

**BA French (part time)
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):	Languages and Related Studies.
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	5 years
Date of specification:	18/Aug/2010
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	Dr Sara Poole
Board of Studies:	French
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone literature, history, culture and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

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.

Students 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.

Programme content

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called *modules*. The size of a module is measured in terms of *credits*; a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. Most French Department modules are 20 credits in size.

Modules are offered at one of three Levels. In ascending order these are:

Level 4 (corresponding to Part 1 of the standard degree course)

Level 5 corresponding to Part 2 of the standard degree course)

Level 6 (corresponding to Part 3 of the standard degree course)

To obtain a Single Honours degree in French Studies a Part-time student needs to accumulate, from each of the Levels 4, 5 and 6, credits totalling 360. The majority of these credits will be gained by taking modules within the French Department but, as explained below, there is scope for choosing modules offered on other degree programmes.

The pace at which Part-timers amass their credits varies according to individual choice in a way that is not possible for Full-timers who have to achieve 120 credits per year of their studies before moving on to the next Level. The University allows Part-timers to begin taking Level 5 modules as soon as they have 80 credits at Level 4, and similarly, to commence Level 6 modules once 80 credits at Level 5 have been secured. If they opt to straddle the different Levels in this fashion (as opposed to following a straightforward 120 Level 4, 120 Level 5 120 Level 6 sequence), Part-timers need to keep firmly in mind the stipulated overall tally of 360 credits.

The content of the programme is given below. It should be noted that it is possible to take FR103 in addition to (rather than instead of) FR104 in order to bring your total of Part 1 credits in French up to 60. The remaining credits at Level 4 should be chosen from the other Departments in the Faculty, to make up a total of 120.

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

FR101 Advanced French Language

20 C

and either				
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C	
or				
FR104	French Cinema	20	C	

Optional Module
either

FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C	
or				
FR104	French Cinema	20	C	

Or:

Intermediate French
Compulsory modules

FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	C	
and either				
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C	
or				
FR104	French Cinema	20	C	

Optional module:

FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C	
or				
FR104	French Cinema	20	C	

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR201	French Language	20	C	
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Optional modules

Students must choose five 20-credit additional modules. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook. They may replace 20 of these credits with modules from outside the French Studies programmes.

In addition to the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are allocated to Careers Management Skills (level 1) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Compulsory modules

FR303A Advanced Language Skills 20 6

Plus

EITHER FR301 Long Dissertation 40;6

and TWO or THREE 20-credit, Level 6 modules from the advertised list of Departmental options

OR FR3SD Short Dissertation 20; 6

and THREE or FOUR 20-credit, Level 6 modules from the list in question.

If the total number of credits at Level 6 chosen within the French Department adds up to 100, the remaining 20 credits at Level 6 should be chosen from another Department in the Faculty, to make up a total of 120.

(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

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Part-timers must have 40 credits in French at Level 4 (Part 1). They can, if they wish, take up to 60 credits in French at this stage. If their aim is to obtain the 80 credits enabling them to embark immediately on Level 5 modules they must make up the remaining credits by selecting a module or modules from elsewhere in the University. They must also pass the Part 1 examinations in May/June.

To pass these examinations, candidates must have

- a minimum mark of 40% across all modules taken
- a minimum mark of 40% in modules specifically required for progression to a degree in French
- a mark of at least 30% in modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

Anyone who fails the May/June examinations has the right to resit in the following August/September.

Progression from Level 5(Part 2) to Level 6 (Part 3) is effected in a similar way. A Part 2 examination pass in at least 80 credits' worth of Level 5 modules is a prerequisite for taking Level 6 modules. An overall average of 40% minimum is required for a Pass, plus a mark of at least 40% in French Language 2 (FR201), and a mark of at least 30% in modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. A second attempt is possible in August/September for those who do not qualify in May/June.

In Parts 2 and 3 students may take up to 20 credits from modules available on degree programmes elsewhere in the University.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but it should be noted that Level I modules will count for 33% of the final assessment, and Level H modules will count for 67% of the final assessment.

It is highly recommended that Part-time students spend time in a French-speaking country over the duration of their degree. Any period of residence is not, however, assessed.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

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

Summary of teaching and assessment

In Part 1, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. The structure of the content modules in Parts 2 and 3 allows for classes normally of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions.

All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students except for the grammar component of FR201 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access.

Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework and/or formal examination.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three 'A' level subjects or 320 from four, to include 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) OR 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A *at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) OR 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. 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. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the French departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via french@reading.ac.uk

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the international Students Office first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

Admissions Tutor:

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 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, Counselling and Study Advisors. 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 in the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

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The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The Self-Access Centre for Individual Language Learning in the Language Resource Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies.

The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. The grammar strand at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. .

Career prospects

Students graduating in French 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 translation. A degree involving French can 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 French can be a distinct asset.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to:

1. understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
2. read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts;
3. write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style.

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. The French language
2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture
3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 2, grammar is taught by Powerpoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. 2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context.

Assessment

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3), an oral examination (1) and dissertation (1-3).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. critically apply literary and historical concepts;
2. identify and solve problems;
3. analyse and interpret;
4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced.

Assessment

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of appropriate written and oral responses to the tasks set.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. speak, write, read and understand French at a high level of proficiency;

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the

2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each module. At Part 1 classes and tutorials help students to work on the production of essays. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;
2. manage time and work to deadlines;
3. participate effectively in groups;
4. work independently;
5. find information and use information technology;
6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
8. Careers Management.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules require regular written and/or oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different modules within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PAR student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory sessions in Part 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of the course with students undertaking appropriate activities.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency - clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. It is assessed by essay and dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing, but this skill is not formally assessed. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.

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.