

**BA Film & Theatre and Italian**  
**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):	Dance, Drama and Performing Arts, Communications, Media, Film and Cultural Studies and Italian
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	06/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Dr John Gibbs
Programme Advisor:	Mr Christopher Wagstaff
Board of Studies:	Film, Theatre and Television
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The central aim of the programme is to enable students to gain an understanding of major areas of cinema and of theatre since the late nineteenth century, and become competent communicators in Italian and well-informed about Italian culture, history and current affairs. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers and theatre practitioners, become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of literary, film and drama texts, and gain a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated Italian person in the reception and production of spoken and written Italian. The programme also 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. The multi-disciplinary approach of the Italian part of the programme aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests.

**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.

In addition, on completion of this programme, students are expected to have developed a range of specific transferable skills including: critical analysis and coherent argument; the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others; researching and evaluating evidence; use of library resources; undertaking self-directed, independent work; developing projects through co-operation and dialogue; taking leadership and management roles; effective time management; cultural awareness. Opportunities will be provided to enhance skills in numeracy and career management. The year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased cultural awareness and self-reliance.

**Programme content**

Each Part of the degree comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students must normally take a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits worth of modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television and a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits worth of modules in the Italian Department. The remaining credits can be made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level (or equivalent qualifications) in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Students without an A level in Italian (including complete beginners) take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

In Parts 2 and 3 students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both the Film, Theatre & Television and the Italian Departments in each Part. In Part 2 students take one compulsory 20-credit Italian language module, and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules. In Parts 2 or 3, students may substitute a Faculty module of 20 credits for a module of either Department in consultation with their programme adviser.

During the year abroad the experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones: by the end of this period the differences between former beginners and other students will have been eliminated. Students further broaden their knowledge of Italian culture by pursuing courses of their own choice at an Italian University; and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

FT1CHA	Introduction to Film and Theatre	40	C
--------	----------------------------------	----	---

Optional module

FT1TFC	Introduction to Television Studies	20	C
--------	------------------------------------	----	---

Italian Department

*Compulsory modules*

For students with A Level or equivalent:

IT1001	Advanced Italian Language I	20	C
IT1002	Twentieth-Century Italian Culture	20	C

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

IT1003	Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture	40	C
IT1005	Italian Language (Lower Intermediate) and Culture	40	C

Optional module (open to all students):

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	C
--------	--	----	---

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FT2BTA	British Theatre	20	I
FT2BTB	British Theatre	10	I
FT2US1A	US Cinema 1	20	I
FT2US1B	US Cinema 1	10	I
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

Optional Module

FT2BP	Bulmershe Production	10	I
-------	----------------------	----	---

Notes

10 credit modules MUST be taken together with the relevant 20 credit module, making the module worth 30 credits.

Students taking the Bulmershe Production optional module will substitute this for 10 credits in any Part 2 module.

Italian Department

*Compulsory modules (to total of 20 credits)*

Either:

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	I
-------	------------------------------	----	---

Or:

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	I
-------	-------------------------------	----	---

Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)

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

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

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FT3JDI	Dissertation (Italian and Film & Theatre)	40	H
IT2Y31	Credits From Italian University Course (1)	20	I
IT2Y32	Credits From Italian University Course (2)	20	I
IT3Y32	Written Italian	20	H
IT3Y31	Italian Oral and Textual Skills	20	H

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	20	H
FT3JDI	Dissertation (Italian and Film & Theatre)	40	H

Part 3 (three terms) Honours level

Optional modules:

[various]	Critical Option	20+20	H
[various]	Critical Option	20	H

Students will normally take two Critical Options, one for 40 credits, comprising two modules with the same title and the suffixes 'A' and 'B', and one for 20 credits, with the suffix 'A'. A complete list of Critical Options is available from the Director of Teaching and Learning in Film, Theatre and Television. Admission to Critical Options will be at the discretion of the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Optional module:

FT3BP	Bulmershe Production	10	H
-------	----------------------	----	---

Notes:

Students taking the Bulmershe Production optional module will substitute this for 10 credits of assessment in any Part 3 module.

Students taking a 20 credit module from outside the programme will substitute this for one 20 credit critical option module with the suffix 'B'.

Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)

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

**Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

1. Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; and
2. Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and
3. Obtain marks of at least 40% in all compulsory modules.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must

1. Obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 2;
2. Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2;
3. Obtain a mark of at least 40% in either Advanced Italian Language II or Intermediate Italian Language, and in all compulsory modules in Film & Theatre.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3 students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of studies at a University in Italy and have handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

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**

Interaction in seminars is central to the programme in Film & Theatre, and weekly seminars are common to most BA critical units, including those in Part 1. Lectures are carefully designed to provide informing perspectives for the module and for individual seminars. Compulsory theatre visits are integral to some modules. Italian language modules are taught in small groups; other Italian modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and seminars.

Assessment of critical modules in Part 2 and 3 of Film & Theatre is mainly by coursework, which includes formal essays of various kinds (including extended essays) as well as other written assignments such as take away exam questions. Most Italian modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. The Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university. The Italian oral, written and textual skills will be examined in Part 3.

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

Assessment criteria for each of the Levels are given in the appropriate Departmental Handbook.

The University's honours classification scheme is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

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

University-wide classification criteria are explained in the *Framework for Classification and Progression of First Degrees (Post-2002 Structure)*.

### **Admission requirements**

No previous qualifications in Italian are required; but entrants to the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

A levels

Either

280 points from 3 A2s, to include 100 pts (grade B) in one of English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies;

or

320 pts from 3 A2s + up to 2 AS, to include 100 pts (Grade B) in one of English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies.

AS

2 good AS grades are accepted as 1 supporting A level

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureate 31 points with 6 or 7 for Higher level English Literature

Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Mature applicants: Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. Mature candidates will be expected to have a B at A level English Literature, Theatre Studies, Drama Studies or Film Studies, or equivalent qualification. 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. In other respects, generous concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Ashley Thorpe and Dr Tom Brown (Film, Theatre and Television)

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEEC), 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

The University Language Centre (ULC) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching Italian television by satellite. Students receive Handbooks from both Departments, which gives details of the Programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The Programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback is given through detailed written comments on coursework and, where necessary, essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the personal tutor system and Personal Development Planning (PDP) system. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty (on the Whiteknights campus). The Department of Film, Theatre & Television has an extensive collection of films and television programmes, to which students may have access, and a range of viewing facilities. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, has an extensive collection of printed materials as well as electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD ROM, and such on-line resources as JSTOR, First Search asc(133) Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

### **Career prospects**

Since Film & Theatre and Italian is not a vocational programme, career possibilities are very wide ranging. Graduates find that the specific as well as the transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work including education (which could include teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad), commerce and industry, arts administration, advertising, marketing, translation, the performance industries and the media generally. The degree may also be a prelude to study in law or accountancy. Students may also go on to post-graduate study in both subject areas at MA and PhD levels, both at Reading and elsewhere. Increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of Italian can be a distinct asset.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The Department of Italian Studies participates in SOCRATES exchanges with the Universities of Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, and Venezia. Students spend the whole of the third year studying at one of these Universities. Further information on these Universities is available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.rdg.ac.uk/italian/courses/undergraduate/year%20abroad.htm>

### **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:

1. A selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day. A selection of Italian literary texts from a variety of historical periods and cultural contexts.
2. A variety of approaches to film and theatre making,.
3. Methods of critical, dramatic, and filmic analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to drama, film and literary texts
5. A range of approaches in Italian studies and Film and Theatre studies.
6. Selected special fields of Italian studies and Film and Theatre.
7. A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom and the fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 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 specialised 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. 7 is taught throughout all parts of the programme and is enhanced by the period of study abroad.

#### *Assessment*

In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 and 7 are tested through a combination of essays, seen and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus seen and unseen exams, and the dissertation.

## Skills and other attributes

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

1. Capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identification of problems and issues
3. The ability to read, watch analyse and interpret closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1), preparation and discussion in seminars and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback, in both written forms and individual tutorials (2, 3 and 4).

#### *Assessment*

1 - 3 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays, seen and unseen exams. 1- 4 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

### C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. The ability to criticise and formulate interpretations of literature, drama and film texts (including theatre performances).
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English and Italian languages
4. Bibliographical and research skills
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 - 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, workshops, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision. 7 is developed through a range of classes and formative coursework throughout the programme, the reading of primary and secondary source material for Italian cultural modules, and the cultural, academic and everyday experiences of the Year Abroad.

6. An ability to relate the study of Film and Theatre and Italian culture and language to cultural and social issues
7. speak, write, read and understand Italian at high or near-native levels of proficiency.

#### *Assessment*

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays, and other exercises. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in seen and unseen examinations. 7 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

#### **D. Transferable skills - *able to:***

Fluency in written and oral communication  
 The ability to formulate and present arguments  
 Assessing the merits of competing approaches  
 The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments  
 The ability to find and use relevant information resources  
 Time-management skills and the ability to manage personal workloads.  
 A creative approach to problem-solving  
 Group and interpersonal skills  
 An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect  
 Use of information technology, especially word-processing

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

Transferable skills are developed through seminar and workshop discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback, seen and unseen examinations (1 - 9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays, seen 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. We require that all summatively assessed essays are word-processed (10).

#### *Assessment*

1 - 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, seen and unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

**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.**