

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

**UCAS code:**

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

**Summary of programme aims**

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with knowledge of a variety of literary, cultural and historical texts from a range of periods, together with perspectives on different methods of critical analysis and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written French. More generally, the course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

**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 be taught how 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 one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, 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. In Part 1 students take a minimum of 40 credits in the French Department, involving both language study and an introduction to aspects of French culture. They also take 60 credits in the School of English, where they are introduced to fundamental debates about the study of literature through close analysis of selected texts from different periods. In Part 2 students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both French and English. In the French strand students continue their language studies and choose options from a range of broadly-based culture modules, while in English the programme provides increased breadth of coverage, focusing on texts within a variety of historical periods and generic traditions. The experience of living in France during the Year Abroad encourages students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral ones, and allows them to extend their knowledge of the host culture by pursuing 40 credits either as a student in a French-speaking University, as an assistant in a French School or on a working placement. They also engage in independent study in preparation for the English Dissertation. In Part 3 students embark on more specialized work in both French and English, taking one further French language module, choosing two modules in each of French and English from a wide range of advanced options, and completing their Dissertation.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

EN1LL	Languages of Literature	20	C
EN1RS	Revisioning Shakespeare	20	C
EN1WKT	What Kind of Text is This?	20	C

**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

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*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR201	French Language	20	I
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

In French:

Compulsory module

FR201	French Language 2	20
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Optional modules

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

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*

FR2Y34	French Language Abroad	20	5
FR3Y02	FR3Y02 Oral in French	40	6
FR3YENG	Dissertation commencement, for students following the BA in French and English	20	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 English modules taught through the medium of French.

### Part 3 (three terms)

*Compulsory modules*

FR303	Advanced French Language Skills	20	6
FR3DEN	Dissertation, for students following the BA in French and English	20	6

In French  
Compulsory module

FR303	Advanced Language Skills	20
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Optional modules

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental 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 English:

Students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits.

Optional modules: A complete list of options can be found in the English Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Adviser in English.

### Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain

1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above;
2. a minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in French and English;
3. not less than 30% in any module except that a mark of less than 30% in a total of not more than 20 credits may be condoned at the discretion of the Examiners;
4. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, students must obtain

1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2;
2. a minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in French;
3. an average of 40% across English Part 2 modules;

4. not less than 30% in any module taken at Part 2 except that a mark of less than 30% in a total of not more than 20 credits may be condoned at the discretion of the Examiners.
  5. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.
- To proceed from the 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 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. 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 English at Part 1, lectures to the entire year group are accompanied by small-group work in seminars. The English programme also includes individual essay tutorials. In Parts 2 and 3, the modular structure of the programme allows for continued work in small groups, usually involving a combination of lectures and seminar discussion. Preparation for the Dissertation begins in the Spring Term of Part 2. After consultation with the liaison officers, students submit a form with a proposed title by the end of that term. Students will be assigned a supervisor both in French and in SEAL at the beginning of the Summer term. Students should meet with both of their supervisors to receive preliminary guidance and bibliographical advice during the Summer term. Thereafter, during the year abroad, students work on the French part of their dissertation and maintain email contact with the French supervisor. On their return, students meet their SEAL supervisor early in the Autumn term and again in the Spring term. Supervisors in SEAL will read and comment on a three-thousand word excerpt of the Dissertation, of the student's choosing, provided that it is submitted by a date specified by SEAL. Over the programme as a whole, assessment is conducted through a mixture of coursework essays and formal examinations.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three 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, and 100 points (grade B) in either English Literature or English Language and Literature. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

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, and to have a B (100 points) in A-level English, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. Mature applicants are more likely to receive an offer of a place if they have undertaken recent study - for example, A levels or an Access course - but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact the Faculty admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact the International 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](http://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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)).

The School of English and American Literature also offers students specific help to improve and develop their essay writing skills through the Royal Literary Fund Fellowship scheme, which provides a resident professional writer whose role is to advise students individually, from first-year to postgraduate level, on raising the level of their academic writing.

Within both departments students receive a Handbook which gives details of module content, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1, developing towards more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal Development Planning (PDP) scheme and iLearn, a portfolio tool. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the School of English, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and an expanding collection of videos for loan to students.

The Self-Access Language Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty to support cinema studies.

The French Handbooks provide extensive information the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies 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**

In recent years students who have gained an English degree from Reading have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, teaching and public relations. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, and increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad. A Reading degree in French and English provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. Graduates may also go on to further academic study and research. In addition to the help provided by the University Careers Advisory Service, SEAL has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English on researching and planning their career choices.

### **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.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **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 English:**

1. Literary texts in English from selected periods

##### **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

- between the Middle Ages and the present day;
- 2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama;
- 3. Methods of critical textual analysis;
- 4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts;
- 5. A range of approaches in English studies;
- 6. Selected special fields of English.

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).

#### *In English:*

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1-5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation.

#### *Assessment*

In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is based on a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation.

### **Skills and other attributes**

#### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to:***

##### **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 English:**

- 1. Capacity for independent analysis and research;
- 2. Identification of problems and issues;
- 3. The ability to read closely and critically;
- 4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions;
- 5. Ability to transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another;
- 6. Ability to analyse linguistic performance and phenomena;
- 7. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

##### *In French:*

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 coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

##### *In English:*

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), through close guided study of texts (3), seminar preparation and discussion (1-3, 5-6), and

essay writing and feedback through tutorials (1-6); through completion of the dissertation (7)

### **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 English:**

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of texts;
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches;
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language;
4. Bibliographical and research skills;
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work;
6. An ability to relate the study of English to cultural and social issues.

### **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, Careers Management.

#### **In English:**

Fluency in written and oral communication, the ability to formulate and present arguments with appropriate use of evidence, assessing the merits of competing approaches, the ability to translate subjectspecific knowledge and skills into other environments, the ability to find and use relevant information resources, time-management skills, a creative approach to problemsolving, group and interpersonal skills, an ability to work independently, to self-evaluate and self-reflect, use

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

#### **In French:**

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.

#### *Assessment*

##### **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.

#### **In English:**

1-3 and 6 are developed in seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.

Skills 5 and 6 are developed through the preparation for and presentation of the dissertation.

##### **Assessment**

All the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1-3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

(1) All modules require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression. (2) is learnt through the management of different deadlines within the programme .

Skills 3-7 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 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

of information technology, especially word-processing.

the year abroad, with students undertaking appropriate activities.

#### *Assessment*

##### Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency. 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 this skill is not formally assessed.

In English:

Skills are developed through seminar discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations (1-9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, essay writing and research for the dissertation. (6) is enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (9) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation. 1-7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. 10 is not directly assessed but informs a student's work throughout the programme, especially in the year abroad and final year.

**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.**