

BA English and Italian

For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: QR33

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

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
English; Languages and Related
Studies
Programme length: 4 years

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: August 2007
Programme Director: Dr Andrew Nash
Programme Adviser: Dr Francesca Medioli
Board of Studies: English and Italian
Accreditation: not appropriate

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, together with perspectives on different methods of critical analysis and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written Italian. More generally, 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. By the end of the programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance 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 will gain experience in self-reliance, effective time management and cultural awareness; they will acquire skills in the use of library and other relevant information resources; and they will develop their ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others.

Programme content

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students take 60 credits in the School of English, where they are introduced to fundamental debates about the study of literature through close analysis of selected texts from different periods. They also take a minimum of 40 credits in Italian, involving both language study and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. In Part 2 students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both English and Italian. The English strand of the programme provides increased breadth of coverage, focusing on texts within a variety of historical periods and generic traditions, while in the Italian strand students continue their language studies and choose options from a range of broadly-based culture modules. The compulsory Year Abroad takes place in the third year of the degree programme. The experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones, and allows them to extend their knowledge of the host culture by pursuing 60 credits' worth of courses at an Italian University. They also engage in independent study in preparation for the Joint Dissertation. In Part 3 students embark on more specialized work in both English and Italian, taking one further Italian language module, choosing two modules in each of English and Italian from a wide range of advanced options, and completing their Dissertation.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

Credits Level

In English

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 Italian

Students must take a minimum of 40 credits to progress onto Part 2 of the Joint Degree, but they may also take an optional module for an additional 20 credits if they wish.

Compulsory modules

Either: for advanced students (i.e., with A level in Italian)

IT1001	<i>Advanced Italian Language 1</i>	20	C
IT1002	<i>Twentieth-Century Italian Culture</i>	20	C

Or: (for beginners)

IT1003	<i>Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture</i>	40	C
IT1005	<i>Italian Language (Lower Intermediate) and Culture</i>	40	C

Optional module (open to all students)

IT1004	<i>Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)</i>	20	C
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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
EN2WAR	<i>Writing America: Romances of Nationhood</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2RDR	<i>*Renaissance Drama</i>	20	I
EN2LCT	<i>Literary Criticism & Theory</i>	20	I
EN2WF1	<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
EN2MDR	<i>Modern Drama</i>	20	I
EN2WAS	<i>Writing America: Self, Race, Region</i>	20	I
EN2CAW	<i>Communications at Work</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2SH	<i>*Shakespeare</i>	20	I
EN2WF2	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 2</i>	20	I
EN2FN	<i>Film Narrative</i>	20	I

In Italian (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Either

IT201	<i>Advanced Italian Language II</i>	20	I
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Or				
IT202	<i>Intermediate Italian Language</i>	20	I	

Optional modules

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

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

Year Abroad (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
IT3Y31	<i>Italian Oral</i>	20	H
IT3Y32	<i>Italian Written and Oral Presentation</i>	20	I
IT2Y31	<i>Credits from Italian University course (1)</i>	20	I
IT2Y32	<i>Credits from Italian University course (2)</i>	20	I
IT2Y33	<i>Credits from Italian University course (3)</i>	20	I
IT3DE	<i>Joint Dissertation preparation</i>	20	H

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

<i>Careers Management Skills</i>	5	I
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Part 3 (three terms) Honours level		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory</i>			
EN3JDI	<i>Joint Dissertation (to be completed)</i>	20	H

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 Italian (60 credits)

Compulsory module

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
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Optional modules

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

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 English and Italian; 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 their Italian Language module, (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 at an Italian university.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Italian 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, most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. The 60 credits gained in the third year from 'Courses taken abroad' will derive from marks obtained in examinations set by the host university in Italy. The Oral in Italian, and the Italian Written and Oral Presentation, are 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: I level credits contribute 33% of the final assessment, and H level credits contribute 67%.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
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

No previous qualification in Italian is required. Entrants to this 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/Irish Highers: ABBBB

GCSE/O: Grade C in English Language preferred.

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

Information on Italian courses can be obtained via the Internet at: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/italian>

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 databases, 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 both English and Italian students receive Handbooks which gives details of course content, 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, developing towards 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. The University Language Centre (ULC) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching Italian television by satellite. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty to support cinema studies. The Italian departmental library houses a range of reference works available for students' use, and offers a congenial study space.

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 marketing and the business world, including the travel industry, where students' knowledge of Italian 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 Italian provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. Graduates may also 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

The Department of Italian participates in SOCRATES exchanges with the Universities of Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, and Venezia. Students spend the whole of the third year studying at one of these Universities. Further information on these universities is available on the Internet at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/italian>

Educational aims of the programme

The programme seeks to develop a sophisticated knowledge and understanding of both English and Italian 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

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day
2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama
3. Methods of critical textual analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts
5. A range of approaches in English studies
6. Selected special fields of English
7. A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom
8. Fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
9. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture
10. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In English, knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, 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. The Italian language (7-8) is taught at three distinct levels in Part 1: beginners, intermediate, advanced. Separate teaching continues in Part 2, but after the year in Italy all students follow the same course. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills, and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate, and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is placed on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow university courses at the host institution.

9-10 are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for further development of independent research.

Assessment

In English 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 based on a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation. In Italian, language work (7-8) is assessed by written and oral examinations. Courses taken during the Year Abroad are also examined orally. 9 and 10 are assessed by a combination of coursework essays and examination, and in the dissertation.

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 and the extended essay which forms part of some modules.

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 Italian, the ability to:

7. Communicate in Italian at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
8. Understand a variety of types of textual material in Italian
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 one's day-to-day life and study during 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 Italian, skills 7-8 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading, and are enhanced by academic and everyday experience during the year abroad. Skills 9 and 10 are developed through regular seminars, essay assignments and feedback; skills 10 and 11 through the preparation for and presentation of the dissertation; skill 12 through the year abroad and the preparation provided during 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 Italian, 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 with appropriate use of evidence
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 analyzing 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, which informs the whole programme. We require that 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 (including examinations in Italy), 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.