

**BA English Literature with French**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1**

**UCAS code: Q3R1**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	English; Languages and Related Studies
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	25/Apr/2012
Programme Director:	Dr Andrew Nash
Programme Advisor:	Dr Sara Poole
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, cultural and historical texts from a range of periods, together with perspectives on different methods of critical analysis, a sound grasp of written and spoken French, and an understanding of selected aspects of francophone literature, history, culture and politics. More generally, the course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

**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 of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students are required to take 60 credits in English Literature, where they are introduced to fundamental debates about the study of literature through close analysis of selected texts from different periods. They must also take a minimum of 40 credits in French, involving both language study and an introduction to aspects of contemporary French culture. In Parts 2 and 3 students must normally take 80 credits in English Literature and 40 credits in French each year. The English Literature strand of the programme provides increased breadth of coverage, focusing on a variety of historical periods and generic traditions, while in the French strand students continue their language studies and choose options from a selection of broadly-based modules in French history and politics or French and Francophone literature and culture.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

EN1LL	Languages of Literature	20	4
EN1WKT	What Kind of Text is This?	20	4
EN1REE	Researching the English Essay	20	4

**Either:**

*Compulsory modules*

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

**Or:**

Intermediate French  
*Compulsory modules*

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

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
EN2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
FR201	French Language	20	5

**In English Literature**

Students normally take 80 credits consisting of optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one of these modules must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

Students may, with the permission of the Programme Director, replace one English Literature module with a module or modules totalling 20 credits drawn from elsewhere in the university.

**In French**

Students must choose one option module to the value of 20 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, 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.

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EN3DIS	Dissertation	40	6
FR303A	Advanced French Language Skills (Year 3)	20	6

**In English Literature**

In addition, students choose optional modules totalling 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Advisor and in the English Literature Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Advisor.

All students have the opportunity to pursue a placement option in any Part 3 module.

**In French**

Students must choose one option module to the value of 20 credits. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

**Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Combined Honours student must obtain: 1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; 2. a minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in French; 3. a mark of at least 40% in each English Literature module; 4. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to Part 3, students must obtain: 1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; 2. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

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

Over the programme as a whole, teaching is through a combination of lectures, seminar discussion and essay tutorials. French language modules are taught in small groups, and include use of language laboratory resources. The Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision. Assessment is conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination.

Conventions for degree classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%..

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this combined degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: either 300 points from three A2s, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature or 320 points from 3 A2s + up to two AS, including 100 points (grade B) in English Literature or English Language and Literature. In French, candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French 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.

International Baccalaureate: 31 points, with at least 6 for Higher level English Literature

Scottish Highers: BBBB

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC

GCSE: English Language preferred, grade C or above

**Admissions Tutor:** Mrs Carolyn Lyle

### **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)

The Department of English Language & Literature offers students specific help to improve and develop their essay writing skills through the Royal Literary Fund Fellowship scheme, which provides a resident professional writer whose role is to advise students individually, from first-year to postgraduate level, on raising the level of their academic writing.

Students receive Handbooks from both departments which give details of the programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. Both components of the programme are designed to support students throughout their degree course while encouraging more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) scheme. Dissertation workshops prepare students for the Part 3 dissertation which is individually supervised. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the Department of English Language & Literature, has a collection of books, photocopied materials, cassettes and videos for loan to students, and a video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty. The Library's electronic databases include the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD ROM, and such on-line resources as JSTOR and First Search. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

### **Career prospects**

In recent years students who have gained combined degrees in English Literature with French have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, administration, and public relations. A degree involving a second language may also be useful for careers in management or marketing, and an increasing number of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry. More generally, the degree provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve

them in good stead in the marketplace. Graduates may also go on to further academic study and research. In addition to the help provided by the University Careers Advisory Service, the Department of English Language Literature has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English Literature on researching and planning their career choices. All students have the opportunity to pursue a placement option at Part 3.

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

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. Literary texts in English Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day
2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama
3. Methods of critical textual analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts
5. A range of approaches in English studies
6. Selected special fields of English Literature
7. The French language
8. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture
9. Key approaches and methods of historical, political and/or literary and cultural analysis

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

In English Literature, knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1-5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation.

In French, the skills of reading, writing, listening to and speaking French (7) are developed through small-group work and regular non-assessed coursework. The acquisition of French grammar is aided by Powerpoint lectures in Part 2, supplemented by self-access, internet materials. 8 and 9 are introduced in lectures and seminars, and are developed through individual reading and research from library and internet resources.

##### *Assessment*

In English Literature Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is based on a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation. Assessment in French is by a combination of coursework essays and unseen examination.

#### **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. Capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identification of problems and issues
3. The ability to read closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions
5. Ability to understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
6. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic

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

Intellectual skills are acquired through private reading (1), through guided study of texts, seminar preparation and discussion (2-5), essay writing and feedback through tutorials (1-5), and the completion of the dissertation (6).

##### *Assessment*

1-5 are assessed formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays and unseen exams; 6 by

means of the dissertation and the extended essays which form part of some modules

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

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of texts
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language
4. Proficiency in speaking, writing, reading and understanding French
5. Ability to understand a variety of types of textual material in French
6. Bibliographical and research skills
7. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work.

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

Fluency in written and oral communication  
The ability to formulate and present arguments  
Assessing the merits of competing approaches  
The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments  
The ability to find and use relevant information resources  
Time-management skills  
A creative approach to problem-solving  
Group and interpersonal skills  
An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect  
Use of information technology, especially word-processing

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

In English Literature, 1-3 and 6-7 are developed in seminars, essays, and essay tutorials, and through the guidance and supervision of the dissertation module. French language classes are compulsory in every year (4-5), and much primary and secondary reading material is in French.

#### *Assessment*

All the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative coursework essays. 1-5 are also tested in unseen written examinations, and 6-7 in the Dissertation.

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

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions (1 - 4, 7 - 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations (1 - 9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, essay writing and research for the dissertation. We require that all summatively assessed essays are word-processed (10).

#### *Assessment*

1 - 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials.

**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.**