

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

UCAS code: LR12

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Modern Languages and Economics.
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	04/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Dr Ian Roe
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme in German Studies seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to postgraduate study or a wide range of careers, 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 to them outside the confines of the discipline.

The programme in Economics 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 third 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 (both written and oral), information handling, team working, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, career 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 of German and Economics 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 those modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and one or more lists of modules from which students must make a selection ('optional'). Students must choose modules from these lists or, where permitted, from modules on other programmes, to make 120 credits in each part.

In German Part 1 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 and history. 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 must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

In Economics Part 1 deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject. These are developed in more depth in Part 2. In Part 3, choice over a range of options is available to explore specific sub-disciplines and/or applications; not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Adviser.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC1F1A	Introductory Microeconomics	20	C
EC1F1B	Introductory Macroeconomics	20	C

Students must take at least 40 credits in German and 40 in Economics, and must take further modules from this or other programmes to make 120 credits in total.

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)

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)

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

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

In German (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

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

and either

GM2OP2	German Option Module 2	20	I
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or

GM2GMB	German for Business Purposes	20	I
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German Option Modules 1 & 2 will each be made up of short topics chosen from an extensive list to be provided.)

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

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC3DSI	Dissertation (for Joint degrees)	40	H
GM3YOR	Oral Examination in German	20	H
GM3YEUR	Aural Examination in German	20	H

Optional modules:

Either

GM2YS40	German Scheine (full year)	40	5
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or

GM2YASR	Assistant's report	40	5
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or

GM2YWPL	Placement report	40	5
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GM2YASR and GM2YWPL both include 20 credits for Work Experience which do not contribute to the final assessment.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

In German (60 credits)

One of:

GM3GPT	Translation into English and German	20	6
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GM3GSC	German Structure & Composition	20	6
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Plus two modules to be chosen from a list of options available in the department.

Not all optional modules will be available in any one year; all optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum and maximum number of participants.

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

To proceed to Part 2 students must have

1. obtained a mark of 40% or above in all of the compulsory German and Economics modules
2. achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole
3. have no module mark under 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

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 their compulsory German language module;
3. achieve not less than 30% in any German 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 the Year Abroad to Part 3 a student 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

(In German) 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 Economics) Teaching is organised in modules. 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 20%, other than in special cases.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but it should be noted that second-year modules count as two-ninths, year abroad modules three-ninths and final-year modules four-ninths of the final assessment.

Admission requirements

Admissions requirements

Either 300 points from three A-level subjects, plus GCSE Grade C or better in German and English,

Or 320 points from three A-level subjects and one AS level, plus GCSE Grade C or better in German and English,

Or equivalent qualifications that demonstrate competence in German.

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

Except that 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 Tutors, who may be contacted via 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 a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers Advisory Service, In-session 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 on the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

In addition the Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the 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.

The Department of Economics provides handbooks that outline programme and module content. In addition to lecture and class times, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment.

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. In recent years graduates from the German 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 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 additional topics in German history, society, literature and culture.
5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues.
6. Methods of critical textual analysis.
7. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics.
8. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods.
9. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

(in German)
 Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6).
 Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3).
 Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6).
 Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6).
 Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3).
 (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 (7-9).

Assessment

(in German) Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-6).
 Oral examination (1-2).
 Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2).
 (in Economics) Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen

examinations (7-9).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically.
2. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments.
3. Identify, analyse and solve problems.
4. Evaluate alternative critical views and explore alternative solutions.
5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another.
6. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas
7. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena.
8. Suggest, organise, collect relevant data and compile a report on an economic issue.

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.

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

Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-6), essay assignments and feedback (1-6), project works and problem sets (3) language classes (7), and the completion of the dissertation (8).

Skills 2-6 are assessed in the various non-language components of the programme, either in German or Economics, 1 specifically in certain specialised German options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 7 in language teaching, 8 by means of the dissertation.

Assessment

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.

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 career 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.