

**BA French and History of Art**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0**

**UCAS code: RV13**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Awarding Institution:                       | University of Reading   |
| Teaching Institution:                       | University of Reading   |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | Languages and Related Studies, History of Art, Architecture and Design. |
| Faculty:                                    | Arts and Humanities Faculty   |
| Programme length:                           | 4 years   |
| Date of specification:                      | 19/Apr/2011   |
| Programme Director:                         | Prof Françoise Le Saux  |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Dr Paul Davies<br>Prof Françoise Le Saux                                |
| Board of Studies:                           | Modern Languages and European Studies                                   |
| Accreditation:                              |   |

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential and equip them with a range of skills to underpin their life-long development, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies.

The French Studies syllabus aims to produce graduates who understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and can communicate orally with fluency and accuracy; who read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts; who write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style; and who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone literature, culture, history and politics,

The History of Art syllabus aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in different places and times. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of its production and reception within diverse cultural and social contexts. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture, visual artefacts and culture, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views.

**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.

**Programme content**

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with information about module lists from which the student must make a choice (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 in combination with their second subject. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title, and the credit requirement in French and History of Art indicated for each Part.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>                      | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| HA1AB           | History of Art and Architecture Workshop | 20             | 4            |

**Either:**

Advanced French  
Compulsory modules

|       |                          |    |   |
|-------|--------------------------|----|---|
| FR101 | Advanced French Language | 20 | 4 |
|-------|--------------------------|----|---|

**and either**

|                 |  |    |   |
|-----------------|--|----|---|
| FR103           | Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature | 20 | 4 |
| <b>or</b>       |  |    |   |
| FR104           | French Cinema                                      | 20 | 4 |
| Optional Module |  |    |   |
| <b>either</b>   |  |    |   |
| FR103           | Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature | 20 | 4 |
| <b>or</b>       |  |    |   |
| FR104           | French Cinema                                      | 20 | 4 |

**Or:**

Intermediate French  
Compulsory modules

|                   |  |    |   |
|-------------------|--|----|---|
| FR102             | Intermediate French Language                       | 20 | 4 |
| <b>and either</b> |  |    |   |
| FR103             | Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature | 20 | 4 |
| <b>or</b>         |  |    |   |
| FR104             | French Cinema                                      | 20 | 4 |

Optional Module

**either**

|           |  |    |   |
|-----------|--|----|---|
| FR103     | Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature | 20 | 4 |
| <b>or</b> |  |    |   |
| FR104     | French Cinema                                      | 20 | 4 |

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

Optional modules

At least 20 credits to be made up from the following:

|       |   |    |   |
|-------|---|----|---|
| HA1AA | Art's Histories: a survey                                 | 20 | 4 |
| HA1AC | Makers and making: artist, architects and their practices | 20 | 4 |

Students can choose modules available from elsewhere in the University to make up 120 credits

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>   | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| FR201           | French Language   | 20             | 5            |
| HA2DD           | Distance and difference: perspectives on art, architecture and visual | 20             | 5            |
| HA2ST           | Study Trip Abroad   | 20             | 5            |
| ML2CMS          | Career Management Skills  | 5              | 5            |

Optional modules in French

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 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.

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.

Optional module in History of Art: 20 credits

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

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

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| HA3DI           | Dissertation        | 40             | 6            |
| FR3Y02          | Oral in French      | 40             | 6            |

Optional module

either

|        |                         |    |   |
|--------|-------------------------|----|---|
| FR2Y31 | University study abroad | 40 | 5 |
|--------|-------------------------|----|---|

or

|        |                      |    |   |
|--------|----------------------|----|---|
| FR2Y32 | Assistantship abroad | 40 | 5 |
|--------|----------------------|----|---|

or

|        |                       |    |   |
|--------|-----------------------|----|---|
| FR2Y33 | Work placement abroad | 40 | 5 |
|--------|-----------------------|----|---|

### **Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>             | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| FR303           | Advanced French Language Skills | 20             | 6            |

Optional modules in French

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant handbook.

In History of Art

Optional modules: 60 credits.

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme 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 proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, or from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be considered.

In addition, in Part 1, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and at least 40% over both compulsory modules in History of Art.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

And obtain a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory French 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 French-speaking country.

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 French

In French, 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. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

In History of Art

At Part 1, teaching in the History of Art Department is by lectures and seminars. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. At Parts 2 and 3, teaching is principally by seminar. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor and is assessed only as coursework.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 320 points from 4 subjects or 300 points from 3 ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have either 'A' level French Grade B (and a minimum of a Grade C), 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A\* at GCSE French. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

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.

### **Admissions Tutor:**

### **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 Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and degree course students in both subjects provides extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies Resource Room contains a range of reference works/videos/DVDs which can be used by students, and offers congenial study space. Foreign language newspapers and magazines are also available in the department.

The Self-Access Language Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages.

Within the History of Art, additional support is provided through a subject-specific reading room containing essential course texts, reference works, some current periodicals and photocopying facilities. There is also a slide library containing slides from all periods of art and architecture history which students will consult as part of their studies. It includes resources in video tapes and computers and in digital imaging and elearning such as BlackBoard. First hand study of works of art is provided through particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad as well as through the department's own collections, mainly of drawings. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their personal tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme, supported by a comprehensive Programme Handbook issued to each student individually which includes extensive advice on study skills. 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.

### **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 translating. A degree involving French leads, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, 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.

A number of specialised careers are open to History of Art graduates, such as jobs in Museums, auction houses, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Their visual skills also make them attractive to the advertising industry. In addition the skills which History of Art graduates acquire, such as analytical abilities, problem solving, research skills, independence and adaptability, mean they are sought after for jobs in a wide range of fields, including publishing, teaching, social work, accountancy, personnel, banking and commerce, retailing, marketing, IT, civil service and local government. A number of students go on to post-graduate study in History of Art, both at MA and PhD level, both at Reading and elsewhere.

### **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 as an assistant teacher, on work placement or at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has a Socrates agreement.

Students in the Department of History of Art have the opportunity to spend a period of study abroad during Part 2 as part of the Socrates scheme.

### **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:**

###### **In French**

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.

###### **In History of Art**

1. a broad range of art, architecture and visual culture from the Middle Ages to the present day both in the West and in comparison to selected cultures in other times and places.
2. specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods and issues in art history.
3. key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to the historiography of the subject.
4. advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning.
5. technical language of the subject..

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

###### **In French**

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. French grammar is by grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework at Part 1 and by Powerpoint lectures in Part 1, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.
- 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 (2-3).

###### **In History of Art**

Basic knowledge is provided through formal lectures in Part 1, supported by set tasks for practising the elementary analysis of visual artefacts. Feedback is initially through tutorials, seminars and through formative assessed work. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in the guided selection of period options at Part 2, where the teaching is seminar and discussion based. Feedback is provided through written responses to seminar participation and in formative

assessed work. In later parts of the programme, and beginning at Part 2, students will take increasing responsibility for their own learning, fostered through the guided selection of increasingly specialised options and independent study, including a dissertation. Feedback is provided through tutorials and written reports on seminar presentations.

#### Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. A dissertation and oral presentation also contribute.

### Skills and other attributes

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

##### In French

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.

##### In History of Art

1. analyse and interpret visual artefacts;
2. use visual resources as evidence;
3. plan, organise and write a coherent argument;
4. transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another;
5. plan, organise and conduct an independent enquiry.

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

##### In French

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course 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 place great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

##### In History of Art

How to analyse and interpret visual artefacts is constantly exemplified in formal lectures and in seminars from the start of Part 1. Lectures and seminars will also demonstrate how to use visual evidence in the construction of arguments and students will develop advanced skills in this through seminar presentations and coursework tasks. Such skills are additionally fostered through opportunities to study visual artefacts at first hand including in the compulsory module involving study abroad. The ability to transfer knowledge from one area of the programme to another is evidence of high level performance. The ability to organise and structure arguments is emphasised throughout but particularly in compulsory modules and through modules in independent study and the dissertation.

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

##### In French

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

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

##### In French

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each course. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much

based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

### **In History of Art**

1. identify, locate and record visual sources;
2. memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources;
3. identify, find and organise written sources;
4. identify appropriate resources including the internet for the study of works of art.

### **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.

primary and secondary reading material is in French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.

### **In History of Art**

Identifying visual artefacts and sources is taught from Part 1, including assessed tasks which test the student's ability to find and select appropriate visual evidence for analysis and comparison. Such skills are additionally fostered in Part 2 where greater emphasis is placed on increasingly complex and sophisticated analyses, including the ability to recall and use visual and other data from often disparate and widely separated sources and locations. 3 and 4 are taught throughout the course but particularly emphasised in the independent study tasks in Part 2 and dissertation in Part 3.

### *Assessment*

#### **In French**

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.

#### **In History of Art**

1-3 are assessed in all coursework, including oral presentations, and written examinations, and 4 is assessed in independent study tasks.

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

All courses require regular written and 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 courses within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS 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 session in year 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 Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.

### *Assessment*

#### **Assessment**

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problemsolving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency - clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. It will be 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 and technology-enhanced language learning, but these skills are 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.**