

BA Italian and History of Art

For students entering Part 1 in 2007

UCAS code: RV34

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Languages and Related Studies;
History of Art, Architecture and
Design
Programme length: 4 years

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: May 2007
Programme Director: Professor Christopher Duggan
Programme Advisers: Liaison Officers
Board of Studies: Italian and History of Art
Accreditation: Not appropriate

Summary of programme aims

The Italian syllabus 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 History of Art syllabus aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in different places and times. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of its production and reception within distinct cultural and social contexts. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture, visual artefacts and culture, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views.

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 the History of Art and Architecture programme, students will develop advanced skills in visual analysis, learning how to recognize visual sources and communicate their qualities in oral and written forms. They will be able to articulate and substantiate independent points of view, based on evaluating evidence and using reasoned arguments. They will learn how to organize their own work schedule, to become self-motivating and to take independent initiatives to develop their studies. They will understand ways of improving learning and performance, by identifying personal strengths and weaknesses, be skilled at time management, and have developed strategies for working within a team and alongside their peers. The programme will include opportunities to develop skills at making oral presentations, to use visual sources in support of an argument and to deploy IT, with a particular emphasis on visual images.

Programme content

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken ('compulsory' modules) together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection ('optional' modules) for each half of the combined degree. Not all modules will be necessarily available every one year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser(s), 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 and History of Art is indicated for each Part. Of the 120 credits in the Year Abroad, 5 are taken up by career management skills. In Part 1 up to 40 credits and in Parts 2 and 3 up to 20 credits of the 120 can be made up from modules available 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 can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University).

In the History of Art and Architecture programme, students will develop advanced skills in visual analysis, learning how to recognize visual sources and communicate their qualities in oral and written forms. They will be able to articulate and substantiate independent points of view, based on evaluating evidence and using reasoned arguments. They will learn how to organize their own work schedule, to become self-motivating and to take independent initiatives to develop their studies. They will understand ways of improving learning and performance, by identifying personal strengths and weaknesses, be skilled at time management, and have developed strategies for working within a team and alongside their peers. The programme will include opportunities to develop skills at making oral presentations, to use visual sources in support of an argument and to deploy IT, with a particular emphasis on visual images.

Part 1 (three terms)

Credits Level

Students must take at least 40 credits in Italian Studies and at least 40 credits in History of Art. The remaining 40 credits are chosen from the optional modules offered in these two Departments and/or from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Italian

Compulsory modules

For students with A Level or equivalent:

IT1001	<i>Advanced Italian Language I</i>	20	C
IT1002	<i>Twentieth-Century Italian Culture</i>	20	C

Non-advanced students (including complete beginners) take ONE of the following, depending on experience:

IT1003	<i>Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture</i>	40	C
IT1005	<i>Italian Language (Lower Intermediate) and Culture</i>	40	C

Optional module (open to all students):

IT1004	<i>Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)</i>	20	C
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History of Art

Compulsory module in Art History (20 credits)

HA1AB	<i>History of Art and Architecture Workshop</i>	20	C
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Optional modules in Art History

At least 20 credits to be made up from the following:

HA1AA	<i>Art's Histories: a survey</i>	20	C
HA1AC	<i>Makers and making: artist, architects and their practices</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Students must take modules to the value of 60 credits in Italian and 60 credits in History of Art. **Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year.** Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. Students may replace the equivalent of 20 credits with a 20 credit module in another department, by arrangement.

Credits Level

Italian

Compulsory modules (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 (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 in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (Level I).

History of Art

Compulsory modules

40 credits

HA2ST	<i>Study Trip abroad</i>	20	I
HA2DD	<i>Distance and difference: perspectives on art, architecture and visual culture</i>	20	I

Optional module:

20 credits

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.

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
IT3YDHA	<i>Dissertation on Italian History of Art</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

Students must take modules to the value of 60 credits in Italian and 60 credits in History of Art. **Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year.** Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Compulsory module(20 credits)

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
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Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

History of Art

Optional modules

60 credits

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.

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 in Italian and History of Art.

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 the Year Abroad, 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 the compulsory modules in Italian and History of Art.

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

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.

In the History of Art, at Part 1 teaching is by lectures and seminars. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. At Parts 2 and 3, teaching is principally by seminar. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination.

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

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 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: 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
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 Italian 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 Departmental Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space.

Within the History of Art Department, additional support is provided through a subject-specific reading room containing essential course texts, reference works, some current periodicals and photocopying facilities. There is also a slide library containing slides from all periods of art and architecture history

which students will consult as part of their studies. It includes resources in video tapes and computers and in digital imaging and elearning such as BlackBoard. First hand study of works of art is provided through particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad as well as through the department's own collections, mainly of drawings. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their personal tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme, supported by a comprehensive Programme Handbook issued to each student individually which includes extensive advice on study skills. 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.

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.

A number of specialised careers are open to History of Art graduates, such as jobs in Museums, auction houses, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Their visual skills also make them attractive to the advertising industry. In addition the skills which History of Art graduates acquire, such as analytical abilities, problem solving, research skills, independence and adaptability, mean they are sought after for jobs in a wide range of fields, including publishing, teaching, social work, accountancy, personnel, banking and commerce, retailing, marketing, IT, civil service and local government. A number of students go on to post-graduate study in History of Art, both at MA and PhD level, both at Reading and elsewhere.

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 Italian part of 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. It 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; and a 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.

History of Art aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in relationship to different places and times. It will stimulate student's academic and personal development, extending and broadening their range of intellectual skills and abilities. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of the production and reception of art and architecture within different cultural and social contexts, including issues such as class, race and gender. It will promote a critical understanding of visual aesthetics, artistic and architectural practices and aesthetic traditions. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture and visual artefacts, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views. It will aim to promote students' independence and initiative in the organisation and completion of their work and in the formation of judgements.

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.

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

**A. Knowledge and understanding of:
(in Italian)**

1. The Italian language (spoken and written);
2. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture;
3. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered.

In History of Art

- (a) a broad range of art, architecture and visual culture from the Middle Ages to the present day both in the West and in comparison to selected cultures in other times and places.
- (b) specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods and issues in art history.
- (c) key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to the historiography of the subject.
- (d) advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning.
- (e) technical language of the subject.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies
(In Italian)**

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 and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. 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.
- 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 assessed essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.

Assessment

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 essays and examination or, in one case, by an independent dissertation.

History of Art

Basic knowledge is provided through formal lectures in Part 1, supported by set tasks for practising the elementary analysis of visual artefacts. Feedback is initially through tutorials, seminars and through formative assessed work, where assessment is for guidance only and does not contribute to the final mark. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in the guided selection of period options at Part 2, where the teaching is seminar and discussion based. Feedback is provided through written responses to seminar participation and in formative assessed work. In later parts of the programme, and beginning at Part 2, students will take increasing responsibility for their own learning, fostered through the guided selection of increasingly specialised options and independent study, including a dissertation. Feedback is provided through tutorials and written reports on seminar presentations.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. A dissertation and oral presentation also contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – Students will be able to:

In Italian

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.

In History of Art

- 1 analyse and interpret visual artefacts.
- 2 use visual resources as evidence.
- 3 plan, organise and write a coherent argument.
- 4 transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another.
- 5 plan, organise and conduct an independent enquiry

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 joint 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.

How to analyse and interpret visual artefacts is constantly exemplified in formal lectures and in seminars from the start of Part 1. Lectures and seminars will also demonstrate how to use visual evidence in the construction of arguments and students will develop advanced skills in this through seminar presentations and coursework tasks. Such skills are additionally fostered through opportunities to study visual artefacts at first hand including in the compulsory module involving study abroad. The ability to transfer knowledge from one area of the programme to another is evidence of high level performance. The ability to organise and structure arguments is emphasised throughout but particularly in compulsory modules and through modules in independent study and the joint dissertation.

Assessment

1-3 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme including coursework and unseen examinations which also include compulsory questions analysing visual artefacts. 4 and 5 are particularly assessed in compulsory modules in independent study and the dissertation.

C. Practical skills –Students will be able to:
In Italian

1. speak, write, read and understand Italian at high or near-native levels 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. apply key methods and concepts of literary, historical and linguistic analysis.

In History of Art

- 1 identify, locate and record visual sources.
- 2 memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources.
- 3 identify, find and organise written sources.
- 4 identify appropriate resources including the internet for the study of works of art.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular coursework: the marks for this work are given for guidance and do not contribute to the final module mark. 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. Departmental Handbooks provide guidance in preparing coursework essays and dissertations. 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 2-5 are assessed by a combination of coursework, examinations and dissertation.

Identifying visual artefacts and sources is taught from Part 1, including assessed tasks which test the student's ability to find and select appropriate visual evidence for analysis and comparison. Such skills are additionally fostered in Part 2 where greater emphasis is placed on increasingly complex and sophisticated analyses, including the ability to recall and use visual and other data from often disparate and widely separated sources and locations. 3 and 4 are taught throughout the course but particularly emphasised in the independent study tasks in Part 2 and dissertation in Part 3.

Assessment

1-3 are assessed in all coursework, including oral presentations, and written examinations and 4 is assessed in independent study tasks independent study tasks.

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 courses require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different courses within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS student development scheme. Skills 3 to 8 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture, with 4 and 5 being developed particularly through the joint dissertation. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2; and the year abroad also enhances skill 8. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Skill 9 is developed by the careers module in Part 3.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency – clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. It will be assessed by essay and dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing and technology-enhanced language learning, but these skills are 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 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.