BA French and Italian   **UCAS code: RR13**
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

Awarding Institution: University of Reading
Teaching Institution: University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):   Languages and Related Studies.
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: Miss Paola Nasti
Board of Studies: Modern Languages and European Studies
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. It aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French and Italian, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests. They will also 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.

Programme content
The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their Personal Tutor, to make 120 credits in each Part. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the programme Director.

The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Either:
Advanced French
Compulsory modules
FR101   Advanced French Language   20   4

And either
FR103   Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature   20   4
or
FR104   French Cinema   20   4

Or:
Intermediate French
Compulsory modules
FR102   Intermediate French Language   20   4
and either
FR103   Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature   20   4
or
FR104   French Cinema   20   4

Optional Module
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	4

or

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 Italian
Compulsory module(s) (40 credits):
For students with A Level or equivalent:

IT1001	Advanced Italian Language	20	4
IT1002	Twentieth-Century Italian Culture	20	4

Non-advanced students (including complete beginners) take ONE of the following, depending on experience:

IT1003	IT1003 Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture	20	4
IT1005	Italian Language (Lower Intermediate) and Culture	20	4

Optional module (open to all students):
IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	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

In French
Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)
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.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level 1) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

In Italian
Compulsory modules (to total of 20 credits)
Either:
IT201	Advanced Italian Language	20	5

Or
IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5

Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)
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.

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

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FR3Y02A	Oral in French (Half-year in France students)	20	6
FR3YIT	French/Italian Dissertation	40	6
IT3Y31	Italian Oral and Textual Skills	20	6
FR2Y31A	University Study Abroad (Half Year)	20	5
IT2Y31	Credits From Italian University Course (1)	20	5

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FR303	Advanced French Language Skills	20	6
IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6

In French
Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)
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 Italian
Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)
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.

(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 condoned.
In addition, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and Italian.

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 achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.
In addition, in Part 1 students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and Italian.

To proceed from the 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 and in Italy.

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, timed tests, and/or formal examination. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.
In Italian, teaching is through seminars, lectures, essay tutorials and language classes. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. Individual supervision is provided for the Dissertation. The Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university. The Italian Oral, Written and Textual Skills will be examined at Part 3.
Weighting

In order to be eligible for a four-year Bachelor's degree in the School of Modern Languages which incorporate a language year abroad a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which not less than 180 shall normally be at H level or above, except in the case where a candidate is deemed to have achieved a Pass).

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained
either
320 points from 4 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels
or
300points from 3 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels.
Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. No prior qualification in Italian is required.
Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, 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. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.
Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the International Students' Office first, to discuss the suitably 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 (SEECC), 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-Acccess Language Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages.

Career prospects
A degree involving French and Italian, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads 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 and Italian can be a distinct asset. 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.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a Year Abroad at an institute of higher education in France or Belgium ,and Italy, 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:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

French: 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. 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.
Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but after the year in Italy all students follow the same 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. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow University courses.
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).

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 literary, historical or

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,

cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
4. Demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference
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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 coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1.. Speak, write, read and understand French and Italian 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.

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 module. 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 and in Italian. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French and Italian to a high level.

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 . 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 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 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.