

BA French and Italian (Day-time)

For students entering Part 1 in 2007

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies;
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 5-7 years
Date of specification: November 2007	
Programme Directors: Prof. J. Félix, Professor C. Duggan	
Programme Advisers: Liaison Officers	
Board of Studies: French and Italian	
Accreditation: Not appropriate	

Summary of programme aims

Both parts 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 spoken and written French and Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of French and Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests.

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.

In particular, 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. In the course of such activities, they will gain experience of using information technology, working in groups, and organising their own time.

Programme content

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called *modules*. The size of a module is measured in terms of *credits*; a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. For a full-time programme each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size).

Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are:

Certificate (C) level

Intermediate (I) level

Honours (H) level

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling a minimum of 360 credits.

Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

Certificate level (C) 100 credits minimum

Intermediate level (I) 100 credits minimum

Honours level (H) 100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 involves studying modules totalling at least 80 credits and no more than 120 Certificate level credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study), then listing the Part 1 Examination in order to preview to the remainder of the degree.

Post-Part I, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme.

Students must take at C level those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at C level.

Of the 100 or more credits taken at I level, 5 are taken up with Career Management Skills.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to study any H level modules.

The content of this particular degree programme is:

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 up the credits required for their degree. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.

The content of this particular degree programme is:

Certificate Level	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
Either:		
Advanced French (for those with a good A level in French or equivalent)		
Compulsory modules		
FR101 <i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C
and either		
FR103 <i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or		
FR104 <i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>		
either		
FR103 <i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or		
FR104 <i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

Or:**Intermediate French** (for those with a GCSE A* in French or equivalent)**Compulsory modules**

FR102	<i>Intermediate French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>			
either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or			
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

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

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory module (20 credits)</i>			
FR201	<i>French Language 2</i>	20	I

Optional modules:

At least 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 Department Handbook.

Italian*Compulsory modules (to total of 40 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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And:

IT212	<i>Oral in Italian</i>	10	I
IT213	<i>Project or approved short course</i>	10	I

Please note that IT212 and IT213 must be completed before H Level Language modules are completed.

Optional modules

At least one option module. 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.

Honours Level

Credits Level

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 must take

Either: TWO Short Dissertation modules and ONE option module from each language
Or: ONE Short Dissertation, and one module, in one language, and TWO option modules from the other language.

French

Compulsory modules

FR303A	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>	20	H
Either:			
FR3SD	<i>Short dissertation</i>	20	H
Or:	<i>An additional module chosen from the list available</i>	20	H

Optional modules:

At least one option module. 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.

Italian

Compulsory modules (40 credits)

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
Either:			
IT3SD	<i>Short dissertation</i>	20	H
Or:	<i>An additional module chosen from the list available</i>	20	H

Optional modules:

At least one option module. 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.

Progression requirements

The structure of part-time degrees is that students first of all take the degree subject(s) they want to study at Certificate level. The subject(s) form Part 1 of the programme. Part 1 must contain at least 80 credits, so that, if the modules for a student's chosen subject (s) add up to less than 80 credits, an additional module or two will need to be taken to achieve that total.

There is a Part 1 Examination in May or June, which students have to pass in order to go on to their degree choice at Intermediate and Honours levels.

To proceed from Part 1 students must have passed modules totalling at least 80 credits at Certificate level and must also have passed those modules required for progression to their chosen degree, with a minimum mark of 40%. To pass the Part 1 Examination a student must have a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module. Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules in a re-examination held in September.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to any module at level H.

Re-examinations for C, I and H level modules are held annually in September.

Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

Certificate of Higher Education	100 credits at levels C and 20 credits at any level.
Diploma of Higher Education	240 credits, with at least 100 credits at I level or above.

The specific progression requirements for this programme are as follows:

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 French and Italian;
- (b) achieve an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 Examination with not less than 30% in any module.

To proceed from Level I to Level H students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in *French Language 2 (FR201)* and either *Advanced Italian Language II* or *Intermediate Italian Language*, and must have achieved an overall average of 40%, with no module mark under 30%. Students must also satisfy the Examiners that they have fulfilled the residence requirements for Italian (a period totalling two to three months in Italy) by completing the relevant project and oral examination before completing their Level H language module.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In French, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. The structure of the content modules in Parts 2 and 3 allows for classes normally of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students except for the grammar component of FR201 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access.

Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework and/or formal examination.

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. At Levels I and H 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.

In French, it is highly recommended that part-time students spend time in a French-speaking country over the duration of their degree. Any period of residence is not, however, assessed.

In Italian, the residence abroad module will be assessed by oral examination(s) (10 credits) and either on the basis of marks gained abroad or on the completion of a project (10 credits).

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting between Level I and Level H for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

<u>Mark:</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70%-100%	First class
60%-69%	Upper Second class
50%-59%	Lower Second class
40%-49%	Third class
35%-39%	Below Honours standard
0%-34%	Fail

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 280 points from 4 subjects ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 2 full 'A' levels or 260 points from 3 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels.

Candidates must normally have either Grade C at GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1.

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.

Admissions Tutor: Dr W Gibson

Tel: 0118 378 7305 (44 118 378 7305 from abroad)

e-mail: french@reading.co.uk

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, and the Students' Union.

The French and Italian Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The University Language Centre 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 French and Italian 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 offers a congenial study space.

Career prospects

Students graduating in French and 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 French and 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 French and Italian can be a distinct asset.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

On the French side of the programme, students are highly encouraged to spend time in France or a French-speaking country over the duration of their part-time degree. Such residence is not, however, compulsory.

On the Italian side of the programme, subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students taking this programme are required to spend two to three months in Italy during the vacation(s), either at an institution of higher education or in other ways approved by the Department. The period of residence abroad may be made up of short approved visits.

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 French and Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of French and 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 French or Italian person in the reception and production of spoken and written language; a sound body of knowledge of a range of aspects of French and 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.

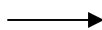
The programme also aims to equip students with the ability to seek and identify sources of information; make articulate written and oral presentations; conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately; analyse the form and content of written and audio-visual communications; 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, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A. Knowledge and understanding of: (in Italian)

1. French and 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.



Teaching/learning methods and strategies (In French)

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 2, grammar is taught by Powerpoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The voluntary period(s) of residence abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.
- 2, 3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or 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.

Assessment

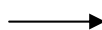
The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3), an oral examination (1) and short dissertation (1-3).

(In Italian)

1. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained at I level, but at H level 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.
- 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

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3), an oral examination (1) and short dissertation (1-3).



Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills –

Students will be 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.



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.

C. Practical skills –Students will be able to:

1. speak, write, read and understand French and 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.

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 French and Italian. Primary source material and much secondary literature is in French and 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.

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 career management skills component at level I.

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.