

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

**UCAS code: R310**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and related studies
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	24/May/2011
Programme Director:	Prof Christopher Duggan
Programme Advisor:	Mr Christopher Wagstaff
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme 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. Its multi-disciplinary approach 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 (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working, career management and information technology 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 particular, students of Italian 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. In the course of such activities, they will gain experience of using information technology, working in groups, and organising their own time. The year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased cultural awareness and self-reliance.

**Programme content**

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (compulsory) together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection ('optional'). Not all options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to options will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title, and the credit requirement for progression in Italian is indicated for each Part.

In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules 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 Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A Level in Italian (or equivalent) must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Students without an A Level (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 Part 2 students take one compulsory 20-credit language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and five optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules (up to 20 credits may derive from modules available elsewhere in the University).

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 3 comprises one module of further language study, two compulsory modules on key literary topics, and three optional modules chosen from a range of specialised topics relating to many different aspects of Italian culture (up to 20 credits may derive from modules available elsewhere in the University).

Students must take at least 40 credits in Italian. A further 20-credit module in Italian may be taken if desired. Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those available elsewhere in the University.

*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
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**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 (to total of 20 credits)*

Either:

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	I
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Or:

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	I
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Optional modules (to total of 100 credits)

Students must choose five option modules to the value of 100 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. Of the 120 credits allocated to Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (Level

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

*Compulsory modules*

IT2Y31	Credits From Italian University Course (1)	20	5
IT2Y32	Credits From Italian University Course (2)	20	5
IT3Y31	Italian Oral and Textual Skills	20	6
IT3Y32	Written Italian	20	6
IT3Y33	Italian Dissertation	40	6

**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
IT305	Dante	20	H
IT3PS	Performance and the Self in Renaissance Italy: Court culture, Petrarch and his imitators	20	H

Optional modules (to total of 60 credits)

Students must choose three option modules to the value of 60 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. (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 gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and qualify for the CertHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, and to have obtained at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules in Italian.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and qualify for the DipHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2. In addition, students must normally have obtained at least 40% in the compulsory Italian module.

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**

In Part 1 in Italian, language modules are always taught in small groups and the other modules are taught by a mixture of lectures and seminars. In Parts 2 and 3 students are normally taught in small groups for all modules, and when lectures are used they are informal. Most 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.

### **Admission requirements**

No previous qualifications in Italian are required.

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained either

300 points from 4 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels

or

280 points from 3 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels.

Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Mature applicants: Applications from mature candidates are welcomed, and many have done notably well in the past. 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. Potential applicants should contact the Admissions Tutor well in advance to discuss individual circumstances.

International applicants: Applications from international candidates are also particularly welcomed. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the Admissions Tutor.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Lisa Sampson

### **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-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 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 Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. 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. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of Italian culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in Italian work in many different fields. Some 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. A degree involving Italian can also, like degrees in other arts subjects, lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, 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 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, Salerno 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**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

#### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. The Italian language (spoken and written);
2. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture;
3. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered.

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

1. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but after the year in Italy all students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow University courses.
- 2,3. These areas are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.

#### *Assessment*

Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University courses are assessed by oral examinations. Modules on literature and culture are assessed by a combination of coursework essays and examination or, in one case, by an independent dissertation.

### **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. analyse and interpret literary or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. think critically and independently.

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

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

#### *Assessment*

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework essays and examination. The independent dissertation is a key element, and there are further opportunities for writing extended essays.

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

1. speak, write, read and understand Italian at high or near-native levels of proficiency;
2. seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it critically;
3. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations;
4. plan and carry out limited research projects;
5. apply key methods and concepts of literary, historical and linguistic analysis.

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

Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular coursework: the marks for this work are given for guidance and do not contribute to the final module mark. The Year Abroad provides a range of experiences in the use of everyday and academic Italian. Primary source material and much secondary literature is in Italian. Bibliographies are provided for all modules, students are trained in library use, and many modules provide experience searching for information via the Internet. Departmental Handbooks provide guidance in preparing coursework essays and dissertations. Students regularly give oral presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme the dissertation and, in some cases, extended essays provided experience of researching topics independently.

#### *Assessment*

Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-5 are assessed by a combination of coursework, examinations and dissertation.

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

1. construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;
2. think critically and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
3. locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. participate effectively in group activities;
5. be self-reliant, organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
6. show sensitivity to cultural differences;
7. make informed career plans.

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

Skills 1-6 are developed progressively throughout the programme. Participation in seminars and oral classes develops skills in self-expression and teamwork. Critical thought, the construction of arguments, and information skills are all developed through essay writing and the dissertation, and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills are enhanced by the regular production of language work and the meeting of strict essay deadlines. Sensitivity to cultural difference informs the whole programme and, together with the development of self-motivation and self-reliance, is greatly encouraged by the Year Abroad. Career management is taught through a distinct module linked with preparation for the Year Abroad.

#### *Assessment*

Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, including the examinations in Italy. The location of information forms part of the activity involved in the dissertation, but word-processing skills are not formally assessed. Skill 4 is not directly assessed. There are strict, clearly-defined penalties for lateness in handing in assessed work and for plagiarism.

**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.**