

**BA Philosophy and French**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1**

**UCAS code: RV15**

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:	02/Jun/2011
Programme Director:	Dr John Preston
Programme Advisor:	Dr Sara Poole
Board of Studies:	Philosophy
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

Both Departments share the aims and objectives laid down for the Reading graduate in the University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning. The Philosophy part of the programme aims to provide a grounding in the subject, enabling students to examine critically fundamental beliefs about truth and reality, right and wrong, to comprehend concepts essential for philosophical investigation, to develop an understanding of central philosophical problems, texts and figures, to develop an aptitude and enthusiasm for the subject, to engender a sense of belonging to a community of enquiry, and to prepare where appropriate for postgraduate study.

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

The French part of the programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and who 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 (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working, information technology (word-processing and use of web-based material) and career management 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; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

**Programme content**

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the 'selected' modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title, and the credit requirements in Philosophy and French are indicated for each Part.

*In Philosophy:*

In Philosophy students must acquire a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits from the following modules.

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

*In French:*

Compulsory modules

**either**

FR101	Advanced French Language	20	4
Or			
FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	4

Optional modules  
Up to two of the following:

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

## Part 2 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

Mod code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FR201	French Language	20	5
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5

### In Philosophy:

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. Career Management Skills contributes 5 credits worth of marks to the average for Part 2, and is taken under the auspices of the Department of Philosophy.

### In French:

Students must choose at least one 20-credit additional module from the list of Part 2 options in French Studies available from the Department of French Studies and listed in the relevant Department handbook.

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

### Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
PP3DIS	Dissertation	40	6
FR3Y02	Oral in French	40	6

Optional module  
either

FR2Y31	University study abroad	40	5
or			
FR2Y32	Assistantship abroad	40	5
or			
FR2Y33	Work placement abroad	40	5

## Part 3 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FR303	Advanced French Language Skills	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.

### In French:

Optional modules

Students must choose at least one 20-credit additional module from the list of Part 3 options in French Studies available from the Department of French Studies and listed in the relevant Department 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;
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 FR101 or FR102 and FR103 or FR104.

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.; obtain a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory French module

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 French-speaking country.

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 the Philosophy programme combines lectures, small group seminars and essay supervisions, with appropriate visual aids 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 the Philosophy BA handbook for further details.

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. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

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

#### **Weighting**

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, 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**

UCAS Tariff: Either: 340 points from 3 A levels and 1 AS level, or: 320 points from 3 A levels.

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. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

International Baccalaureate: complete diploma with a minimum score of 6,6,5 in at least three Higher Level subjects, including a 5 (for FR102) and a 6 (for FR101) in Higher Level French.

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 BBBB in five higher-level subjects

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

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 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.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor 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 (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 French Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The Self-Access Centre in the Language Resource Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. The Department has a comprehensive website at: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/french> containing information and learning material. The website is regularly updated. The grammar strand at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. French Career Management Skills at Part 2 has its own Blackboard site, containing computer-assessed learning activities.

#### **Career prospects**

A survey by the Royal Institute of Philosophy found that although few Philosophy students find the kind of jobs they would want immediately upon graduation, most of them do find such jobs after a year or so. It also concluded 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. Our students seem to be no exception. Philosophy graduates seem to have the same range of careers as other graduates in Arts and Humanities subjects (except for teaching in schools, since Philosophy is not generally a school subject in the UK). There is evidence that IT firms are keen on philosophy students, for example. Philosophy also makes an excellent preparatory subject for other graduate programmes.

Students graduating in French work in many different fields. A degree involving French, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, can 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 French can be a distinct asset. Some French 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 on this programme spend a Year Abroad either as an assistant teacher, on work placement or at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has a Socrates agreement. Exceptional cases will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

#### **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:**

In 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.

In French

1. The French language
2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture
3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

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

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

#### *Assessment*

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations.

1. 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, it is taught by Powerpoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.

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*:**

In 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

In French

1. apply critically literary and historical concepts
2. identify and solve problems
3. analyse and interpret
4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

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

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

#### *Assessment*

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations. Plus discussion in supervisor-led small groups and seminars. Logical exercises will also be evaluated in the Logic & Critical Thinking module

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course 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.

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

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

In 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

In French

5. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
6. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
7. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
8. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

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

Assessment

Coursework; written unseen exams; seminar presentations. 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 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 French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French 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.

*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.**