

BA German

For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: R200

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Awarding Institution: | The University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution: | The University of Reading |
| QAA subject benchmarking group(s): | Modern Languages |
| Faculty of Arts and Humanities | |
| Programme length: | 4 years |
| Date of specification: | May 2008 |
| Programme Director: | Dr Ian Roe |
| Programme Adviser: | Dr Ian Roe |
| Board of Studies: | German Studies |
| Accreditation: | n/a |

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline.

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 of German will develop their abilities to deal with intellectual problems effectively by locating information, assessing it critically, communicating independent points of view logically and clearly (both orally and in writing), and substantiating opinions with evidence; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits are made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in German includes the study of both language (with an intensive language course for students with no German) and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language and take modules based on a variety of short options on German culture from 1750 to the present. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture, and they engage in

independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students take two modules of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

Part 1 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

Either (for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----|---|
| GM1AGL | <i>Advanced German Language</i> | 20 | C |
| GM1IMG | <i>Icons of Modern Germany</i> | 20 | C |

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|
| LA1PG4 | <i>IWLP German Level 4</i> | 20 | C |
| GM1ICI | <i>Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)</i> | 20 | C |

Or (for students entering with no knowledge of German)

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|
| GM1IG1 | <i>Intensive German 1</i> | 20 | C |
| GM1IG2 | <i>Intensive German 2</i> | 20 | C |
| GM1ICI | <i>Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)</i> | 20 | C |

Part 2 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

Compulsory modules (80 credits)

Either

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|----|---|
| GM2L2 | <i>German Language II</i> | 20 | I |
|-------|---------------------------|----|---|

Or (only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 1)

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----|---|
| GM1AGL | <i>Advanced German Language</i> | 20 | C |
| GM2OP1 | <i>German Option Module 1</i> | 20 | I |
| GM2OP2 | <i>German Option Module 2</i> | 20 | I |
| GM2OP3 | <i>German Option Module 3</i> | 20 | I |

A further 40 credits to be taken from

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----|---|
| GM2GMB | <i>German for Business Purposes</i> | 20 | I |
| GM2OP4 | <i>German Option Module 4</i> | 20 | I |

Or modules available elsewhere in the University totalling 20 credits

(Note: Option Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 (if taken) will each be made up of two short options chosen from a list of cultural, literary and social topics to be provided.)

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (level I).

Year Abroad (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|---------|--|----|---|
| GM3YO40 | <i>Oral and Aural German (full year)</i> | 40 | H |
| GM3YDSG | <i>German Dissertation</i> | 40 | H |

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| <i>Either</i> | GM2YS40 | <i>German Scheine (full year)</i> | 40 | I |
| <i>Or</i> | GM2YASR or | <i>Assistant's report</i> | 40 | I |
| <i>Or</i> | GM2YWPL | <i>Work placement report</i> | 40 | I |

(GM2YASR and GM2WPL include 20 credits for *Work experience* that do not contribute to the final assessment.)

| Part 3 (three terms) | | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--|--------------|---|
| <i>Compulsory module</i> | | | | |
| | GM3GPT | <i>Translation into German and English</i> | 20 | H |
| <i>One of</i> | | | | |
| | GM3GSC | <i>German Structure and Composition</i> | 20 | H |
| | GM3GMB | <i>German for Management and Business</i> | 20 | H |

Plus three or four 20-credit modules to be chosen from a list of options available in the Department. 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the university.

All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum and maximum number of participants. The module GM3GMB is only available to students who passed GM2GMB at Part 2.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- obtain a mark of 40% or above in all of their compulsory German modules;
- achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- achieve not less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must:

- achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- obtain a mark of 40% or above in their compulsory German language module and at least two further modules in German;
- achieve not less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of study or employment in a German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad module *Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of

certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and the Oral/Aural module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but it should be noted that second-year modules count as two-ninths, year-abroad modules three ninths, and final-year modules four-ninths of the final assessment.

Admissions requirements

Either 280 pts from 3 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,

Or 300 pts from 4 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,

Except that students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via german@reading.ac.uk.

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 Centre. The Student Services Centre 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 Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

In addition the Department of German Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The German Seminar Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

Career prospects

Students graduating in German work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, 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 German can be an important asset. Some graduates also 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

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad either at a German or Austrian university with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter, or as an assistant teacher, or on a work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on the Erasmus & Study Abroad website.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to equip students with:

- a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated German person in the reception and production of standard (non-technical) spoken and written German;
- a sound body of knowledge within the field of German Studies that is suited to their interests;
- familiarity with the theories and methods of the various disciplines covered and the ability to develop their own expertise and develop and present their arguments in these areas.

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

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| <p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom 2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English) 3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900 4. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-1900 5. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-1900 6. Methods of analysing social and | <p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-7)</p> <p>Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)</p> <p>Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-7)</p> <p>Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-7)</p> <p>Dissertation (any of 1-7 depending on chosen topic)</p> <p>Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Combination of unseen and open-paper</p> |
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cultural issues

7. Methods of critical textual analysis.

examinations and regular assessed work (1-7)

Oral examination (1-2)

Dissertation (6-7, also 4-5)

Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
2. Identify and analyse problems and issues
3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
4. Evaluate alternative critical views
5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).

Assessment

Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. Give oral presentations
3. Use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. Demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. Manage time and work to deadlines
6. Work independently and be self-reliant
7. Take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

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.