

BA German and Italian

For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS Code RR23

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Modern Languages
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	4 years
Date of profile:	May 2008
Programme Director:	Dr Ian Roe
Programme Advisors:	Dr Francesca Medioli
Board of Studies:	German and Italian Studies

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 and Italian, who are well-informed about German and Italian 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), career management. Students of German and 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; 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 can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 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 and history. Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Other students take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies: this also

permits qualification for Part 2. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take a compulsory module on German history and culture from 1945 to the present; a second broadly-based module on culture and literature allows a wide range of choice. In Italian students take one compulsory 20-credit language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Italy and in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German and Italian culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study in each subject and are free to pursue their interests within German and Italian studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options. Up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms) *Credits Level*

Students must take modules worth a minimum of 40 credits in both German and Italian and must choose additional modules from this or other programmes to make 120 Part 1 credits in total.

In German

Compulsory modules

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

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)

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

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)

Credits Level

Students must take modules to the value of 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Italian.

In German

Compulsory modules

GM2L2	<i>German Language II</i>	20	I
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Or (only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 1)

GM1AGL	<i>Advanced German Language</i>	20	C
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And the following two modules

GM2OP1	<i>German Option Module 1</i>	20	I
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GM2OP2	<i>German Option Module 2</i>	20	I
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German Option Modules 1 & 2 will each be made up of short topics chosen from an extensive list to be provided.)

In Italian

One of

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

Credits Level

Compulsory modules

GM3YDSI	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H
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GM3YO20	<i>Oral and Aural German (half year)</i>	20	H
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IT331	<i>Italian Oral</i>	20	H
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GM2YS20	<i>German Scheine (half year)</i>	20	I
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IT231	<i>Credits from Italian University</i>	20	I
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Of the 120 credits in the Year Abroad, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (level I)

Part 3 (three terms)

Credits Level

Students normally must take modules to the value of 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Italian, but 20-credits taken elsewhere in the University may be substituted for one of the non-language modules below.

In German

One of

GM3GPT	<i>Translation into German and English</i>	20	H
GM3GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H

Plus two 20-credit modules to be chosen from a list of options available in the Department.

In Italian

Compulsory module

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
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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.

Not all optional modules in German and Italian will be available in any one year; all optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum and maximum number of participants.

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% or above in all of their compulsory modules in German and Italian, and must have achieved an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 examination and have no module mark under 30%, 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 obtain a mark of 40% or above in their compulsory German language module and in a module in Italian language, must obtain an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits taken at Part 2, and have no module mark under 30%, 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 Italy and 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 modules *German Scheine* and *Italian credits* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian and Italian universities, and the Oral/Aural modules 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 300 pts from three A-level subjects, plus GCSE German,

Or 320 pts from three A-level subjects and one AS level, plus GCSE German,
(NB: A* in German is required if entering at Intermediate level with GCSE only)

Or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German (and, where appropriate for the level of entry, Italian). **Except that** students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.

(No previous knowledge of Italian is required for this programme)

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

In addition the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students in both subjects provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The German Seminar Library and the Italian Departmental Library both contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. 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 German and Italian television by satellite. The Department of German Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and during Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. The Department of Italian Studies has a Part 1 Co-ordinator and a Programme Adviser responsible for degree course students of German and Italian.

Career prospects

Students graduating in German and Italian go on to 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 and Italian 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. The first half of the year is spent at a German or Austrian university, and the second half at an Italian university, with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter. 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 close to that of an educated native-speaker in the reception and production of standard (non-technical) spoken and written German and Italian;
- a sound body of knowledge within the field of German and Italian 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

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A wide range of German and Italian vocabulary and idiom.2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German and Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-19004. A selection of specialist topics in German and Italian history, society, literature and culture5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues6. Methods of critical textual analysis	<p style="text-align: center;">→</p> <p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3) Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6) Dissertation (any of 1-6 depending on chosen topic) Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-6) Oral examination (1-2) Dissertation (5-6, also 4) <i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically2. Identify and analyse problems and issues3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments4. Evaluate alternative critical views5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic	<p style="text-align: center;">→</p> <p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>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.</p>
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C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Communicate in German and Italian at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German and Italian
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

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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

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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.