

BA Italian
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):	
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	5 years
Date of specification:	23/Jun/2011
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
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 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

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. For a full-time programme, each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size). Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are:

Certificate (C) level
Intermediate (I) level
Honours (H) level

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling a minimum of 360 credits. Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

Certificate level (C) 100 credits minimum
Intermediate level (I) 100 credits minimum
Honours level (H) 100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 involves studying modules totalling at least 80 credits and no more than 120 Certificate level credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study), then passing the Part 1 Examination in order to progress to the remainder of the degree.

Post-Part I, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme.

Students must take at C level those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at C level.

Of the 100 or more credits taken at I level, 5 are taken up with Career Management Skills. Details of this component appear in Appendix 1

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to study any H level modules.

The content of this particular degree programme is:

Part 1

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

Compulsory modules (to total of 40 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:

At least four modules (to the value of 80 credits) from the I level optional modules available. 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.

Part 3

Compulsory modules

IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	20	H
IT305	Dante	20	H
IT3SD	Short dissertation	20	H

Optional modules:

At least two modules (to the value of 40 credits) from the H level optional modules available. 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.

Progression requirements

The structure of part-time degrees is that students first of all take the degree subject(s) they want to study at Certificate level. The subject(s) form Part 1 of the programme. Part 1 must contain at least 80 credits, so that, if the modules for a student's chosen subject (s) add up to less than 80 credits, an additional module or two will need to be taken to achieve that total.

There is a Part 1 Examination in May or June, which students have to pass in order to go on to their degree choice at Intermediate and Honours levels.

To proceed from Part 1 students must have passed modules totalling at least 80 credits at Certificate level and must also have passed those modules required for progression to their chosen degree, with a minimum mark of 40%. To pass the Part 1 Examination a student must have a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module. Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules in a re-examination held in September.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to any module at level H.

Re-examinations for C, I and H level modules are held annually in September.

Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

Certificate of Higher Education 100 credits at levels C and 20 credits at any level.

Diploma of Higher Education 240 credits, with at least 100 credits at I level or above.

The specific progression requirements for this programme are as follows:

To proceed from Part 1 students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in Italian, and must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole, with no module mark under 30%.

To proceed from Level I to Level H students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in either Advanced Italian Language II or Intermediate Italian Language, and must have achieved an overall average of 40%, with no module mark under 30%. Students must also satisfy the Examiners that they have fulfilled the residence requirements (a period totalling two to three months in Italy) by completing the relevant project and oral examination before completing their Level H language module.

The Short Dissertation (IT3SD) must be submitted by the first day of the Spring Term preceding graduation.

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. At Levels I and H, 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 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.

The residence abroad module will be assessed by oral examination(s) (10 credits) and either on the basis of marks gained abroad or on the completion of a project (10 credits). (Students taking two foreign languages for a part-time joint degree will be required to spend approved periods abroad which together will constitute the 20 credits of residence requirement.)

The University's honours classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

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

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

either

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

or

260 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 or from the Departmental Co-ordinator for Part-time Students:

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-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 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

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, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities also has a Co-ordinator for Part-time Degrees.

The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The Access Point for Individual Language Learning (APILL) in 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

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students taking this programme are required to spend two to three months in Italy during the vacation(s), either at an institution of higher education or in other ways approved by the Department. The period of residence abroad may be made up of short approved visits.

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 at I level, but after the residence in Italy all students follow the same language 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.
- 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.. 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 compulsory residence 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 period of residence abroad. Career management is taught through a distinct module linked with preparation for study 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.