

BA French and Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

UCAS code: LR11

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

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme in which students take modules in both departments alongside single subject students.

The French part of the programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. It 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.

The Economics part of the programme 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 final 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

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, numeracy, 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), and indicates when the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, from lists appearing in relevant handbooks and in consultation with their Personal Tutor, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC1F1A	Introductory Microeconomics	20	C
EC1F1B	Introductory Macroeconomics	20	C

Either:

Advanced French
Compulsory modules

FR101	Advanced French Language	20	C
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and either

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

Or:

Intermediate French

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

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR201	French Language	20	5
EC201A	Microeconomics I.1	20	5
EC201B	Microeconomics I.2	10	5
EC202A	Macroeconomics I.1	20	5
EC202B	Macroeconomics I.2	10	5
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5

Students must take 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Economics. In addition to the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are allocated to Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

Optional modules

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.

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

Compulsory modules

EC3DSI	Dissertation (for Joint degrees)	40	6
FR3Y02	Oral in French	40	6

Optional module
either

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

Where University Study is selected, the student is required to take a minimum number of credits' worth of Economics modules taught through the medium of French.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR303	Advanced French Language Skills	20	H
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French Optional modules

Students must take two 20-credit modules from the list of options found in the relevant handbook.

(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)

In Economics (to total 60 credits)

EC308	Business Economics	20	6
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC312	Economics of Development	20	6
EC314	Public Economics	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC320	Money & Banking	20	6
EC324	European Urban & Regional Economics	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land, Development & Planning	20	6
EC337	Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change	20	6

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause. In addition, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory modules in French and in Economics.

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

1. achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules totalling 120 credits;
2. obtain a mark of at least 40% in French Language 2 (FR201);
3. achieve not less than 30% in any French module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.
4. achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% in Economics modules totalling 60 credits;
5. 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 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.

In Economics the delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. 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 one third, other than in special cases. To be eligible for Honours, students must normally have obtained an overall average of 40%.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three 'A' level subjects or 320 points from 4 subjects ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) 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.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) 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, 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. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either 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 Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and 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

A degree involving French, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; many students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be a distinct asset.

In recent years graduates from the French and Economics programme have entered a variety of careers in both the private and the public sectors. Examples include jobs in banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, and universities.

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

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:

In French

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.

In Economics

1. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising micro-economics and macroeconomics;
2. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods;
3. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

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 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.

In Economics

Formal 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.

Assessment

In French, 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). Economics modules are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In French

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;

In Economics

5. think logically;
6. apply analytical principles to a range of problems;
7. organise tasks into a structured form;
8. assess the impact of recent and current changes on business and organisational circumstances;
9. transfer appropriate techniques and knowledge from one topic within the subject matter to another;
10. plan, organise and write a report on an independent project.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

In French

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;

In Economics

5. understand and develop a chain of economic reasoning
6. formulate and analyse economic problems
7. evaluate economic policies
8. write critical analyses of economic questions.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

In French

structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing, manage time and work to deadlines, participate effectively in groups, work independently, find information and use information technology, be responsible and self-reliant, assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others,

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

In French, the variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

In Economics, 5-8 are covered extensively in the core modules; 9-10 are given wide scope in the optional modules; 10 is assessed directly by means of the essays prepared in Parts 2 and 3 in all modules.

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. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. 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.

In Economics, the core subjects concentrate on formal economic reasoning. Problem solving forms an important part of class work especially in Parts 2 and 3. The specialised options involve writing detailed assessments of set topics.

Assessment

In French, 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.

In Economics, most skills are tested through a combination of coursework, including both problem solving and essays, and through unseen examinations.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules 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 modules within the programme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a

Careers Management

In Economics

use IT (word-processing), communicate ideas in a logical way, give oral presentations, contribute to group discussion, use library resources both on and off line, manage time.

particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 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 Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities. In Economics, the use of IT is required throughout the Part 2 and 3 modules. Seminars in Parts 2 and 3 involve group discussions and oral presentations. Library resources have to be used continuously in the preparation of essays and project work. the highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work requires good time management.

Assessment

In French, 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. These skills are not formally assessed. In Economics, most skills are tested indirectly through the preparation of course and project work.

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.