

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

**UCAS code:**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	History, Modern languages
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	24/Apr/2012
Programme Director:	Dr Emily West
Programme Advisor:	Mrs Pam Taylor
Board of Studies:	History
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme in History and German aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and are able to place Germany in the context of broader global and European patterns of historical development. Through the History element, students will engage with a broad chronological range but, also, are able to specialise in particular periods and topics of British, European and American history which provide both points of comparison and contrast with their studies of German history and culture.

**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, numeracy, 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**

Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. Part I 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. In Part 2 History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills. In German, students continue with the study of the German language, and take two optional modules, each involving a choice of short 'mini-options' on historical, cultural and literary topics from 1750 to the present. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enable students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture. During this period they will prepare for their dissertations in Part 3. In Part 3 students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies. At this stage, they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation involves a substantial research effort. In German, students must take one module of further German language study and are free to pursue their interests within German studies by selecting from a range of specialised options.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4

Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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## **In German Studies**

In German students are required to take the following compulsory modules:

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

## **Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

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

## **In History**

Students must take two Period modules (20 credits) with the co-requisite Skills module (10 credits), totalling 60 credits. At least one of these must be from the Early (medieval and early modern) era and one from the Modern. A complete list of Period options is available from the programme Director.

## **In German**

Compulsory modules

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.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills

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

*Compulsory modules*

GM2YLP	German language project	20	5
GM3YOR	Oral Examination in German	20	6
GM3YEUR	Aural Examination in German	20	6
HS3YDPG	Dissertation Preparation in History and German	20	6

20 level 6(H) credits of the 40 credit joint dissertation are placed in the year abroad (Dissertation Preparation Module) with a further 20 in the final year (Dissertation Completion Module). When the module mark for the Dissertation Completion Module is known that mark is entered for both dissertation modules. The 20 credits taken during the year abroad (Dissertation Preparation) therefore has no result until it is assessed alongside the Part 3 dissertation module (Dissertation completion). The mark for the Dissertation preparation module does not

affect progression from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students may therefore progress to part 3 with no mark for the Dissertation Preparation module.

### **In German**

#### *Optional Modules*

Either

GM2YS40	Scheine (full year)	40	5
or			
GM2YASR	Assistant's report	40	5
or			
GM2YWPL	Placement report	40	5

Both GM2ASR and GM2WPL include within the 40 credits 20 credits for Work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment.

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

HS3DCG	Dissertation Completion in History and German	20	6
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### **In History**

#### *Optional Modules*

Students choose two 20 credit Topic modules, totalling 40 credits in all.

A complete list of Topic modules is available from the Department of History.

### **In German**

One of

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

#### *Optional Modules*

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.

### **Progression requirements**

1. achieve an overall average of 40% over the 120 credits taken in Part 1, and
2. obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module, and
3. achieve a mark of at least 30% in modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

To progress from part two to part three, students must:

Achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

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.

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 two ninths of the total credit weighting, modules taken during the Year Abroad count for three ninths of the total credit weighting, and modules taken during Part 3 count for four ninths of the total credit weighting. Therefore, the Dissertation Commencement module will be weighted at 3, while the Dissertation module will be weighted at 4.

### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

In History, at Part 1, teaching is by lectures and seminars. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. The Part 3 Dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The Part 2 Skills modules are assessed through skills exercises while the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.

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.

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

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbooks, but it should be noted that Part 2 modules and year Abroad I-level modules will count for 33% of final assessment, and Year Abroad H-level modules and Part 3 modules will count for 67% of final assessment.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

A level: Either: 340 points over 4 subjects, including at least 2 A2, plus GCSE German, or: 300 points over 3 subjects, including at least 2 A2, plus GCSE German. There is no requirement that History should have been studied at A2 but entrants should normally have a B in German if entering the post-A-level programme. Except that students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.

(Two AS grades are accepted in place one A level); or

International Baccalaureate: 31 points preferably with History Grade 5 or 6; or

Advanced GNVQ: 2 units at Distinction and Grade C or higher at A level or 18 units at Distinction; or

Scottish Highers: 4 Bs or equivalent thereof.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School/Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

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. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

### **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 (SECC), 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)

Handbooks are provided to students in the first year. They are also available on the internet:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/german>, and via the Humanities Blackboard site. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and German culture, and the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has DVD and video viewing facilities. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme and provides detailed course handbooks for each section of the programme; a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. In History, students

are supported and advised by personal tutors and module convenors. There is also full written feedback on essay work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to Personal Tutors for discussion with students. Liaison Officers for both History and German coordinate the programme.

### **Career prospects**

Graduates in History and German are trained in clear thinking, language skills, diligence, independence, adaptability and the ability to understand people and situations in the world at large. Past graduates have used their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment both in Britain and abroad. Jobs have included accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. Many also enter the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing while others go into the civil service and local government. Several graduates also go on to postgraduate study in either History or German, both at MA and PhD level, at Reading and elsewhere.

### **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 destinations can be found on the Erasmus and Study Abroad website.

### **Programme Outcomes**

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to understand native-spoken German within an educated environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;

write accurately in German with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style;

read and understand a variety of historical and literary texts from different periods and discuss their significance in their cultural contexts;

express clearly-constructed, soundly based arguments about the works and topics studied, making effective use both of published studies and of their own independent judgement.

## **Knowledge and Understanding**

### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
2. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions
3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900, together with a selection of additional topics in German history, society, literature and culture
4. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis
5. A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues
6. The contextualization of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process
8. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture  
The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking German is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The Year Abroad in a German-speaking country offers immersion in German language and culture. Acquisition of aspects 2 - 8 is by lecture, workshop, seminar, 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 seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, skills exercises, and the dissertation. Knowledge and Understanding are also tested through the oral presentation attached to the Dissertation.

## **Skills and other attributes**

### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:**

1. Analyse and interpret historical, literary or

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Intellectual skills are developed through the

cinematic works in their cultural, socio-economic and political contexts

2. Apply literary and historical concepts
3. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
4. Identify problems and issues and conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately
5. Think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions
6. Accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources
7. Demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

### **C. Practical skills - able to:**

1. speak, write, read and understand German at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
4. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations and to engage in critical argument using relevant evidence or theoretical approaches;
5. acquire bibliographical and research skills through the retrieval and selection of information from a variety of sources.
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

### **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;

teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practise in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced. Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay, project, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The Dissertation requires students to engage creatively and critically with primary sources and/or historical interpretative works.

#### *Assessment*

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Throughout the programme skills are assessed through a combination of coursework essays and examinations and all of the skills are relevant to the production of the dissertation.

#### **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. Detailed 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 German. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of German 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, skills exercises, and examinations. Skill 5 is developed throughout the programme but is particularly relevant to the dissertation. Skill 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All modules 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 modules within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one

6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
8. Show sensitivity to cultural differences;
9. Make informed career plans.

session under the PARS student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skills 6 and 8 are especially developed during the year abroad, its importance being established during the preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Vocational awareness is promoted by the Careers Management Skills module.

#### *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. Written skills are examined at every stage both under timed conditions and in course work. Oral skills are examined in the oral presentation for the Dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. 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.**