

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

**UCAS code: RV35**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Philosophy; Languages and Related Studies.
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	14/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Dr John Preston
Programme Advisor:	Ms Paola Nasti
Board of Studies:	Philosophy
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The BA Philosophy Course aims to give students an understanding of central philosophical principles, concepts, problems, texts and figures, and to provide a programme of study which introduces progressive intellectual challenges and consolidates previous experience at each new level. To allow students to study in depth some aspects of Philosophy in which they have greater interest and to develop students' aptitude for Philosophy, engender a sense of belonging to a community of inquiry, and encourage intellectual development. Also to prepare students, where appropriate, for possible postgraduate study and provide a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

Four bridge modules (Language & Reality, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics, Dissertation) offer students an opportunity to reflect on philosophical issues concerning language or literature.

The Italian programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests.

**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 career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

The Philosophy degree will help students develop skills such as: presenting a coherent talk delivered from notes, producing concise and accurate written reports, the ability to critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate the student's own views. The Philosophy degree also encourages the ability to handle abstract ideas and utilise problem-solving skills.

Students of Italian will, in particular, 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. In the course of such activities, they will gain experience of using information technology, working in groups, and organising their own time.

The year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased cultural awareness and self-reliance.

**Programme content**

The following profile states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with lists of modules in any Part from which students must make a selection (the option modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. Part 1 in Philosophy introduces some major figures from the history of philosophy and introduces students to philosophical examinations of our most fundamental beliefs, for instance about truth and reality, or right and wrong. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to explore the ideas and approaches emerging in Part 1 in greater depth, including a range of primarily historical courses (e.g. studying Classical Greek thought or the ideas of the British Empiricists) and more topic driven courses (e.g. studying theories of knowledge, or critical thinking and logic). Part 3 encourages increasing specialisation in the subject, allowing students to choose more advanced courses from an extremely wide range of options. Independent research is also encouraged through the provision of a dissertation option at this level.

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 must take one 20-credit Italian language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two further Italian modules chosen from a range of broadly-based culture modules. During the year abroad the experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones: by the end of this period the differences between former beginners and other students will have been eliminated. Students further broaden their knowledge of Italian culture by pursuing courses of their own choice (to a value of 40 credits) at an Italian University; and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

Part 3 comprises one module of further Italian language study, and two additional modules chosen from a range of specialised topics relating to many different aspects of Italian culture.

Each programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits must be made up from optional Philosophy and Italian modules and/or modules elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3, remaining credits must be made up from modules in Philosophy or Italian, or elsewhere.

### **Part 1 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

In Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 40 or a maximum of 80 credits from the modules below. Other credits to be acquired from modules outside the Philosophy programme.

PP1HN	Human Nature	20	4
PP1VV	Values & Virtues	20	4
PP1MW	Mind and World	20	4
PP1CT	Critical Thinking	20	4

#### Italian Department

##### *Compulsory modules*

For students with A Level or equivalent:

IT1001	Advanced Italian Language 5	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*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5

Students must acquire 60 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. Part 2 optional modules include Philosophy of Mind, Logic and modules in the history of Philosophy

#### Italian Department

##### *Compulsory modules (to total of 20 credits)*

Either:

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
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Or:

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5
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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>Credit</i>	<i>Level</i>
IT2Y31	Credits From Italian University Course (1)	20	5
IT2Y32	Credits From Italian University Course (2)	20	5
IT3Y31	Italian Oral and Textual Skills	20	6
IT3Y32	Written Italian	20	6
PP3DIS	Dissertation	40	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

In Philosophy, students must acquire at least 60 credits from the list of options in Philosophy available from the Philosophy BA Programme Coordinator. A list of current options can also be found in the BA Programme Handbook. A wide variety of part 3 options will be available each year, reflecting the research interests of teaching staff.

Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)

In Italian 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.

### **Progression requirements**

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must achieve each of the following:

1. an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 1;
2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1;
3. an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken at Part 1;
4. a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 1;
5. a mark of at least 40% in each compulsory Italian module taken at Part 1.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3, students must achieve each of the following:

1. an overall average of at least 40% across the 120 credits in Part 2;
2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2;
3. an average of at least 40% in the Philosophy modules taken;
4. a mark of at least 40% in individual Philosophy modules amounting to not less than 40 credits in Part 2.

In addition, to proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must achieve

5. a mark of at least 40% in either Advanced Italian Language II or Intermediate Italian Language;
6. an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
7. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3 students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of studies at a University in Italy and have 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 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**

Teaching within Philosophy consists of lectures and small group seminars, with appropriate visual aides and course materials being provided throughout. The final assessment for the majority of Philosophy modules in all Parts is by a combination of assessed coursework and unseen examination (see BA Course Handbook for further information).

In Part 1 in Italian language modules are always taught in small groups and the other modules are taught by a mixture of lectures and seminars. In Parts 2 and 3 students are normally taught in small groups for all modules, and when lectures are used they are informal. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination.

The Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university. Italian oral, written and textual skills will be assessed in the Final Year.

The dissertation comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study.

Weighted Finals:

To reflect the notion of progression through the programme, Part 3 examinations will have a greater impact on a student's Final Degree Classification, with Part 2 examinations and Year abroad modules at I level contributing 33% of the Final grade and Year abroad modules at H Level and Part 3 examinations contributing 67%.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: Either: 320 points from 3 A levels and 1 AS level, or: 300 points from 3 A levels.

International Baccalaureate: complete diploma with a minimum score of 6,6,5 in at least three Higher Level subjects.

Advanced GNVQ: either B in one A-Level plus GNVQ (Advanced) in twelve modules passed with distinction, or GNVQ (Advanced) Distinction plus pass in four additional modules

Scottish Highers: BBBB or above

Irish Leaving Certificate: at least BBBCC in five higher-level subjects

No previous qualification in Italian is necessary.

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

Mature Students: Applications from mature students 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 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its relative merits. We recommend you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International Students: 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.

**Admissions Tutor:** Prof B. Hooker (Philosophy)

### **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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

Within the Department, information and guidance is offered through the Part 1 Handbook, and the B.A Course Handbook (covering Parts 2 and 3). There is also a Part 1 co-ordinator and an Honours Course co-ordinator who can be consulted on module choices within each part of the programme. Finally, the Part-time Programme co-ordinator is available to assist with all issues relating to the Part-time course.

The Italian Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. 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 Italian television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of Italian culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space.

### **Career prospects**

Over the years students who have followed the Philosophy 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), and the civil service. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for computer firms and large finance and insurance companies. In general, there is some evidence that IT firms appreciate the logical and analytic skills of the Philosophy graduate. Furthermore, a survey by the Royal Institute of Philosophy found that graduates with British Philosophy degrees consider their degree course to have been very relevant to their jobs, and report a very high level of job satisfaction

Students graduating in Italian work in many different fields. 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 translating. A degree involving Italian can also, like degrees in other arts subjects, lead 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 Italian can be a distinct asset.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The Department of Italian Studies participates in SOCRATES exchanges with the Universities of Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, and Venezia. Students spend the whole of the third year studying at one of these Universities. Further information on these Universities is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.rdg.ac.uk/italian/courses/undergraduate/year%20abroad.htm>

### **Programme Outcomes**

On successful completion of a BA course, students will have:

1. gained a knowledge and understanding of the main areas of Philosophy and of the views of great figures in the history of Philosophy
2. gained a deeper appreciation of particular issues in Philosophy, and at the forefront of philosophical debate, through studying a range of units informed by the research interests and professional activities of staff
3. acquired the abilities to think clearly and reason logically, critically to evaluate arguments, and to question the assumptions of any given viewpoint
4. acquired transferable skills of use in a wide variety of employment, thus enhancing their career opportunities
5. developed the skills necessary to pursue academic research or further study.

## **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

#### **Philosophy:**

1. Key historical aspects of Philosophy
2. An appreciation of philosophical ideas and approaches
3. Awareness of philosophical terms and concepts
4. Awareness of current research in the field and its direction.

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

Lectures; supervisor-led small group discussions; seminar groups with facilitator.

#### *Assessment*

Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations; while the module grade is determined by the results

**Italian:**

1. A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom;
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English);
3. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture;
4. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered.

of written unseen exams.

**Italian:**

1, 2.. At Part 1, 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 and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. 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.

3, 4. These areas are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.

**Assessment**

Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University courses are assessed by oral examinations. Modules on literature and culture are assessed by a combination of coursework essays and examination or, in one case, by an independent dissertation

**Skills and other attributes****B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:****Philosophy:**

1. critically read, comprehend and evaluate a large range of philosophical texts
2. synthesise information from a range of sources, providing a coherent overview of positions in logical space
3. analyse the logical construction of arguments
4. produce and defend positions in response to critical pressure

**Italian:**

1. analyse and interpret literary or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. think critically and independently.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies****Philosophy:**

As above, plus: self-directed learning facilitated through the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, and logical exercises.

**Assessment**

Guidance on student progress is given by feedback on coursework essays and seminar presentations, plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module. The module grade is determined by the results of written unseen exams.

**Italian:**

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial

preparation and regular support are provided.

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

#### **Philosophy:**

1. present a coherent talk delivered from notes
2. produce concise and accurate written reports
3. critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own.
4. utilise problem-solving skills

#### **Italian:**

5. speak, write, read and understand Italian at high or near-native levels of proficiency;
6. seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it critically;
7. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations;
8. plan and carry out limited research projects;
9. apply key methods and concepts of literary, historical and linguistic analysis.

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

#### **Philosophy:**

manage time effectively and prioritise workloads  
communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a wide range of means  
evaluate his/her own performance, and recognise the steps required for improvement.  
Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and more practical situations.  
use some IT skills, e.g. word processing and e-mail

#### **Italian:**

construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;  
think critically and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;  
locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);  
participate effectively in group activities;  
be self-reliant, organise their own time purposefully and work independently;  
show sensitivity to cultural differences;  
make informed career plans

*Assessment*

### **D. Transferable skills - able to:**

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

*Assessment*

**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.**