

BA French and International Relations
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

UCAS code: RL12

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| Awarding Institution: | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution: | University of Reading |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | Languages and Related Studies, Politics and International Relations. |
| Faculty: | Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty |
| Programme length: | 4 years |
| Date of specification: | 04/May/2012 |
| Programme Director: | Prof Françoise Le Saux |
| Programme Advisor: | Prof Andrew Knapp Dr Jeremy Lester |
| Board of Studies: | Modern Languages and European Studies |
| Accreditation: | |

Summary of programme aims

The French part of 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 culture, history and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development. The International Relations curriculum gives students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main sub fields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and politics, and international relations. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of domestic and international politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. They progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

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, numeracy, 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 the number and availability 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 Personal Tutor, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| PO1IRS | Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies | 20 | 4 |
| PO1MOG | Modern Government | 20 | 4 |
| PO1IPI | Introduction to Political Ideas | 20 | 4 |

In French

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| FR101 | Advanced French Language <i>and either</i> | 20 | 4 |
|-------|---|----|---|

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

Or:

Intermediate French

Compulsory modules

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

Optional Module

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| | <i>and either</i> | | |
| FR103 | Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature <i>or</i> | 20 | 4 |
| 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.

In Politics

Optional Module

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------|----|---|
| PO1BRI | British Society | 20 | 4 |
|--------|-----------------|----|---|

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

| Mod code | Module Title | Credits | Level |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| FR201 | French Language | 20 | 5 |
| ML2CMS | Career Management Skills | 5 | 5 |
| PO2MIR | Modern International Relations | 20 | 5 |
| PO2SOP | The Study of Politics | 20 | 5 |

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Politics

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

In French

Optional modules

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

In International Relations

Optional module (choose one from)

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|---|
| PO2AMG | American Government and Politics | 20 | 4 |
| PO2BGP | British Government and Politics | 20 | 4 |
| PO2EPI | European Political Integration | 20 | 4 |
| PO2THI | Political Thinking | 20 | 4 |

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----|---|
| PO2RGP | Russian Government and Politics | 20 | 4 |
|--------|---------------------------------|----|---|

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

Compulsory modules

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| FR3Y02 | Oral in French | 40 | 6 |
| PO3LDS | Politics (Joint Language) Dissertation | 40 | 6 |

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 |

In French

Optional modules

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

International Relations (60 credits)

Students choose at least one module from each list

List A

| | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|
| PO3BFD | British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945 | 20 | 6 |
| PO3MEA | Politics and International Relations of the Middle East | 20 | 6 |
| PO3PES | Politics of Electoral Systems | 20 | 6 |
| PO3UKP | United Kingdom Politics since 1960 | 20 | 6 |
| PO3USF | United States Foreign Policy since 1950 | 20 | 6 |

List B

| | | | |
|--------|--|----|---|
| PO3CSS | Introduction to Critical Security Studies | 20 | 6 |
| PO3DPP | Democracy and Democracy Promotion | 20 | 6 |
| PO3EUS | European Security | 20 | 6 |
| PO3FPT | Feminism and Political Theory | 20 | 6 |
| PO3INT | Intelligence, War and International Relations | 20 | 6 |
| PO3ITE | International Terrorism | 20 | 6 |
| PO3MID | Modern Ideologies | 20 | 6 |
| PO3PIE | Politics of the International Economy | 20 | 6 |
| PO3STH | Strategic Theory | 20 | 6 |
| PO3SWW | Strategy in the Two World Wars | 20 | 6 |
| PO3UNI | UN and International Order | 20 | 6 |
| PO3WPE | War, Peace and International Ethics | 20 | 6 |
| PO3GST | Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China | 20 | 6 |

(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 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1 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 taken for French and International Relations.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must normally 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 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 allows for classes normally of no more than 25 students, and at Part 3 of no more than 18 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, formal examination or a mix of coursework and formal examination.

To be eligible for Honours, students must normally have obtained an overall average of 40%.

In International Relations, modules at Part 1 are assessed at 40% coursework and 60% examination. There is a greater diversity of assessment at Part 2. Students should consult each individual module description form for the full details. Apart from the Dissertation, Part 3 is assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%).

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.

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. International candidates are advised to contact either 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 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

The departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and degree course students provide 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 of languages.

In International Relations, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. Feedback is given on essay work. There is also a departmental Library and a photocopier available for students' use.

Career prospects

Students graduating in this programme work in many different fields.

A degree in French and International Relations, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to the study of law and accountancy; and a large numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be a distinct asset.

It can also lead to a career in education, in schools, colleges, extra-mural departments or the WEA, or to teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; or it can be the basis for post-graduate courses in various areas, including translation.

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 an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter.

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 International Relations

4. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics;
5. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations;
6. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small group learning and regular assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. The acquisition of French grammar is by PowerPoint lectures at Part 2, 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 - 6 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). The assessment (5-8) is by coursework and written unseen examinations. Also presentations and discussion in supervisor-led seminars.

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 International Relations
5. think logically on Political matters;
 6. analyse issues in political life;
 7. understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics;
 8. transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the disciplines to another.

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 based on bibliographies and/or evidence.
- In International Relations
5. critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own;
 6. utilise problem-solving skills;
 7. manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.

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

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 places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1 - 8 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2 - 8 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.

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. 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

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 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, 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.