

BA French
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

UCAS code: R120

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies.
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	15/Mar/2011
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	Dr Sara Poole
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone literature, history, culture and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

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 (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with information about modules from which the student must make a selection (the 'selected' modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part, plus 120 credits assigned to the Year Abroad to make a total of 480 credits for the whole degree. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title.

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

FR101	Advanced French Language	20	C
and either			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

Optional Module

either

FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

Or:

Intermediate French

Compulsory modules

FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	C
and either			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

Optional module:

FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR201	French Language	20	C
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	C

Optional modules

Students must choose five 20-credit additional modules. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook. They may replace 20 of these credits with modules from outside the French Studies programmes.

In addition to the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are allocated to Careers Management Skills (level 1) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR3Y01	Dissertation	40	H
FR3Y02	Oral in French	40	H

Optional module
either

FR2Y31	University study abroad	40	I
or			
FR2Y32	Assistantship abroad	40	I
or			
FR2Y33	Work placement abroad	40	I

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR303	Advanced French Language Skills	20	H
FRVER	Translation from French	20	H

Students must choose four 20-credit additional modules. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook. They may replace 20 of these credits with modules from outside the French Studies programmes.

Optional modules

Students must take four modules from the list below. They may replace 20 credits with a modules from other programmes. Note: the following modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. New modules may be offered. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information:

FR3MAN	French for Managers	20	H
FR304	Provencedilal	20	H
FR305	The Legend of Tristan and Iseut	20	H
FR306	Warriors and Heroes : the Medieval French Epic	20	H
FR307	Between Rome and France: exile and displacement in French Renaissance poetry and prose	20	H
FR308	Seventeenth-century French tragedy	20	H
FR313	French-Canadian Novel	20	H
FR314	The Algerian Novel of French Expression	20	H
FR315	French Cinema	20	H

(NB: In those programmes where the taking of 20 credits outside the main programme is permitted, no IWLP Level 1 Romance Language, or a Beginners' Latin, module, can be taken for credit by any Language finalist)

FR316	The French Right since 1940	20	H
FR317	Andre Gide 1869-1951	20	H
FR319	Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution	20	H
FR320	French-Canadian Cinema	20	H
FR321	France and Europe since 1945	20	H
FR323	Translation into French	20	H

Progression requirements

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1 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.

In addition, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2a 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, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French.

To proceed from Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French-speaking country.

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

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

In Part 1, 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. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three 'A' level subjects or 320 from four, to include 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) 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.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) OR 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A *at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the French departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via french@reading.ac.uk

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the international Students Office first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

Admissions Tutor:

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers Advisory Service, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support and Counselling. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The Self-Access Language Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies.

The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies Resource Room contains a range of reference works/videos/DVDs which can be used by students, and offers congenial study space. Foreign language newspapers and magazines are also available in the department.

Career prospects

Students graduating in French 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 translation. A degree involving French can 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 can be a distinct asset.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend the Year Abroad as an assistant teacher, on a work placement or at one of the Higher Education Institutions with which the Department of French Studies has a Socrates agreement.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to:

1. understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
2. read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts;
3. write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style.

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

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The French language
2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture
3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 Year 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 dissertation (1-3).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. critically apply literary and historical concepts;
2. identify and solve problems;
3. analyse and interpret;
4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced.

Assessment

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of

appropriate written and oral responses to the tasks set.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. speak, write, read and understand French at a high level of proficiency;
2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

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. Careers Management.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each module. At Part 1 classes and tutorials help students to work on the production of essays. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules require regular written and/or 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 modules within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PAR student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory sessions in Part 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of the course and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.

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 is 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, but this skill is not formally assessed. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably 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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.