

BA French and History of Art
For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: RV13

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

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Languages and Related Studies,
History of Art, Architecture and
Design.

Programme length: 4 years

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: September 2007
Programme Director: Professor J. Félix
Programme Adviser: Professor J. Félix; Dr Simon Lee
Board of Studies: French and History of Art

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential and equip them with a range of skills to underpin their life-long development, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies.

The French Studies syllabus aims to produce graduates who understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy; who read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts; who write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style; and who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone literature, culture, history and politics,

The History of Art syllabus aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in different places and times. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of its production and reception within diverse cultural and social contexts. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture, visual artefacts and culture, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views.

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 on this programme are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills in addition to those prescribed by the University: use of library resources, self-reliance, cultural awareness.

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 "selected" modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each part in combination with their second subject. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title, and the credit requirement in French and History of Art indicated for each Part.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

Students must take at least 40 credits in French and 40 credits in History of Art.

A further 20-credit optional module in French and/or in History of Art may be taken if desired.

Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those offered in the Part 1 Handbook.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
Either:			
Advanced French			
Compulsory modules		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR101	<i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>			
Either FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
Or:			
Intermediate French			
Compulsory modules		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR102	<i>Intermediate French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>			
Either FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

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

History of Art

Compulsory module (20 credits)

HA1AB	<i>History of Art and Architecture Workshop</i>	20	C
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Optional modules

At least 20 credits to be made up from the following:

HA1AA	<i>Art's Histories: a survey</i>	20	C
HA1AC	<i>Makers and making: artist, architects and their practices</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level

Students must take modules to the value of 60 credits in French and 60 credits in History of Art. Of the 120 credits, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered by the School of Languages and European Studies.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
French			
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
FR201	French Language 2	20	I

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, and others may be offered. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information.

FR2MAN	Language: <i>French for Managers 2</i>	20	I
FR2TRA	Language: <i>Translation from and into French</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
FR207	18th & 19th Centuries: <i>France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870</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

History of Art

Compulsory modules **40 credits**

HA2ST	<i>Study Trip abroad</i>	20	I
HA2DD	<i>Distance and difference: perspectives on art, architecture and visual culture</i>	20	I

Optional module:

20 credits

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

Year Abroad (three terms)

Students spent three terms in a French-speaking country. They must take modules to the value of 80 credits in French and 40 credits in History of Art.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
French			
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
FR302	<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
History of Art			
<i>Compulsory Module</i>			
HA3DI	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H

Part 3 (three terms) Honours Level

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In French			
Students must take 60 credits in French: one-20 credit compulsory module and two-20 credit optional modules			
<i>Compulsory module</i>			
FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>	20	H

Optional modules

Students must take two modules from the list below. Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the programme Director.

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
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
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 in French</i>	20	H

In History of Art

Optional modules:

60 credits.

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, or from 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 considered, 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, in Part 1, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and at least 40% over both compulsory modules in History of Art.

Also, in Part 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in their language compulsory module in French and at least 40% over both compulsory modules in History of Art.

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 French

In French, 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 History of Art

At Part 1, teaching in the History of Art Department is by lectures and seminars. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. At Parts 2 and 3, teaching is principally by seminar. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor and is assessed only as coursework.

Weighting

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 have either 'A' level French, 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A at GCSE French. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. 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.

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.

A Departmental Handbook is provided to students in the first year.

Within the History of Art, additional support is provided through a subject-specific reading room containing essential course texts, reference works, some current periodicals and photocopying facilities. There is also a slide library containing slides from all periods of art and architecture history which students will consult as part of their studies. It includes resources in video tapes and computers and in digital imaging and elearning such as BlackBoard. First hand study of works of art is provided through particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad as well as through the department's own collections, mainly of drawings. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their personal tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme, supported by a comprehensive Programme Handbook issued to each student individually which includes extensive advice on study skills. 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.

Career prospects

Students graduating in French work in many different fields. Some 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. A degree involving French leads, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, 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 French can be a distinct asset.

A number of specialised careers are open to History of Art graduates, such as jobs in Museums, auction houses, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Their visual skills also make them attractive to the advertising industry. In addition the skills which History of Art graduates acquire, such as analytical abilities, problem solving, research skills, independence and adaptability, mean they are sought after for jobs in a wide range of fields, including publishing,

teaching, social work, accountancy, personnel, banking and commerce, retailing, marketing, IT, civil service and local government. A number of students go on to post-graduate study in History of Art, both at MA and PhD level, both at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a Year Abroad either as an assistant teacher, on work placement or at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has a Socrates agreement.

Students in the Department of History of Art have the opportunity to spend a period of study abroad during Part 2 as part of the Socrates scheme.

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.

History of Art aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in different places and times. It will stimulate student's academic and personal development, extending and broadening their range of intellectual skills and abilities. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of the production and reception of art and architecture within different cultural and social contexts, including issues such as class, race and gender. It will promote a critical understanding of visual aesthetics, artistic and architectural practices and aesthetic traditions. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture and visual artefacts, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views. It will aim to promote students' independence and initiative in the organisation and completion of their work and in the formation of judgements.

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:

In French

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.

In History of Art

- (a) a broad range of art, architecture and visual culture from the Middle Ages to the present day both in the West and in comparison to selected cultures in other times and places.
- (b) specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods and issues in art history.
- (c) key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to the historiography of the subject.
- (d) advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning.
- (e) technical language of the subject..

Teaching/learning methods and strategies In French

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. French grammar is by grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework at Part 1 and by Powerpoint lectures in Part 1, 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.

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.

Assessment

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 (2-3).

In History of Art

Basic knowledge is provided through formal lectures in Part 1, supported by set tasks for practising the elementary analysis of visual artefacts. Feedback is initially through tutorials, seminars and through formative assessed work. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in the guided selection of period options at Part 2, where the teaching is seminar and discussion based. Feedback is provided through written responses to seminar participation and in formative assessed work. In later parts of the programme, and beginning at Part 2, students will take increasing responsibility for their own learning, fostered through the guided selection of increasingly specialised options and independent study, including a dissertation. Feedback is provided through tutorials and written reports on seminar presentations.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. A dissertation and oral presentation also contribute.

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 History of Art</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. analyse and interpret visual artefacts;2. use visual resources as evidence;3. plan, organise and write a coherent argument;4. transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another;5. plan, organise and conduct an independent enquiry.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>In French</p> <p>Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course 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>The variety of assessment methods employed place 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 History of Art</p> <p>How to analyse and interpret visual artefacts is constantly exemplified in formal lectures and in seminars from the start of Part 1. Lectures and seminars will also demonstrate how to use visual evidence in the construction of arguments and students will develop advanced skills in this through seminar presentations and coursework tasks. Such skills are additionally fostered through opportunities to study visual artefacts at first hand including in the compulsory module involving study abroad. The ability to transfer knowledge from one area of the programme to another is evidence of high level performance. The ability to organise and structure arguments is emphasised throughout but particularly in compulsory modules and through modules in independent study and the dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1-3 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme including coursework and unseen examinations which also include compulsory questions analysing visual artefacts. 4 and 5 are particularly assessed in compulsory modules in independent study and the dissertation.</p>
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<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <p>In French</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>In History of Art</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify, locate and record visual sources; 2. memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources; 3. identify, find and organise written sources; 4. identify appropriate resources including the internet for the study of works of art. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>In French</p> <p>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 course. 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.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>In History of Art</p> <p>Identifying visual artefacts and sources is taught from Part 1, including assessed tasks which test the student's ability to find and select appropriate visual evidence for analysis and comparison. Such skills are additionally fostered in Part 2 where greater emphasis is placed on increasingly complex and sophisticated analyses, including the ability to recall and use visual and other data from often disparate and widely separated sources and locations. 3 and 4 are taught throughout the course but particularly emphasised in the independent study tasks in Part 2 and dissertation in Part 3.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1-3 are assessed in all coursework, including oral presentations, and written examinations, and 4 is assessed in independent study tasks.</p>
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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.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All courses 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 courses 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.

Assessment

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, but these skills are not formally assessed.

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.