

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

**UCAS code: LR22**

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:	24/Apr/2012
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	Oisín Tansey
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme in German Studies seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to postgraduate study or a wide range of careers, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use to them outside the confines of the discipline.

The programme in Politics 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 subfields 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 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.

The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

**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, interpersonal skills, team-working, career management, 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 Politics 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, and also the Year Abroad, 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 German Part 1 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. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take optional modules on historical, cultural and literary topics 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 culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options. In Politics, students take three compulsory Part I modules totalling 60 credits. In Part 2 students continue with further compulsory modules in Comparative Government as well as an option. In the Year Abroad students write a dissertation related to the government and politics of Germany to be submitted by the second day of the eighth week of the Autumn term of Year 4. In Part 3 students take options in Politics.

## Part 1 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

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

Students must take modules worth 60 credits in Politics and a minimum of 40 credits in German, and must choose additional modules from this or other programmes to make 120 Part I credits in total.

### 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):

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):

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

### In Politics and International Relations

A further 20-credit optional module can be taken if desired

*Optional module:*

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4
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## Part 2 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Politics.

### Compulsory language module in German

Either

GM2L2	German Language II	20	5
Or	(only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 1)		
GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4

### Optional modules

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 Politics and International Relations

*Optional modules*

*One of the following (20 credits)*

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5
PO2RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	5

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO3LDS	Politics (Joint Language) Dissertation	40	6
GM3Y AUR	Aural Examination in German	20	6
GM3YOR	Oral Examination in German	20	6

Either

GM2YS40	German Scheine (full year)	40	5
Or			
GM2YASR	Assistant's report	40	5
Or			
GM2YWPL	Work Placement report	40	5

GM2YASR and GM2YWPL include 20 credits for work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment.

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Politics.

#### **In German**

One of

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

Plus two further 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 Politics and International Relations**

Students choose three 20-credit modules, at least one from each of the following lists.

##### **List A**

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3 MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3PES	Politics of Electoral Systems	20	6
PO3USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	6

##### **List B**

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	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, where all the credits are at C level or above, 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 German and Politics.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 100 credits taken in Part 2 (excluding PO2SOP) AND achieve a Pass in PO2SOP, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

In addition, achieve a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory German language module.

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 German-speaking country.

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

(In 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.

(In Politics) Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 modules typically involve seminars only. Assessment for Part I is a combination of coursework (40%) and examinations (60%), and for Parts 2 and 3 is a combination of coursework (25%) and examinations (75%).

### Admission requirements

Either 300 pts from three A-level subjects,

Or 320 pts from three A-levels and one AS-level.

Candidates must have either A-level German or A\* at GCSE or equivalent qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German. **Except that** students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.

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](mailto:german@reading.ac.uk) or [j.s.golub@reading.ac.uk](mailto:j.s.golub@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 (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](http://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. In Politics, 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. There is also written feedback on essay, a departmental Library and a photocopier.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in German 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 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.

Over the years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as child care, youth employment, probation and so on. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

### **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 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. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom.
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 comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics

##### **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

8. The various approaches and the study of Politics  
9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

examinations and regular assessed work (1-4)  
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

#### **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. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. 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

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.**