation of many aspects of speech. We also have our own research corpora and databases, and these can be accessed from these machines. The facility uses the very latest software in language and speech analysis. Also available for students are word-processing and statistics, e-mail, and Internet access. Further PCs are located in the student common room for student use.

Career prospects

The BA in Applied English Language Studies with German at Reading offers a firm foundation for further study in the humanities or social sciences, and a set of skills relevant to many careers and life-long learning. Potential careers for graduates will include: teaching English and German abroad, speech therapy, publishing, linguistic computing, journalism, the Civil Service, the media (including advertising, marketing and public relations) and information technology (including library work). The proposed programme is also likely to be of interest to students intending to become teachers (although policy on admitting graduates in subjects not named in the National Curriculum is changeable). The Teacher Training Agency and representatives of providers of Initial Teacher Training have been consulted, and have indicated that, provided graduates meet the specific requirements for entry to teacher training in force at the time, this programme is likely to constitute an appropriate first degree, particularly for entrants to the primary phase. The interdisciplinary nature of the degree, and the emphasis on transferable skills such as analysis of language data, including the use of IT, problem-solving, oral presentations and team-working, will produce graduates prepared for a wide range of professions, including those listed above.

Educational aims of the programme

The main focus of the programme is the use of language in social contexts. A thorough grounding is provided in theories and descriptions of the phonology, grammar, and lexicon of English, the larger discoursal structures of extended stretches of language in use, the interaction of language and other semiotic systems (such as the visual, the musical and the typographic), and relations between linguistic, educational, sociological and political analyses. The German part of the programme aims to enable students to achieve a high level of understanding of the language, culture and society that may be applied to their further studies and career.

Although the language description aspects of the part of the degree taught in Applied Linguistics will mainly focus upon English, much of the content of the degree will be relevant to the study of other languages, and the degree will include modules focusing upon the changing relation between English and other languages in the contemporary world. The interdisciplinary and problem-oriented focus of the degree means that it can provide an unusually broad range of transferable skills, to develop students' confidence in their ability to work and learn effectively, both independently, and in cooperation with others; to provide students with the knowledge and experience necessary for further academic and professional study; to produce graduates with experiences and skills which will prepare them for effective participation in society.

By the end of the programme, successful students will have attained the following objectives: a detailed knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of applied linguistics; ability to describe instances of language in use and to relate them to their contexts; an excellent knowledge of German language; the capacity to undertake and successfully complete independent research.

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1. the principles of phonological contrast and the organisation of the sound system of English. 2. principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse 3. the main areas of applied linguistic inquiry 4. the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making 5. issues relating to language education 6. a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied 7. the main theories of semiotics and their application to the description of a variety of text types in different media 8. the German language 9. German politics and literature	1-6 are achieved through Part 1 modules *Sounds, Grammar and Meaning* and *English Language & Society*, Part 2 modules *Issues in Language & Society* and *Approaches to Discourse*, and the Part 3 module *Literacy: Social, Educational and Cognitive Perspectives*, by lectures and small group seminars. Further knowledge and understanding in areas 1-6 are offered in option modules at Parts 2 and 3, by lectures, small group seminars and guided assignments. 7 is achieved through the Part 3 module *Semiotics and Stylistics*, by lectures and small group seminars, and through further Part 2 and 3 option modules, by lectures and guided assignments. 8 is achieved through the language modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3. 9 is achieved through the other German modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3. **Assessment** 1-7 are assessed by coursework and written examination. Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute in theoretical and applied areas. 8 and 9 are assessed by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination and coursework essays.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. analyse and solve problems 2. generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate 3. critically assess theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts 4. evaluate contrasting academic arguments and claims 5. negotiate both primary and secondary applied linguistic sources and demonstrate how they interrelate 6. develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues, and challenge received conclusions 7. develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation 8. plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic	1-6 are achieved through demonstration and example in lectures as well as experience in small group seminars, the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and the *Dissertation* at Part 3. 7 and 8 are achieved mainly through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3. 3-6 are achieved through the progression of concepts particularly in the compulsory modules across Parts 1, 2 and 3. Further opportunities are offered through option modules, especially those in theoretical and applied areas at Parts 2 and 3. *Assessment* 1-6 form part of the evaluation of the quality of students' coursework and their written examinations. Additionally, 7 and 8 are assessed through small-scale and subsequent larger project work, respectively, in the modules *Research Methods*, and the *Dissertation*
C. Practical skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. produce a phonological transcript of English speech 2. analyse English sentences 3. transcribe extended stretches of discourse using appropriate conventions 4. conduct a discourse analysis of both written and spoken communication including multi-modal texts. 5. assemble and assess the information contained in modern electronic linguistic corpora 6. prepare bibliographies and references 7. speak, write, read and understand German at a high or near-native level of proficiency	1 is achieved through small group phonetics practical sessions, based on general information provided in the main core lectures on the sounds of language. 2 is achieved through compulsory modules *Sounds, Grammar and Meaning* and *English Grammar*. 3-5 are achieved through the compulsory modules *Approaches to Discourse* and *Semiotics and Stylistics*. 5-6 are achieved through introductory sessions and assignment in the module *Research Methods*, and through the option module *Corpus-Based Approaches to Language Description*. 7 is achieved through the compulsory German language modules taken throughout the programme. *Assessment* 1-6 are assessed by assignment; and 6 additionally by evaluation of the *Dissertation.* 7 is assessed by orals and unseen examinations. There is also regular unassessed coursework.

D. Transferable skills – able to:
1. use IT (including word-processing, internet search and communication and database analysis)
2. define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by methods appropriate to the topic
3. assess the effectiveness of given instances of spoken, written and multi-modal texts
4. work as part of a team
5. use library resources
6. manage time
7. formulate and implement career plans
8. deploy critical awareness of language and society in effective communication in a range of career contexts

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1-6 are achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*
2, 5 and 6 are additionally achieved through the *Dissertation*
3 is additionally achieved in a number of option modules and in the compulsory module *Semiotics and Stylistics*.
5 and 6 are also required for successful execution of assignments throughout the programme
7 is achieved through the 5-credit Part 2 distributed module *Career Management Skills*
8 will be addressed throughout the course and further developed in the *Career Management Skills Module.*

Assessment
1 is assessed by coursework and is also assessable in the *Dissertation*
2 is assessed by group presentation and individual writing up of the project carried out in the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and in the *Dissertation*
3 is assessed by coursework and examination on relevant modules
4-6 are not specifically assessed but contribute to success in forms of assessment generally
7 is assessed by three equally weighted assignments

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.