

**BA German and Politics**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2007**

**UCAS Code MR12**

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies, Politics and International Relations
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities
Length of programme:	4 years
Programme Director:	Date of profile: May 2008
Programme Advisors:	Dr I F Roe
Board of Studies:	Dr J Lester
	German and Politics

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme in German Studies seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to postgraduate study or a wide range of careers, 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 to them outside the confines of the discipline.

The programme in Politics gives students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and politics, and international relations. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. They progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

**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 Politics 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, and also the Year Abroad, 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 German Part 1 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 a compulsory module on German culture from 1945 to the present; a second broadly-based culture module allows a wide range of choice. 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 must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

In Politics, Part 1 requires the modules in Modern Politics as well as International Relations and Strategic Studies. In Part 2 students continue with further compulsory modules in Comparative Government as well as an option. In the Year Abroad students write a dissertation related to the Government and Politics of Germany to be submitted by the second day of the eighth week of the Autumn term of Year 4. In Part 3 students take options in Politics.

### Part 1 (three terms) Credits      Level

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

#### In German

##### Either (for students entering with A-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>Intermediate German Language</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 Politics

### Compulsory Modules

PO1IRS	<i>International Relations and Strategic Studies</i>	20	C
PO1MOP	<i>Modern Politics</i>	20	C

### Part 2 (three terms)

*Credits Level*

*Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Politics.*

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

### In German (60 credits)

#### Compulsory module

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 Politics (60 credits)

#### Compulsory modules

PO2 SOP	<i>Study of Politics</i>	20	I
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PO2 CGP	<i>Comparative Government and Politics</i>	20	I
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#### Optional module

Students must choose one option module to the value of 20 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental handbook.

### Year Abroad (three terms)

*Credits Level*

#### Compulsory modules

GM3YO40	<i>Oral and Aural German (full year)</i>	40	H
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PO3LDS	<i>Dissertation (on an aspect of German Politics)</i> (to be assessed at Part 3)	40	H
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*Either*

GM2YS40	<i>German Scheine (full year)</i>	40	I
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*Or*

GM2YASR	<i>Assistant's report</i> (this module includes 20 credits for <i>Work experience</i> that do not contribute to the final assessment)	40	I
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*Or*

GM2YWPL	<i>Work Placement report</i> (this module includes 20 credits for <i>Work experience</i> that do not contribute to the final assessment)	40	I
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### **Part 3 (three terms)**

*Credits      Level*

*Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Politics.*

#### **In German (60 credits)**

##### **Compulsory module**

*One of*

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

##### **Optional modules**

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook. All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum and maximum number of participants.

#### **In Politics (60 credits)**

Students choose three 20-credit modules from two lists. At least one must be chosen from list A and one other must be from list B unless a government or theory option has been taken in Part 2. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

##### **Progression requirements**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and qualify for the CertHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, and to have obtained at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules taken for German and Politics.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and qualify for the DipHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.

In addition, students must normally have obtained at least 40% in 40 credits from Politics modules (excluding PO2SOP) AND obtain a pass grade in the module PO2SOP and at least 40% in their compulsory German language module.

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

##### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

(In German) 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.

(In Politics) Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 modules typically involve seminars only. All modules other than the Study of Politics, Dissertation and General Essay are assessed by a mixture of course work (25%) and examination (75%).

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-levels and one AS level, plus GCSE German,

**Or** equivalent qualifications that also demonstrate competence in 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 Tutors, who may be contacted via [german@reading.ac.uk](mailto:german@reading.ac.uk) or [j.s.golub@reading.ac.uk](mailto:j.s.golub@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](http://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](http://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.

In Politics, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay, a departmental Library and a photocopier.

### **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.

Over the years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as child care, youth employment, probation and so on. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

### **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.
- The Politics component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Politics and International Relations. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of the main sub-fields of the discipline and have acquired appropriate study skills.

## 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><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom.</li><li>2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)</li><li>3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900</li><li>4. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture</li><li>5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues</li><li>6. Methods of critical textual analysis</li><li>7. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics</li><li>8. The various approaches and the study of Politics</li><li>9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.</li></ol>	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6)</p> <p>Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)</p> <p>Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6)</p> <p>Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6)</p> <p>Dissertation (any of 1-6 depending on chosen topic)</p> <p>Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)</p> <p>→</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-4)</p> <p>Oral examination (1-2)</p> <p>Dissertation (5-6, also 4)</p> <p><i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills</b> – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically</li><li>2. Identify and analyse problems and issues</li><li>3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments</li><li>4. Evaluate alternative critical views</li><li>5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another</li><li>6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena</li><li>7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic</li></ol>	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></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>→</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>
<p><b>C. Practical skills</b> – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing</li><li>2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German</li><li>3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way</li><li>4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources</li><li>5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work</li><li>6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad</li></ol>	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>→</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>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.</p>

**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.**