

BA German and Italian
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

UCAS code: RR23

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Modern Languages.
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	24/Apr/2012
Programme Director:	
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 progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German and Italian, who are well-informed about German and Italian culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline.

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 (both written and oral), information handling, team working, career management, 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 of German and Italian 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; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University. Part 1 in German includes the study of both language (with an intensive language course for students with no German) and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture and history. Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Other students take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies: this also permits qualification for Part 2. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take further optional modules on historical, cultural and literary topics from 1750 to the present.. In Italian students take one compulsory 20-credit language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Italy and in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German and Italian culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study in each subject and are free to pursue their interests within German and Italian studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options. Up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

In German

Either (for students entering with A-level German or equivalent)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

LA1PG4	IWLP German Level 4	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	4

Or (for students entering with no knowledge of German)

Compulsory modules

GM1IG1	Intensive German 1	20	4
GM1IG2	Intensive German 2	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	4

In Italian

Compulsory modules

For students with A Level or equivalent:

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

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

IT1003	Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture	40	4
IT1005	Italian Language (Lower Intermediate) and Culture	40	4

Optional module (open to all students):

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
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Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5

In German

The compulsory language module is either:

GM2L2	German Language II	20	5
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Or (only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 1)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4
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Students take a further 40 credits (20 in each of the two terms) from a list of optional modules on German culture and language.

In Italian

One of

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	I
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Or:

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	I
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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

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
GM3YDSI	Dissertation	40	6
GM2YS20	German Scheine (half year)	20	5
IT2Y31	Credits From Italian University Course (1)	20	5
IT3Y31	Italian Oral and Textual Skills	20	6
GM3YOR	Oral Examination in German	20	6

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6

Students must normally take modules to the value of 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Italian, but 20 credits taken elsewhere in the University may be substituted for one of the non-language modules below.

In German

One of

GM3GPT	Translation into German and English	20	6
GM3GSC	German Structure and Composition	20	6

Plus two 20-credit modules to be chosen from a list of options available in the department.

All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will be subject to a minimum and maximum number of participants.

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 to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% or above in all of their compulsory modules in German and Italian, and must have achieved an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 examination and have no module mark under 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of 40% or above in their compulsory German language module and in a module in Italian language, must obtain an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits taken at Part 2, and have no module mark under 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of study or employment in Italy and in a German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but it should be noted that second-year modules count as two-ninths, year-abroad modules three-ninths, and final-year modules four-ninths of the final assessment.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad modules *German Scheine* and *Italian credits* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian and Italian universities, and the Oral/Aural modules will be examined at Part 3.

Admission requirements

Either 300 pts from 3 A-level subjects,

Or 320 pts from 3 A-level subjects and one AS-level.

Candidates must have either A-level German or A* at GCSE, or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German (and, where appropriate for the level of entry, Italian). Students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language. (No previous knowledge of Italian is required for this programme)

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutors, who may be contacted via german@reading.ac.uk or (for Italian) c.j.h.duggan@reading.ac.uk

Admissions Tutor: Dr Melani Schroeter (for German)

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

In addition the Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students in both subjects provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Departmental Resource Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. 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 German and Italian television by satellite.

The Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and during Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. Italian Studies has a Part 1 Co-ordinator and a Programme Adviser responsible for degree course students of German and Italian.

Career prospects

Students graduating in German and Italian go on to work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, 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 German and Italian can be an important asset. Some graduates also 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.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend the first half of their year abroad at a German or Austrian university, and the second half at an Italian university, with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter. 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. A wide range of German and Italian vocabulary and idiom.
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German and Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
4. A selection of specialist topics in German and Italian history, society, literature and culture
5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
6. Methods of critical textual analysis

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6)
Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)
Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6)
Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6)
Dissertation (any of 1-6 depending on chosen topic)
Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)

Assessment

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-6)
Oral examination (1-2)
Dissertation (5-6, also 4)
Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
2. Identify and analyse problems and issues
3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
4. Evaluate alternative critical views
5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).

Assessment

Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Communicate in German and Italian at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German and Italian
3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement,

although only the academic components are assessed.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. give oral presentations
3. use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. manage time and work to deadlines
6. work independently and be self-reliant
7. take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. plan and evaluate career possibilities

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

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.