

BA French and Italian
For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: RR13

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: May 2007
Programme Director: Prof. J. Félix
Programme Adviser: Dr S. Vinall
Board of Studies: French and Italian
Accreditation: n/a

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

Summary of programme aims

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 and Italian, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests. They will also have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

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. Students of Italian 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. In the course of such activities, they will gain experience of using information technology, working in groups, and organising their own time. Opportunities will be provided to enhance skills in numeracy and career management. The year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased 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). Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the programme Director.

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 in each module is shown in column after its title.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate Level

Students must take at least 40 credits in French and 40 credits in Italian.

A further 20-credit optional module in French and/or in Italian 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>
In French			
Either:			
Advanced French			
Compulsory modules			
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

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
Compulsory modules			
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.

In Italian

Compulsory modules

For students with A Level or equivalent:

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

Non-advanced students (including complete beginners) take ONE of the following, depending on experience:

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 Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)</i>	20	C
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Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level

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

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

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

Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)

Students must 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.

In Italian

Compulsory module in Italian (20 credits)

Either:

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

Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)

Students must 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.

Year Abroad (three terms)

Students spend one and a half terms in France and one and a half terms in Italy.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
FR3IT	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H
FR302A	<i>French Oral</i>	20	H
IT331	<i>Italian Oral</i>	20	H

Optional modules

either

FR231A	<i>University study abroad (France)</i>	20	I
IT231	<i>Credits from Italian University course</i>	20	I
or			
FR233IT	<i>Work placement abroad (France and Italy)</i>	40	I

Part 3 (three terms) Honours level

Students must take 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Italian

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In French			
<i>Compulsory module</i>			
FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>	20	H

Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)

Students must 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.

In Italian

Compulsory modules in Italian (40 credits)

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
IT303	<i>Aspects of the Renaissance in France and Italy</i>	20	H

Optional modules (to total of 20 credits)

Students must choose one option module to the value of 20 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, or from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, 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, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and Italian.

To proceed from the 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 and in Italy..

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 Italian

Teaching is through seminars, lectures, essay tutorials and language classes. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. Individual supervision is provided for the Dissertation. The Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university. The Oral in Italian and the Written and Oral Presentation will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

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 either

300 points from 4 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels
or
280 points from 3 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. No prior qualification in Italian is required.

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. 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.

The French and Italian Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. 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. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French and Italian culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Libraries contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer a congenial study space.

Career prospects

A degree involving French and Italian, 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; and increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French and Italian can be a distinct asset. 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.

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 at an institute of higher education with which Departments of French and of Italian Studies have a Socrates agreement, or on work placement.

Educational aims of the programme

The 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.

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge and more general skills, including a good knowledge of the French and Italian language, of a range of aspects of French and Italian cultural, historical and social topics. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines. The programme also provides for the development of the specific interests of students through independent study for the dissertation, in which a topic is approached from the perspectives of both disciplines.

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
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The French and the Italian language2. French and Italian history, politics and/or literature and culture, and cinema.3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis	<p>French: 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>Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but after the year in Italy all students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow University courses.</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><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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).</p>

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. Critically apply literary and historical concepts
2. Identify and solve problems
3. Analyse and interpret literary, historical or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
4. Demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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.

Assessment

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. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

C. Practical skills – able to:

- 1.. Speak, write, read and understand French and Italian 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.

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 and in Italian. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French and Italian to a high level.

Assessment

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.

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules require regular written and/or 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.

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.