BA German (part time)   **UCAS code:**
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

Awarding Institution: University of Reading
Teaching Institution: University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):   Modern Languages
Faculty: Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length: 5 years
Date of specification: 14/Apr/2011
Programme Director: Dr Ian Roe
Programme Advisor:
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 progress to postgraduate study, 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 outside the confines of the discipline.

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), interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

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

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*; a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. For a full-time programme each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size). Modules are offered at one of three levels – Level 4, Level 5 or Level 6.

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 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 1, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme.

Students must take at Level 4 those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at Level 4. Students must complete at least 80 credits at Level 5 before they can proceed to study any Level 6 modules. Of the 100 or more credits taken at Level 5, 5 are taken up with Career Management Skills.

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken ('compulsory' modules) together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection ('optional' modules). Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser(s), to make up the credits required for their degree. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.

Part 1 (three terms)
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

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

And

GM2RO	Residence Abroad and Oral	20	5

Optional modules
Optional modules to the value of 80 credits from a list available from the programme director. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Department Handbook. 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the university.
Please note that GM2RO must be completed before Level 6 language modules are completed. Students with exceptional linguistic competence (eg (near) native speaker) will not be expected to take GM2RO but will take a further 20-credit option module. The length and timing of periods of residence abroad will be subject to agreements made between the Department and students.
Where appropriate, 5 credits will be awarded at Part 2 for Career Management Skills.

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

GM3GPT	Translation into German and English	20	6

One of:

GM3GSC	German Structure & Composition	20	6
GM3GMB	German for Management & Business	20	6

Plus three or four moduleso to be chosen from a list of options available in the department. 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the university.
All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will be subject to a minimum and maximum number of participants. The module GM3GMB is only available to students who passed GM2GMB at Part 2.

(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

The structure of part-time degrees is that students first of all take the degree subject(s) they want to study at Level 4. The subject(s) form Part 1 of the programme. Part 1 must contain at least 80 credits, so that, if the modules for a student's chosen subject (s) add up to less than 80 credits, an additional module or two will need to be taken to achieve that total.

There is a Part 1 Examination in May or June, which students have to pass in order to go on to their degree choice at Levels 5 and 6.

To proceed from Part 1 students must have passed modules totalling at least 80 credits at Level 4 and must also have passed those modules required for progression to their chosen degree, with a minimum mark of 40%. To pass the Part 1 Examination a student must have a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module. Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules in a re-examination held in September.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at Level 5 before they can proceed to any module at Level 6. Re-examinations for Levels 4, 5 and 6 modules are held annually in September. Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

Certificate of Higher Education 100 credits at Level 4 and 20 credits at any level.
Diploma of Higher Education 240 credits, with at least 100 credits at Level 5 or above.
The specific progression requirements for this programme are as follows:

To proceed from Level 4 to Level 5 students must:
(a) obtain a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in German;
(b) achieve an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 Examination with not less than 30% in any module.

To proceed from Level 5 to Level 6 students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory German language module and must have achieved an overall average of 40%, with no module mark under 30%. Students must also satisfy the Examiners that they have fulfilled the residence requirements for German by completing the relevant courses abroad, and by taking the oral examinations before completing their Level 6 language modules.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

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 module GM2RO involves a period of residence abroad, and either attendance at a short course or a language project, together with an oral examination.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting between Level 5 and Level 6 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

Admission requirements

We consider each application on its own merits. Our standard entry requirement is either a grade C or above in A level German, or a Grade A* in GCSE German. Students entering the Beginners German course will normally have an A level in another modern European Language.

Mature applicants: Applications from mature candidates are welcomed, and many have done notably well in the past. 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 (70% or more usually required) but each case is assessed on its merits. Potential applicants should contact the Admissions Tutor well in advance to discuss individual circumstances.

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

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. 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 German television by satellite.

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.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students taking this programme are required to spend a period in Germany/Austria during the vacation(s), either at institutions of higher education or in other ways approved by the Departments. The period of residence abroad may be made up of short approved visits.

Programme Outcomes
The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

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Knowledge and Understanding

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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 post-1900
5. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-1900
6. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
7. Methods of critical textual analysis.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-7)
Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)
Group work in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-7)
Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-7)
Dissertation (any of 1-7 depending on chosen topic)
Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3).

Assessment
Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-7)
Oral examination (1-2)
Dissertation (6-7, also 4-5)
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.

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.

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.

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 period(s) spent 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.

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

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 period(s) abroad, including the dissertation, and the period(s) abroad make a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervison of the period abroad.

Assessment
Skills 1 and 2 are asssessed 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.