

**BA in Italian and Classical Studies**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2007**

**UCAS code: QR83**

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies; Classics & Ancient History
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 4 years
Programme Director: Professor Christopher Duggan	Date of specification: Aug. 2007
Programme Advisers: Professor Ian Rutherford, Dr Francesca Medioli	
Board of Studies: Italian and Classics	
Accreditation: Not appropriate	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Italian and Classical Studies. It aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written Italian, who have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests, and who have experience of literary, thematic and genre-based approaches to the cultures of antiquity.

**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 develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. Students 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 cultural awareness and self-reliance.

**Programme content**

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory modules) 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 options 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 for each module is shown after its title, and the credit requirement for progression is indicated for each Part.

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students must take at least 40 credits in each of the Italian and Classics Departments: the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in each of the Classics and Italian Departments.

Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level (or equivalent qualifications) in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Students without an A level in Italian (including complete beginners) take a compulsory 40-credit module which

includes both language and cultural studies. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

In Part 2 students take one compulsory 20-credit Italian language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules. The Careers Management Skills module is also delivered during this year.

During the year abroad the experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones: by the end of this period the differences between former beginners and other students will have been eliminated. Students further broaden their knowledge of Italian culture by pursuing courses of their own choice at an Italian University; and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

Part 3 comprises one module of further Italian language study, and two optional modules chosen from a range of specialised topics relating to many different aspects of Italian culture.

In Classical Studies Part 1 deals with the Culture, Literature and History of two key periods: fifth century Athens and Augustan Rome with an optional unit in Greek Myths. In Part 2, the core areas of literature are addressed. In Part 3, there is a range of options available to explore specific periods, genres, and specialisations.

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

### **In the Italian Department**

Students must take at least 40 credits in Italian. A further 20-credit module in Italian may be taken if desired.

#### **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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### **In the Classics Department:**

*Compulsory modules*

CL1CA	Greek and Roman Civilisations A: Fifth-Century Athens	20	C
CL1CB	Greek and Roman Civilisations B: Rome in the Augustan Age	20	C

*Optional module*

CL1GM	Greek Myths	20	C
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**Part 2 (three terms)** Intermediate level *Credits* *Level*

**In the Italian Department**

*Compulsory modules (to total of 20 credits)*

Either:

	IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	I
Or:	IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	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.

Of the 120 credits allocated to Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (Level I).

**In the Classics Department:**

Students will take at least two core modules (40 credits) and a further 20 credits from among **either** core **or** optional modules.

*Core modules:*

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
CL2AE	Ancient Epic	20	I
CL2GD	Greek Drama	20	I
CL2LP	Roman Love Poetry	20	I

*Optional modules:*

*Optional modules: 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. Part 2 modules normally include options in classical Literature, History, Art, Culture and Reception. Students may also take MC1AM, MC20A, MC30A, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.*

Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one I level module.

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

*Compulsory modules (to total of 120 credits)*

	IT3Y31	Italian Oral	20	H
	IT3Y32	Italian Written and Oral Presentation	20	H
	IT3YDC	Preparation for Dissertation	20	H
	IT2Y31	Credits from Italian University course (1)	20	I
	IT2Y32	Credits from Italian University course (2)	20	I
	CL2IU	Credits from Italian University course on Classics	20	I

(40 of the credits gained abroad must derive from courses in Italian taught at an Italian University; 20 must derive from a course in Classics taught at an Italian University.)

**Part 3 (three terms)** Honours level *Credits* *Level*

**In the Italian Department**

*Compulsory module(20 credits)*

	IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	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.

### **In the Classics Department:**

#### *Compulsory*

CL3DI	Dissertation	20	H
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### *Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)*

*Optional modules: A complete list of optional modules is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 3 modules normally include a range of cross-disciplinary options. Students may also take MC20A, MC30A, MC3MT, and PP2PA, which are cross-listed modules.*

Students may take IWLP Modern Greek in place of one H level module.

### **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- (a) obtain a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in Italian and in CL1CA and CL1CB;
- (b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- (c) achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must

- (a) obtain a mark of at least 40% in either *Advanced Italian Language II* or *Intermediate Italian Language*;
- (b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- (c) achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3 students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of studies at a University in Italy and have handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

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

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. The Dissertation and Preparation for the Dissertation modules are supported by workshops and individual supervision. 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.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting between Part 2 (and I level modules in the Year Abroad) and Part 3 (and H Level modules in the Year Abroad) for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

### **Admission requirements**

No previous experience of Italian or of Classical Studies is required for admission.

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.

Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted,

*Mature applicants:* Applications from mature candidates are welcomed, and many have done notably well in the past. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A Levels or an Access course but each case is assessed on its merits. Potential applicants should contact the Admissions Tutor well in advance to discuss individual circumstances.

*International applicants:* Applications from international candidates are also particularly welcomed. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the Admissions Tutor.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Lisa Sampson

Tel: 0118 931 8403 (44 118 931 8403 from abroad)

e-mail: [l.m.sampson@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.sampson@reading.ac.uk)

Admissions Secretary: Mrs Lucy Hudson

Tel: 0118 931 8400 (44 118 931 8402 from abroad)

e-mail: [l.c.hudson@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.c.hudson@reading.ac.uk)

Information on courses may be obtained via the Internet on:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/italian>

### **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 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 Italian and Classical 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 congenial study spaces.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in Italian work in many different fields. 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. A degree involving Italian can also, like degrees in other arts subjects, lead 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 Italian can be a distinct asset. In recent years students who have gained degrees from the Classics Department have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The Department of Italian Studies participates in SOCRATES exchanges with the Universities of Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, and Venezia. Students spend the whole of the third year studying at one of these Universities.

Further information on these Universities is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.rdg.ac.uk/italian/courses/undergraduate/year%20abroad.htm>

Students are also encouraged to apply to the British School at Athens, where they can take a module for credit, and the British School at Rome.

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

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 Italian language, of a range of aspects of Italian cultural, historical and social topics, and of Classical literature, art, philosophy, and their reception in modern culture, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis. 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*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Italian language and Classical Studies</li><li>2. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture, as well as the literature, thought and art of Graeco-Roman Antiquity.</li><li>3. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered.</li><li>4. A diverse range of ancient evidence.</li><li>5. A Range of problems of interpretation and evaluation of ancient evidence.</li><li>6. The reception of Graeco-Roman culture in the West.</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At Part 1, 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.</li><li>2, 3, 4, 5, 6. These areas are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.</li></ol> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University courses are assessed by oral examinations. Modules on literature and culture are assessed by a combination of coursework and examination or, in one case, by an independent dissertation.</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

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

1. analyse and interpret literary or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. think critically, engage in analytical and evaluative thinking about texts, sources, arguments and interpretations, independently estimating their relevance to the issue in question,
5. discriminate between opposing theories, and form judgements on the basis of evidence and argument.

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems.

Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

#### *Assessment*

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework essays and examination. The independent dissertation is a key element, and there are further opportunities for writing extended essays.



**C. Practical skills – able to:**

1. speak, write, read and understand Italian at a high or near-native level of proficiency;
2. seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it critically;
3. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations;
4. plan and carry out limited research projects.
5. gather, organise and deploy ancient evidence and information, and show awareness of the consequences of the unavailability of evidence from antiquity.
6. develop the capacity for critical judgement in the light of ancient evidence and scholarly argument.
7. select and apply appropriate methodologies in assessing the meaning and significance of ancient evidence or data
8. use bibliographical and library research tools effectively

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular unassessed coursework. The Year Abroad provides a range of experiences in the use of everyday and academic Italian. Primary source material and much secondary literature is in Italian. Bibliographies are provided for all modules, students are trained in library use, and many modules provide experience searching for information via the Internet. Students regularly give oral presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme the dissertation and, in some cases, extended essays provide experience of researching topics independently.

*Assessment*

Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-8 are assessed by a combination of coursework, examinations and dissertation.

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

1. construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;
2. think critically;
3. locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. participate effectively in group activities;
5. organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
6. show sensitivity to cultural differences;
7. make informed career plans.
8. present material orally in a clear and effective manner.
9. present material in a written form, with discrimination and lucidity in the use of language, professional referencing and clear layout
10. write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Skills 1-6 are developed progressively throughout the programme. Participation in seminars and oral classes develops skills in self-expression and teamwork. Critical thought, the construction of arguments, and information skills are all developed through essay writing and the dissertation, and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills are enhanced by the regular production of language work and the meeting of strict essay deadlines. Sensitivity to cultural difference informs the whole programme and, together with the development of self-motivation and self-reliance, is greatly encouraged by the Year Abroad. Career management is taught through a distinct module linked with preparation for the Year Abroad.

*Assessment*

Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, including the examinations in Italy. The location of information forms part of the activity involved in the dissertation, but word-processing skills are not formally assessed. Skill 4 is not directly assessed. There are strict, clearly-defined penalties for lateness in handing in assessed work and for plagiarism. Skill 8 is assessed formatively. Skills 9-10 are developed through the submission of written course work and examinations.

**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.**