

## **BA History and French For students entering Part 1 in 2007**

**UCAS code: RV11**

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Language and Related Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	February 2010
Programme Director:	Dr David Stack
Programme Adviser:	Dr L. Risso and Professor J.M. Felix
Board of Studies:	History and French
Accreditation:	Not Applicable

### **Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written French, have a sound knowledge of aspects of French literature, culture, history, and society, and are able to place France in the context of broader global and European patterns of historical development. The element in French affords a wide range of choice in the study of different periods of French literature and society and a distinctive aspect is the students' freedom either to choose between two pathways (literature/cinema, or history/politics) or to combine the two. Through the History element, students will engage with a broad chronological range but also are able to specialise in particular periods and topics of British, European, and American history which provide both points of comparison and contrast with their studies in French history and culture.

### **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. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working, and use of information technology.

Students of French 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. The period spent at a French university in their third year makes a significant contribution both to their personal and intellectual development. History is a discipline that lends itself to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Also integral is the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material and its communication and presentation. History also prompts an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. In addition, students utilise the powerful tools of research, analysis, and presentation associated with information technology through the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, the production and presentation of student work and, where appropriate, the use of more sophisticated databases and exploitation of the internet.

### **Programme content**

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. The French modules explore French

history and culture and develop students' language skills according to their level of ability on entry. In Part 2 History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills, while in French, students language abilities are developed and they explore thematic aspects of French history and culture. The third year is spent in a French university, where students will experience French culture at first hand. During this period they will prepare for their dissertations in Part 3. In Part 3 students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies, translation, and French culture. At this stage, they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation involves a substantial research effort.

The programme that 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). 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.

*Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.*

## **Part 1 (three terms):**

Students must take a minimum of 40 credits in both History and French, and must choose a further 40 credits from the optional modules listed below and/or from modules offered by a third subject.

### **History**

#### *Compulsory modules*

HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	<b>C</b>
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	<b>C</b>

Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	<b>C</b>
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### **French Studies**

#### **Either:**

#### **Advanced French**

#### *Compulsory modules*

FR101	Advanced French Language	20	<b>C</b>
FR103	Contemporary France	20	<b>C</b>

Optional Module

FR104	French Cinema: Society, Culture and History	20	<b>C</b>
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#### **Or:**

#### **French Intermediate**

#### Compulsory Modules

FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	<b>C</b>
FR103	Contemporary France	20	<b>C</b>

Optional Module

FR104	French Cinema: Society, Culture and History	20	<b>C</b>
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**Part 2 (three terms):***Credits Level*

Students must take a minimum of 60 credits in both History and French.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills and will be delivered by the Department of French Studies

**History (60 credits)***Compulsory modules (60 credits)*

Students must take two Period group modules (one Early and one Modern) (20 credits each) with their co-requisite skills modules (10 credits each), totalling 60 credits in all. 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.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (HS2CMS).

**French Studies (60 credits)***Compulsory modules*

FR201	<i>Language 2</i>	20	I
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*Optional modules*

**NOTE:** the following modules are subject to the availability of staff in any one year. New modules may be introduced. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information

Students must choose 2x20 credit additional modules from the list below.

FR202	<i>The Crusades</i>	20	I
FR203	<i>Medieval love literature</i>	20	I
FR204	<i>The poet's art: (France, C16, C19)</i>	20	I
FR209	<i>Five Wars and three republics: France 1870-1962</i>	20	I
FR211	<i>Introduction to the Francophone Literature of the Maghreb</i>	20	I
FR220	<i>Introduction to the French Novel</i>	20	I
FR2MAN	<i>French for Managers</i>	20	I
FR2TRA	<i>Translation</i>	20	I

**Year Abroad (three terms in a French-speaking country)***Credits Level***History**

HS3FRA	Dissertation commencement in History and French	20	H
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**French Studies***Compulsory modules***either**

FR2Y31	University Study Abroad	40	I
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**or**

	FR2Y32	Assistantship Abroad	40	I
<b>or</b>				
	FR2Y33	Work placement Abroad	40	I
<b>And</b>				
	FR3Y02	French Oral	40	H
	FR2Y34	French language	20	H

### Part 3 (three terms):

*Credits Level*

Students must take a minimum of 60 credits in both History and French.

### History (60 credits)

#### *Compulsory modules*

Students choose either two optional 20-credit Topic modules or a Special Subject consisting of two co-requisite modules of 20 credits each, totalling 40 credits in all.

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

	HS3FRB	Dissertation in History and French	20	H
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### French Studies (60 credits)

#### *Compulsory module*

	FR303	Advanced Language Skills	20	H
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#### *Optional modules*

**NOTE:** the following modules are subject to the availability of staff in any one year. New modules may be introduced. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information

Two from the list below as specified.

	FR305	<i>The Legend of Tristan and Iseut</i>	20	H
	FR308	<i>Seventeenth-century French tragedy</i>	20	H
	FR314	<i>The Francophone Algerian Novel</i>	20	H
	FR315	<i>French Cinema</i>	20	H
	FR319	<i>Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution</i>	20	H
	FR321	<i>France and Europe since 1945</i>	20	H
	FR3EFE	<i>Erasmus/Visiting Students - Translation: French/English</i>	20	H
	FR3MAN	<i>French For Managers</i>	20	H
	FR3VER	<i>Translation from French</i>	20	H

### Progression requirements

- To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students should achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination, and at least 40% in 20 credits of History and in the two compulsory modules in French; *NB, candidates who only take 20 credits in History may progress to a joint History degree so long as they achieve 40% in their History module.*
- To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of 40% in the compulsory modules in History and in the compulsory French language modules.
- In both cases, students should achieve not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

- (d) 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 France.

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

In History, at Part 1, teaching is by lectures and seminars. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. The Dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor. Part 1 modules are assessed by examinations while modules in Parts 2 and 3 are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The Part 2 Skills modules are assessed through portfolios of skills while the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.

In French, the modular structure of the literature or history programmes in Parts 2 and 3 allows for classes of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. In Part 1, lectures to the entire year group will be accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students. In French, Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. Part 2 modules are assessed by coursework only. The Year Abroad French Oral will be examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

### *Weighting*

In the final assessment, the weighting ratio between modules taken during Year 2, modules taken during the Year Abroad, and modules taken during Part 3 is 2: 3: 4. Thus modules taken during Year 2 count for 22.2% of the total credit weighting, modules taken during the Year Abroad count for 33.3% of the total credit weighting, and modules taken during Part 3 count for 44.4% of the total credit weighting.

### **Admission requirements**

**UCAS Tariff:** 300 points from three A levels only. History at Grade B. Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies.

International Baccalaureate: 32 points, with History at grade 6 or Advanced GNVQ: 18 units at Distinction overall; or Scottish and Irish Highers: 5 Bs or equivalent thereof.

Those with non-standard qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

Admissions secretary: Mrs Elizabeth Berry, [e.l.berry@reading.ac.uk](mailto:e.l.berry@reading.ac.uk), tel 0118 378 8148

Applicants who are not able to offer French at A or AS level but who have achieved a Grade A\* in GCSE French should apply for permission to take French Intermediate. On successful completion of Part 1 French B, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School/Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

*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.

*International applicants.* Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

## **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](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 Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website ([www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)).

Handbooks are provided to students in the first year. They are also available on the internet: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/french/courses/courses.htm> and <http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm>.

The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. The Department has a comprehensive website containing information and learning material. The website is regularly updated. The grammar course at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. French Career Management Skills at Part 2 has its own Blackboard site, containing computer-assessed and other learning activities. The Access Point for Individual Language Learning (APILL) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and French culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. In History, students are supported and advised by the BA Programme Coordinator. There is also full written feedback on essay work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to Personal Tutors for discussion with students. Liaison officers for both History and French coordinate the programme.

## **Career prospects**

Graduates in History and French are trained in clear thinking, language skills, diligence, independence, adaptability and the ability to understand people and situations in the world at large. Past graduates have used their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment both in Britain and abroad. Jobs have included accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. Many also enter the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing while others go into the civil service and local government. Several graduates also go

on to postgraduate study in either History or French, both at MA and PhD level, 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 their third 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. The Department of French Studies participates in SOCRATES exchanges with a wide range of institutions of Higher Education.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

Through studying History and French students will develop both their language and communication skills in order to express themselves, both orally and on paper, in a clear fashion. They will develop a capacity to interact with their peers; will be trained to seek out and assess the importance of relevant documentary information; and will be adept at applying their knowledge to the formulation and resolution of problems. Students will also cultivate general intellectual skills: clear and well-structured prose; logical reasoning and argument; the meeting of deadlines; the organisation of time; knowledge of bibliographic and annotation systems; data handling; and a broad understanding of the human experience. Particular parts of the programme will also have enabled students to develop relevant IT and Career Management 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. The French language</li><li>2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture</li><li>3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis</li><li>4. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions</li><li>5. A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues</li><li>6. The contextualization of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process</li><li>7. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture</li><li>8. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The acquisition of French grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework in at Part 1. In Part 2, grammar is learnt 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.</li><li>2. Acquisition of aspects 2 – 8 is by lecture, workshop, seminar, 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.</li></ol> <p>Assessment The assessment of knowledge is by a</p>
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combination over the whole degree of seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, and dissertation.



## *Skills and other attributes*

### **B. Intellectual skills – able to:**

1. Analyse and interpret historical, literary or cinematic works in their cultural, socio-economic and political contexts
2. Apply literary and historical concepts
3. Identify problems and issues and to conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately
4. Think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions
5. Accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources
6. 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, practise 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 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Throughout the programme skills are assessed through a combination of coursework essays and examinations and all of the skills are relevant to the production of the dissertation.

### **C. Practical skills – able to:**

1. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
4. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations and to engage in critical argument using relevant evidence or theoretical approaches;
5. acquire bibliographical and research skills through the retrieval and selection of information from a variety of sources;
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

### **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 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.

#### Assessment

Skills 1 and 4 assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, a portfolio of skills, and examinations. Skill 5 is developed throughout the programme but is particularly relevant to the dissertation. Skill 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

**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. Show sensitivity to cultural differences;
9. Make informed career plans.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All modules require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (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. Skills 6 and 8 are especially developed during the year abroad, its importance being established during the preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Vocational awareness is promoted by the Careers Management Skills module.

*Assessment*

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of students' work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency – clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. Written skills are examined at every stage both under timed conditions and in course work. Oral skills are examined the viva voce association with the Dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is 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 expect 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 module and programme handbooks.