

BA Italian and Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: LR13

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group:	Language and Related Studies; Economics
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: May 2007	
Programme Director:	Dr S. Vinall
Programme Advisers:	Dr F. Medioli (Italian) Dr C. Grant (Economics)
Board of Studies:	Italian; Economics

Summary of programme aims

The Italian programme 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 and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests.

The programme in Economics aims to provide a thorough degree level education in the subject. It focuses on coverage of economic principles and their relevant application: the areas of economic principles are compulsory in the second part of the degree, and relevant applications are compulsory in the third part. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the basic elements of economic theory and of relevant uses and applications.

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. Students of 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. In the course of such activities, they will gain experience of using information technology, working in groups, and organising their own time. Opportunities will be provided to enhance skills in numeracy and career management. The year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased cultural awareness and self-reliance. In addition, through its Economics component, the programme encourages business awareness, and an understanding of important features of decision making, such as uncertainty, constraints and opportunity cost.

Programme content

The profile which 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). Not all optional 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 in Italian is indicated for each Part.

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

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 (up to 20 credits may derive from modules taken elsewhere in the University).

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 (up to 20 credits may derive from modules taken elsewhere in the University).

In Economics Part 1 deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject. These are developed in more depth in Part 2. In Part 3, choice over a range of options is available to explore specific sub-disciplines and/or applications.

Part 1 (three terms)

Credits Level

Students must take at least 40 credits in Italian. A further 20-credit module in Italian may be taken if desired. A further 40 credits of Economics are compulsory. Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those available elsewhere in the University.

Compulsory modules in Italian

For students with A level in Italian (or equivalent):

IT1001	Advanced Italian Language I	20	C
IT1002	Twentieth-Century Italian Culture	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 in Italian (open to all students):

IT1004	<i>Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)</i>	20	C
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Compulsory modules in Economics

EC1F1A	Introductory Economics I	20	C
EC1F1B	Introductory Economics II	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Credits Level

Students must take 60 credits in Italian and 60 credits in Economics.

Compulsory modules in Italian (to total of 20 credits)

Either:

IT201	<i>Advanced Italian Language II</i>	20	I
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Or:

IT202	<i>Intermediate Italian Language</i>	20	I
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Optional modules in Italian (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).

Compulsory Modules in Economics

EC201A	Microeconomics I.1	20	I
EC201B	Microeconomics I.2	10	I
EC202A	Macroeconomics I.1	20	I
EC202B	Macroeconomics I.2	10	I

Year abroad (three terms)

Credits Level

Compulsory modules (to total of 120 credits)

IT3Y31	<i>Italian Oral</i>	20	H
IT3Y32	<i>Italian Written and Oral Presentation</i>	20	H
EC3DSI	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H
IT2Y31	<i>Credits from Italian University course (1)</i>	20	I
IT2Y32	<i>Credits from Italian University course (2)</i>	20	I

Part 3 (three terms)

Credits Level

Compulsory module in Italian (to total 20 credits)

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
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Optional modules in Italian (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.

Economics Modules

Modules to total 60 credits taken from a list of currently available Economics options.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

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

To progress from Part 2 to the Year Abroad a student must:

- achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules totalling 120 credits;
- obtain a mark of at least 40% in either Advanced Italian Language II (IT201) or Intermediate Italian Language (IT202);
- achieve not less than 30% in any Italian module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned;
- achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% in Economics modules totalling 60 credits;
- achieve not less than 35% in any Economics module at Part 2 (i.e. no marks of less than 35% will be condoned). A mark (or marks) of 35 – 39% will be permitted in Economics modules totalling a maximum of 20 credits.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3 a student 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

In Part 1 in Italian language modules are always taught in small groups and the other modules are taught by a mixture of lectures and seminars. In Parts 2 and 3 students are normally taught in small groups for all modules, and when lectures are used they are informal. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination.

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 dissertation comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study.

In Economics teaching is by a mixture of lectures and classes. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is 20%, other than in special cases.

In the overall assessment I level credits contribute 33% of the final assessment and H level credits contribute 67%.

Admission requirements

No previous qualifications in Italian are required.

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 (70% or more usually required) 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 7952 (44 118 931 7952 from abroad)
e-mail: 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

Information on courses may be obtained via the Internet on:
<http://www.rdg.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 culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Italian Departmental Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a

congenial study space. Both departments provide written feedback on coursework, and all teachers have appointed office hours (in addition to lecture and class times) during which they may be consulted without prior appointment.

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. The Economics component of this programme also makes available opportunities in banking and finance, accountancy, and the civil service.

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>.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme 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 Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society.

The programme therefore aims to equip students with:

- a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated Italian person in the reception and production of spoken and written Italian;
- a sound body of knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian Studies chosen in accordance with their academic interests;
- familiarity with the theories and methods of the various disciplines covered and the ability to develop their own expertise and present their own arguments in these areas.

The programme also aims to equip students with the ability to seek and identify sources of information; make articulate written and oral presentations; conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately; analyse the form and content of written and audio-visual communications; appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; articulate in rational discourse the expression of emotion; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management.

By the end of the Economics component of the programme students are expected to have acquired a thorough knowledge of basic economic analysis and its relevant application. They are expected to be competent to apply economic analysis to practical problems and, with further training at postgraduate level (if suitably qualified) to be able to work as

professional economists in government, academics, or private sector, especially in contexts relevant to the other part of their degree. Students are expected to have acquired an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. Students are expected to have developed the ability to express themselves clearly and concisely in both written and spoken contexts.

Programme outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and abilities in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Italian language 2. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture. 3. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered. 4. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics. 5. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods. 6. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>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 modules. 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 modules.</p> <p>2,3. 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.</p> <p>4,5,6. These are taught through normal lectures, classes and practical sessions, supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study. Students undertake project work and write essays, in which they learn to apply economic concepts to relevant real world issues.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University modules 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> <p>Economics modules are assessed through a</p>
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combination of coursework and unseen examinations.
Feedback is provided on assessed work.

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 and independently;
5. structure, analyse and solve problems;
6. think laterally and explore alternative solutions;
7. comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas;
8. suggest, organise, collect relevant data and compile a report on an economic issue.

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.

In Economics, substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and discussions provide the basis of ensuring the accumulating knowledge base becomes comprehensible.

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.

And relating to Economics:

5. Collect and critically evaluate the major literature on a topic.
6. Obtain data, to use them, and to assess the empirical work of others that use economic data.
7. Use computerised tools for the purposes of research and learning.
8. Draw on the knowledge base in economics and economic research methods to suggest ways to solve problems.

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 provided experience of researching topics independently.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-4 are assessed by a combination of coursework, examinations and dissertation. Skills 5-8 are assessed through essays and project work.

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. use IT for data exchange, graphics, spreadsheets and other such software;
9. use library and web-based resources.

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.

In Economics, assessment is through the production of essays and project work, and through the critical evaluation of presentation performances.

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.