

**BA French and Italian (part time)
For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1**

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:	13/Aug/2010
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	Ms Paola Nasti
Board of Studies:	French
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.

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. In ascending order these are: 4, 5 and 6 (honours Level)

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:

- Certificate level 4 : 100 credits minimum
- Intermediate level 5: 100 credits minimum
- Honours 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 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.

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.

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.

Modules in Italian Studies

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
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Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Compulsory French Module:

FR201 French Language 2

(to total of 20 credits)

In Italian

Either:

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, 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)

Modules in Italian Studies
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.

In Italian, student must spend a 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.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR303A	Advanced French Language Skills (3 yr)	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.

A short dissertation (worth 20 cr) is also compulsory.

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

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.

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.

A second attempt is possible in August/September for those who do not qualify in May/June.

Progression from Level 5 (Part 2) to Level 6 (Part 3) 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. An overall average of 40% minimum is required for a Pass, plus a mark of at least 40% in compulsory modules, and there must be no more than one 20 credit (non-compulsory) module mark of under 30%

The conventions for assessment and classification are cited on the University web pages, but it should be noted that Level 5 modules will count for 33% of the final assessment, and Level 6 modules will count for 67% of the final assessment.

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.

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

300 points 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 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. 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 on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

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

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. 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.

Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but in Part 3 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. 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), and an oral examination (1).

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.

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;

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

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

different deadlines for different modules within the programme . Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2. 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.