

**BA French and Italian (part time)  
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): | Languages and Related Studies.        |
| Faculty:                                    | Arts and Humanities Faculty           |
| Programme length:                           | 5 years                               |
| Date of specification:                      | 14/Sep/2011                           |
| Programme Director:                         | Prof Françoise Le Saux                |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Ms Paola Nasti                        |
| Board of Studies:                           | Modern Languages and European Studies |
| Accreditation:                              |                                       |

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. It aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French and Italian, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests. They will also have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

**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, 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 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.

**Programme content**

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called modules. The size of a module is measured in terms of credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size, but some are 10 credits, and others are multiples of 20 credits.

Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are:

Level 4 (corresponding to Part 1 of the standard degree course)

Level 5 (corresponding to Part 2 of the standard degree course)

Level 6 (corresponding to Part 3 of the standard degree course)

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling a minimum of 360 credits.

Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

Level 4 100 credits minimum

Level 5 100 credits minimum

Level 6 100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 involves studying modules totalling at least 80 credits and no more than 120 Level 4 credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study), then passing the Part 1 Examination in order to progress to the remainder of the degree.

Post-Part I, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme.

Students **MUST** take at level 4 those modules ( the 'compulsory' modules) required for progression in the BA Hons French & Italian programme, but **MAY** take individual modules from any other available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at level 4.

Of the 100 or more credits taken at Level 5, 5 are taken up with Career Management Skills.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at Level 5 before they can proceed to study any Level 6 modules. The profile which follows states which modules must be taken ('compulsory' modules), and explains where the student must make a selection of 'optional' modules, for each half of the combined programme. Not all 'optional' modules (usually listed in Departmental handbooks and available from the Programme Director) are necessarily available each year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. The number of credits for each module is given after its title.

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

#### **Either:**

Advanced French

|            |  |    |   |
|------------|--|----|---|
| FR101      | Advanced French Language                           | 20 | 4 |
| or         |  |    |   |
| FR102      | Intermediate French Language                       | 20 | 4 |
| and either |  |    |   |
| FR103      | Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature | 20 | 4 |
| or         |  |    |   |
| FR104      | French Cinema                                      | 20 | 4 |

#### *Optional Module:*

#### **either**

|       |  |    |   |
|-------|--|----|---|
| FR103 | Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature | 20 | 4 |
| or    |  |    |   |
| FR104 | French Cinema                                      | 20 | 4 |

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

#### *Compulsory module(s) (40 credits):*

For students with A Level or equivalent:

|        |                                   |    |   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| IT1001 | Advanced Italian Language         | 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 |
|--------|--|----|---|

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

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

|       |                               |    |   |
|-------|-------------------------------|----|---|
| FR201 | French Language 2             | 20 | 5 |
| And   |                               |    |   |
| IT201 | Advanced Italian Language II  | 20 | 5 |
| or    |                               |    |   |
| IT202 | Intermediate Italian Language | 20 | 5 |

*In French 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.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level 1) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

*In Italian optional modules (to total of 40 credits)*

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

|        |                                 |    |   |
|--------|---------------------------------|----|---|
| FR303A | Advanced French Language Skills | 20 | 6 |
| IT301  | Advanced Italian Language III   | 20 | 6 |

*French 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.

*Italian Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)*

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

(NB: In those programmes where the taking of 20 credits outside the main programme is permitted, no IWLP Level 1 Romance Language, or a Beginners' Latin, module, can be taken for credit by any Language finalist)

**Progression requirements**

Part-timers MUST have 40 credits in French and 40 credits in Italian at Level 4. They can, if they wish, take up to 60 credits in each. They must pass the Part 1 Examinations in May/June (and have the right to resit in August/September).

To pass these examinations, candidates must have

- a minimum mark of 40% across all modules taken
- a minimum mark of 40% in modules specifically required for a BA Hons French and Italian

NB:

In French, it is highly recommended that part-time students spend time in a French-speaking country over the duration of their degree. Any period of residence is not, however, assessed.

In Italian, there is a compulsory period of residence abroad, which must take place before the final year of studies. The length of this period is to be agreed upon by the student and the Department. The corresponding module will be assessed by oral examination(s) (10 credits) and either on the basis of marks gained abroad or on the completion of a project (10 credits).

Part-timers MUST have 40 credits in French and 40 credits in Italian at Level 4. They can, if they wish, take up to 60 credits in each. They must pass the Part 1 Examinations in May/June (and have the right to resit in August/September).

To pass these examinations, candidates must have

- a minimum mark of 40% across all modules taken
- a minimum mark of 40% in modules specifically required for a BA Hons French and Italian
- achieved a mark of at least 30% in modules amounting to not less than 100 credits

In addition, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and Italian.

Progression from Level 5 to Level 6 is effected in a similar way. A 'Part 2' examination pass in at least 80 credits' worth of Level 5 modules is a prerequisite for taking Level 6 modules.

To pass these examinations, candidates must have

- a minimum mark of 40% across all modules taken
- a minimum mark of 40% in modules specifically required for a BA Hons French and Italian
- achieved a mark of at least 30% in modules amounting to not less than 100 credits

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, , students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved not less than 30% in any module 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 modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

In addition, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and Italian.

In the final assessment, it should be noted that Level 5 modules will count for 33% of the final assessment, and Level 6 modules will count for 67%.

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

In French

In French, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. The structure of the content modules in Parts 2 and 3 allows for classes normally of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students except for the grammar component of FR201 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access. Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework and/or formal examination.

In Italian

Teaching is through seminars, lectures, essay tutorials and language classes. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. Individual supervision is provided for the Dissertation. Weighting

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained either

320 points from 4 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels

or

300points from 3 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels.

Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. No prior qualification in Italian is required.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. 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.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the International Students' Office first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

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

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses 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, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, the iLearn portfolio tool, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress.

The departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies Resource Room contains a range of reference works/videos/DVDs which can be used by students, and offers congenial study space. Foreign language newspapers and magazines are also available in the department. The Self-Access Language Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages.

### **Career prospects**

A degree involving French and Italian, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads 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 French and Italian can be a distinct asset. 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 translation.

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

#### **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. The French and the Italian language
2. French and Italian history, politics and/or literature and culture, and cinema.
3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

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

French: Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 2, grammar is taught by Powerpoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. 2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or 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.

Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2. 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. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study.

2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or 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 unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3), an oral examination (1) and dissertation (2-3).

### **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. Critically apply literary and historical concepts
2. Identify and solve problems
3. Analyse and interpret literary, historical or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
4. Demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

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

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced.

#### *Assessment*

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

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

- 1.. Speak, write, read and understand French and Italian at a high level of proficiency;
2. Apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. Plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

#### **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. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each module. 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 French and in Italian. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French and Italian 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, unseen written examination and dissertation.

#### **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;
6. Be responsible and self-reliant;
7. Assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others.
8. Careers Management

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

All modules require regular written and/or 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. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of the course with students undertaking appropriate activities.

#### *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. It will be assessed by essay and dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing and technology-enhanced language learning, but these skills are 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.**