

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

UCAS code: NR22

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies, Business & Management.
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	24/Apr/2012
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	Dr Lucy Newton
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme in German and Management Studies seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to postgraduate study or a wide range of careers. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German and are well-informed about German culture, modern history and current affairs, and have understood a range of key functional aspects of business.

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 Management 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 states which modules must be taken (compulsory modules), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme director, to make 120 credits in each of Parts 1, 2 and 3.

In German, Part 1 includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture and history. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, begin the study of more specialised language of German business and economics, and take modules based on a variety of short options on German culture from 1750 to the present. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German management culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students must take one module of German language for Business and Management and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

In Management, Part 1 includes a broad introduction to the theoretical basis of business and management. In Part 2, students continue to develop an understanding of the fundamentals of business and management. In Part 3, they have an opportunity to specialise in some areas of management and to apply management techniques and skills to business practice.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC104	Economics For Managers	20	C
EC1F5	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	20	C
MM1F4	Introduction to Management	20	C

Compulsory modules in German

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

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

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

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

Optional Module in Management

Either

MM1F10	Student Enterprise	20	4
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Or

MM1F2	Introductory Financial Accounting (compulsory at part 2 if not taken at part 1)	20	4
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Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

GM2L2	German Language II	20	5
GM2GMB	German for Business Purposes	20	5
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
MM217	Introduction to International Business & Management	20	5
MM256	Management Skills	20	5

German optional module

Students take a further 20 credits (10 in each of the two terms) from a list of optional modules on German culture and language.

Management optional modules

MM1F2	Introductory Financial Accounting (if not taken at part 1)	20	4
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Otherwise, optional modules in Management available at part 2 to total 20 credits. Students must choose ONE 20-credit option module. A complete list is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant School Handbook. There is no guarantee that every option module will be available in any given year. New option modules may also be added.

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

Compulsory modules

GM3YEUR	Aural Examination in German	20	6
GM3YOR	Oral Examination in German	20	6
MM353P	Business Project	40	6

Students also take

either:

GM2YS40	German <i>Scheine</i> (full year) (20 of the credits for German <i>Scheine</i> will be awarded for courses approved by the Director of Management Studies.)	40	Level 5
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or

GM2YWPL	Work Placement Report (This module includes 20 credits for work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment.)	40	Level 5
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Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
GM3GMB	German for Management and Business	20	6

Optional Modules

In German

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

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

In Management:

Students must choose THREE 20-credit option modules. A complete list is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant School Handbook. There is no guarantee that every option module will be available in any given year. New option modules may also be added.

Modules typically, but not exclusively cover, Strategic Management; Comparative International Management; International Marketing; Business Ethics; Finance, and E-Business. Some modules have I- level pre-requisites. (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% in the compulsory German modules and 40% in Introductory Management, an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole, and no module mark below 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must have obtained at least 40 % in their compulsory German language module. In addition they must have an overall average of 40% and no mark below 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

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 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

(German) 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 module *Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and the Oral/Aural module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

(Management) Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is 20%, other than in special cases.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained Grade C or better in English at GCSE, plus either A-level German or A* at GCSE; and achieved:

UCAS Tariff: either 300 points from three A-level subjects or 320 points from 3 A-Levels and one AS-Level
International Baccalaureate: 31 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBB (including German)

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 d.tsang@reading.ac.uk.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Melani Schroeter

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

In addition the Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students 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 offers a congenial study space. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. The Department of Management's Student Handbook and Guide issued to Part 1 and degree course students provides detailed information on the programme and on resources and study skills. The Department has a resource room with reference books and computers for student use.

Career prospects

Students graduating in German and Management work in many different fields in both the private and the public sectors, for example in banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, and universities, or in the travel industry, where their knowledge of a major European language 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.

Graduates on this programme may apply for exemptions from relevant professional examinations of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. Students on this programme may become student members of the Institute of Management.

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 at a German or Austrian university with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter, or on a work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on the Erasmus & Study Abroad website.

Students who wish to undertake a work placement must obtain authorisation from the Board of Management Studies by the June meeting in the second year of study. Applications should be handed in to the Director of Management Studies by the end of the Spring Term at the latest.

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 vocabulary and idiom

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2,

2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German 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 history, society, literature and culture
5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
6. Methods of critical textual analysis
7. The theoretical basis of management and key functional areas of business
8. Current developments in the practice and theory of business management
9. Fundamental concepts of business management relevant to the student becoming a manager in a UK business
10. The environmental and ethical context of business management in the UK
11. An understanding of the importance of international business and the drivers of change in business in this country and abroad, including management practice and business cultures in other countries

- 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)
 Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)
 Lectures; tutor-led tutorials; student and tutor-led seminars and problem-based learning (7-11)

Assessment

- Combination of unseen examinations and regular assessed work (1-6)
 Oral examination (1-2)
 Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)
 Coursework; written unseen examinations, seminar presentations: to provide a basic knowledge of methods and principles used in business management literature and cases and to promote the ability to appraise it critically (7-11)

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. Analyse, evaluate and interpret the assumptions and principles underpinning business management
6. Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice
7. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
8. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
9. 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 (2-6), essay assignments and feedback (1-7), and through language classes (8)

Assessment

- Skills 1-4 are assessed either in the non-language German components of the programme, 2, 5-6 in seminars and tutorials in management, 7 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 8 in language teaching, 9 by means of the business project

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
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. Understand the economic basis of the firm in its wider economic, political and social environment
6. Recognise and understand basic financial and management accounting features of a firm
7. Evaluate the behaviour, culture and strategy of firms

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 9 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 10 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme. Skills 5-8 are taught and learned through practical projects; placements; seminars; lectures; problem-based scenarios in Management

Assessment

- 1-8 are assessed in examinations and in regular

8. Effectively apply key professional skills learnt in optional classes to the business world
9. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
10. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

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

coursework; 4 and 9 are assessed through the dissertation; 10 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

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 through a separate compulsory module.

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.