

**BA German**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9**

**UCAS code: R200**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Modern Languages
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	15/Mar/2011
Programme Director:	Dr Ian Roe
Programme Advisor:	
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 progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline.

**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 (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working, interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, use of IT and career management 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 of German 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 profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits are made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in German includes the study of both language (with an intensive language course for students with no German) and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language and take modules based on a variety of short options on German culture from 1750 to the present. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students take two modules of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

Compulsory modules

Either (for students entering with A-level German or equivalent)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	C
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	C

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

LA1PG4	IWLP German Level 4	20	C
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	C

Or (for students entering with no knowledge of German)

Compulsory modules

GM1IG1	Intensive German 1	20	C
GM1IG2	Intensive German 2	20	C
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	C

## Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

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

Compulsory modules (80 credits)

Either

GM2L2	German Language II	20	I
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Or (only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 1)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	C
GM2OP1	German Option Module 1	20	I
GM2OP2	German Option Module 2	20	I
GM2OP3	German Option Module 3	20	I

A further 40 credits to be taken from

GM2GMB	German for Business Purposes	20	I
GM2OP4	German Option Module 4	20	I

Or modules available elsewhere in the University totalling 20 credits

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

Compulsory modules

GM3YDSG	German Dissertation	40	6
GM3YOR	Oral Examination in German	20	6
GM3YEUR	Aural Examination in German	20	6

Either

GM2YS40	German Scheine (full year)	40	5
Or			
GM2YASR	Assistant's report	40	5
Or			
GM2YWPL	Work placement report	40	5

GM2YASR and GM2YWPL include 20 credits for work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment.

### Part 3 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
GM3GPT	Translation into German and English	20	H

#### One of

GM3GSC	German Structure & Composition	20	6
GM3GMB	German for Management & Business	20	6

Plus three or four modules to be chosen from a list of options available in the department. 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the university.

All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and are subject to a minimum and maximum number of participants. The module GM3GMB is only available to students who passed GM2GMB at Part 2. (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)

#### Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

1. obtain a mark of 40% or above in all of their compulsory German modules;
2. achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
3. achieve not less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must:

1. obtain a mark of 40% or above in their compulsory German language module and at least two further modules in German;
2. achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
3. achieve not less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of study or employment in a German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

#### Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad module *Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and the Oral/Aural module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

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 two ninths of the total credit weighting, modules taken during the Year Abroad count for three ninths of the total credit weighting, and modules taken during Part 3 count for four ninths of the total credit weighting.

#### Admission requirements

Either 280 pts from 3 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,

Or 300 pts from 4 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German.

NB: A\* in German is required if entering at Intermediate level with GCSE only.

Students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via [german@reading.ac.uk](mailto:german@reading.ac.uk).

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Melani Schroeter

### **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)).

In addition the Department has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and 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 Resources Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in German work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, 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 German can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; others proceed to post-graduate courses in various areas, including translating.

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

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad either at a German or Austrian university with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter, or as an assistant teacher, or on a work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on the Erasmus & Study Abroad website.

### **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 wide range of German vocabulary and idiom
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
4. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
5. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-1900
6. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues

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

- Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-7)
- Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)
- Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-7)
- Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-7)
- Dissertation (any of 1-7 depending on chosen topic)
- Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3).

## 7. Methods of critical textual analysis.

### *Assessment*

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-7)

Oral examination (1-2)

Dissertation (6-7, also 4-5)

Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2).

## **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
2. Identify and analyse problems and issues
3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
4. Evaluate alternative critical views
5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

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

Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).

### *Assessment*

Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.

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

1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

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

Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

### *Assessment*

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

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

1. Formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. Give oral presentations
3. Use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. Demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. Manage time and work to deadlines
6. Work independently and be self-reliant
7. Take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

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

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

### *Assessment*

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

**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.**