BA Philosophy and German   **UCAS code: RV25**
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Philosophy and Modern Languages.
Faculty:	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	13/Aug/2009
Programme Director:	Dr John Preston
Programme Advisor:	Dr Ian Roe
Board of Studies:	Philosophy
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

Both Departments share the aims and objectives laid down for the Reading graduate in the University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning. The Philosophy part of the programme specifically aims to provide a grounding in the subject, enabling students to examine critically fundamental beliefs about truth and reality, right and wrong, to comprehend concepts essential for philosophical investigation, to develop an understanding of central philosophical problems, texts and figures, to develop an aptitude and enthusiasm for the subject, to engender a sense of belonging to a community of enquiry, and to prepare where appropriate for postgraduate study.
Four bridge modules (Language & Reality, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics, Dissertation) offer students an opportunity to reflect on philosophical issues concerning language or literature.
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.

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 career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of 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.

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 "selected" modules). 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 in each module is shown in column after its title, and the credit requirements in Philosophy and German are indicated for each Part.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

In Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits from the following modules.

PP1HN	Human Nature	20	C
PP1VV	Values & Virtues	20	C
PP1MR	Metaphysics & Religion	20	C

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

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP2TK	Theory of Knowledge	20	I
PP2MP	Moral Philosophy	20	I
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

Students must also acquire at least 20 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 optional modules include Philosophy of Mind, Logic and modules in the history of Philosophy. PS2N45 (History and Philosophy of Science) is also a permissible option.

In German
Students must take one compulsory language module:
Either

GM2L2	German Language II	20	I

Or (only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 1)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	C

The compulsory German Option Modules GM2OP1 and GM2OP2; will each be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided.
In addition to the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are allocated to Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

Year away/Additional year (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP3DIS	Dissertation	40	H
GM3YO40	Oral and Aural German (full year)	40	H

Either

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

GM2ASR and GM2WPL each include 20 credits for work experience that do not count towards the final assessment.

In Philosophy, students must acquire at least 60 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme

Handbook. A wide variety of part 3 options will be available each year, reflecting the research interests of teaching staff.

In German, students must take one of:

GM3GPT	Translation into English and German	20	H
GM3GSC	German Structure and Composition	20	H

Two to be chosen from a list of available options, currently including:

GM3GAR	Germany in the Age of Revolution	20	H
GM3V19	19th-Century Vienna	20	H
GM3CWR	Cinema of the Weimar Republic	20	H
GM3MGN	Writing the East: Literature of the GDR	20	H
GM3LM	Language in the Media	20	H
GM3MIG	Migration in Germany	20	H
GM3LPL	The Language of Politics	20	H

(Not all optional modules will be available in any one year; all optional modules, including possible additions to the above list, are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants)

Part 4 (three terms)
In German
One of

GM3GPT	Translation into English and German	20	H
GM3GSC	German Structure and Composition	20	H

Two to be chosen from a list of available options, currently including:

GM3PL	German Department Play	20	I
GM3GAR	Germany in the Age of Revolution	20	H
GM3V19	19th-Century Vienna	20	H
GM3UR	Unification and the Integration of the GDR	20	H
GM3TGL	Trends in Modern German Language	20	H
GM3CWR	Cinema of the Weimar Republic	20	H
GM3MGN	Modern German Narratives	20	H

Progression requirements
To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must achieve each of the following:
1. an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 1;
2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1;
3. an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken at Part 1;
4. a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 1;
5. a mark of at least 40% in all of their compulsory German modules.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3, students must achieve each of the following:
1. an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 2;
2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2;
3. an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken;
4. a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 2;
5. a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory German language module.

To proceed from Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a German-speaking country and 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
Teaching within the Philosophy programme combines lectures, small group seminars and essay supervisions, with appropriate visual aides and course materials being provided throughout. The final assessment for all Philosophy modules in all Parts (bar the Dissertation in Part 3) is by a combination of assessed coursework and unseen examination.
 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 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.
 The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbooks, but you should note that Part 2 and Year Abroad I-level modules are weighted at 33% of the final degree classification, while Year Abroad H-level and Part 3 modules are weighted at 67%.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
 UCAS Tariff: Either: 320 points from 3 A levels and 1 AS level plus GCSE German, or: 300 points from 3 A levels plus GCSE German.
 Except that students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.
 International Baccalaureate: complete diploma with a minimum score of 6,6,5 in at least three Higher Level subjects.
 Advanced GNVQ: either B in one A-Level plus GNVQ (Advanced) in twelve modules passed with distinction, or GNVQ (Advanced) Distinction plus pass in four additional modules
 Scottish Highers: BBBB or above
 Irish Leaving Certificate: at least BBBCC in five higher-level subjects
 All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.
 Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.
 International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Admissions Tutor: Prof B. Hooker

Support for students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses 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 Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online, 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 Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website.

Within the Philosophy Department, information and guidance is offered through the Part 1 Handbook, and the B.A Course Handbook (covering Parts 2 and 3). There is also a Part 1 co-ordinator and an Honours Course co-ordinator who can be consulted on module choices within each part of the programme. Finally, the Part-time Programme co-ordinator is available to assist with all issues relating to the Part-time course
 The Department of German Studies 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 German Seminar Library 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
Over the years students who have followed the Philosophy programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), and the civil service. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for computer firms and large finance and insurance companies. In general, there is some evidence that IT firms appreciate the logical and analytic skills of the Philosophy graduate. Furthermore, a survey by the Royal Institute of Philosophy found that graduates with British Philosophy degrees consider their degree course to have been very relevant to their jobs, and report a very high level of job satisfaction
 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:
In Philosophy:
Key historical aspects of Philosophy. An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches. Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts. Awareness of current research in the field and its direction.
In German:
A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English). Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues. Methods of critical textual analysis.
Teaching/learning methods and strategies
In Philosophy:
Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
In Philosophy:	
1. Key historical aspects of Philosophy	*Assessment*
2. An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches	Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentation.
3. Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts	In German: Combination of unseen and open-paper
4. Awareness of current research in the field and its direction.	examinations and regular assessed work, oral examination, dissertation. Also regular non-assessed

In German:
5. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom.
6. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
7. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
8. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture
9. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
10. Methods of critical textual analysis

work for language classes.
German
Teaching/learning methods and strategies
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 4)
Assessment
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)

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

In Philosophy,
1. critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of philosophical texts
2. synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space
3. analyse the logical construction of arguments
4. produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure
German
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

Philosophy
As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises.

Assessment
In Philosophy: coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations. Plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module.
German
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).

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

In Philosophy:
1. present a coherent talk delivered from notes
2. produce concise and accurate written reports
3. critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own.
4. utilise problem-solving skills
German
5. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
6. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
7. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Assessment

8. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
9. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
10. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
In Philosophy:	*Assessment*
manage time effectively and prioritise workloads	
communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means	
evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement.	
Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations.	
some IT skills, e.g. word processing and e-mail	
German	
formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently	
give oral presentations	
use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)	
demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills	
work independently and be self-reliant	
take account of different linguistic and cultural environments	
plan and evaluate career possibilities	

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.