

**BA English Literature and Italian**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3**

**UCAS code: QR33**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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:                           | 4 years                                     |
| Date of specification:                      | 24/Jul/2014                                 |
| Programme Director:                         | Dr Stephen Thomson                          |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Dr Federico Faloppa                         |
| 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 and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written Italian. 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 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.

In addition, students on this joint degree programme will gain experience in self-reliance, effective time management and cultural awareness; they will acquire skills in the use of library and other relevant information resources; and they will develop their ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others.

**Programme content**

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students 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 also take a minimum of 40 credits in Italian, involving both language study and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. In Part 2 students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both English Literature and Italian. The English Literature strand of the programme provides increased breadth of coverage, focusing on texts within a variety of historical periods and generic traditions, while in the Italian strand students continue their language studies and choose options from a range of broadly-based culture modules. The compulsory Year Abroad takes place in the third year of the degree programme. The experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones, and allows them to extend their knowledge of the host culture by pursuing 60 credits' worth of courses at an Italian University. They also engage in independent study in preparation for the Joint Dissertation. Students also have the opportunity of pursuing a placement option during the year abroad. In Part 3 students embark on more specialized work in both English Literature and Italian, taking one further Italian language module, choosing two modules in each of English Literature and Italian from a wide range of advanced options, and completing their Dissertation.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

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

**Modules in Italian Studies**

**For students with A Level or equivalent:***Compulsory modules*

|        |                                   |    |   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| IT1001 | Advanced Italian Language I       | 20 | 4 |
| IT1002 | Twentieth-Century Italian Culture | 20 | 4 |

*Optional module*

|        |   |    |   |
|--------|---|----|---|
| IT1004 | Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture (in translation) | 20 | 4 |
|--------|---|----|---|

**For non-advanced students (including complete beginners):***Compulsory modules*

|        |                                |    |   |
|--------|--------------------------------|----|---|
| Either |                                |    |   |
| IT10L1 | Italian Language 1 (Beginners) | 20 | 4 |
| Or     |                                |    |   |
| IT10L2 | Italian Language 2 (Improvers) | 20 | 4 |

**Plus**

|        |   |    |   |
|--------|---|----|---|
| Either |   |    |   |
| IT1004 | Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)             | 20 | 4 |
| Or     |   |    |   |
| IT10M1 | Making Italians: a journey in the history and culture of modern Italy | 20 | 4 |

*Optional module*

|        |   |    |   |
|--------|---|----|---|
| One of |   |    |   |
| IT1004 | Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)            | 20 | 4 |
| IT10M1 | Making Italians: a journey in the history and culture of modern Italy | 20 | 4 |

**Part 2 (three terms)***Compulsory modules*

Students normally take 60 credits in English Literature, comprising three 20-credit modules chosen from a list of options. At least one module must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 topics. A full list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

**Modules in Italian Studies***Compulsory modules*

|        |                              |    |   |
|--------|------------------------------|----|---|
| Either |                              |    |   |
| IT201  | Advanced Italian Language II | 20 | 5 |
| Or     |                              |    |   |
| IT202  | Advanced Italian Language II | 20 | 5 |

*Optional modules*

In addition, students 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.

Students may choose to replace one non-asterisked English module or one of the optional modules in Italian with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

**Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)***Compulsory modules*

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Module title</i>                             | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| EN3DYI      | Dissertation Preparation in English and Italian | 20             | 5            |
| IT2Y31      | Credits From Italian University Course (1)      | 20             | 5            |

|         |  |    |   |
|---------|--|----|---|
| IT3YL5A | Italian Language (one year in Italy)       | 40 | 6 |
| IT2Y32  | Credits from Italian University course (2) | 20 | 5 |

#### *Optional modules*

Either

|        |                               |    |   |
|--------|-------------------------------|----|---|
| IT2Y33 | Italian University Course (3) | 20 | 5 |
|--------|-------------------------------|----|---|

Or

|        |                         |    |   |
|--------|-------------------------|----|---|
| IT2YIP | International Placement | 20 | 5 |
|--------|-------------------------|----|---|

#### **Part 3 (three terms)**

##### *Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>                            | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| EN3DCI          | Dissertation Completion in English and Italian | 20             | 6            |
| IT3L6           | Advanced Italian Language III                  | 20             | 6            |

Students normally take 40 credits in English Literature comprising two 20-credit modules, one in each term, drawn from a list of options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

#### **Modules in Italian Studies**

Optional modules (40 credits)

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

#### **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must:

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above;
- (ii) achieve a minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in English Literature and Italian;
- (iii) and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of study or employment in Italy and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

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.

#### **Assessment and classification**

The University's honours classification scheme is:

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| Mark       | interpretation         |
| 70% - 100% | First class            |
| 60% - 69%  | Upper Second class     |
| 50% - 59%  | Lower Second class     |
| 40% - 49%  | Third class            |
| 35% - 39%  | Below Honours Standard |

0% - 34%

Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

#### **Four year programmes with a year abroad (MFL)**

Year 2 two-ninths

Year Abroad three-ninths

Year 4 four ninths

Italian language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures, small-group seminars and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. The 60 credits gained in the third year from 'Courses taken abroad' will derive from marks obtained in examinations set by the host university in Italy. The Italian Oral, Written and Textual Skills are examined at the beginning of Part 3.

#### **Admission requirements**

No previous qualification in Italian is required. Entrants to this Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

BBB from 3 A level subjects including a grade B in English Literature or English Language & Literature International Baccalaureate: 31 points with at least 6 for Higher level English Literature

Scottish/Irish Highers: ABBBB

GCSE/O: Grade C in English Language preferred.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will usually be expected to have a B at A level English, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

Information on Italian courses can be obtained via the Internet at: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/italian>

**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 Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), 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, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 also 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.

Within both English Literature and Italian students receive Handbooks which gives details of course content, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1, developing towards more independent work in Part 4. 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. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the Department of English Language & Literature, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and an expanding collection of videos for loan to students. 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 Italian television by satellite. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty to support cinema studies. The Italian departmental library houses a range of reference works available for students' use, and offers a congenial study space.

### **Career prospects**

In recent years students who have gained a degree on this programme have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. Joint degrees involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can also lead to careers marketing and the business world, including the travel industry, where students' knowledge of Italian can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad. A Reading degree in English Literature and Italian 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.

During their time at Reading students have the opportunity to develop non-vocational skills, gain new work experiences, and further boost their employability through a diverse range of other placement opportunities. Careers Learning is embedded in compulsory modules throughout the programme. Students also have the opportunity to partake in an academic placement as part of the overall assessment of any Part 2 or Part 3 English Literature module, which encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

The University's Careers Advisory Service (CAS) provides all Reading students with information about a wide range of placement opportunities (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements>), including the Summer Enterprise Experience & Discovery internship scheme (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/seed/>), the Community Service Volunteering scheme (tutoring in local schools; <http://www.reading.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/StudentTutoring/sr-studenttutoringinschools.aspx>), the Student Associates Scheme (work experience in local schools; [http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop\\_home.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx)), and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP; [http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop\\_home.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx)). The Department of English Language and Literature also has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English Literature on researching and planning their career choices.

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

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional circumstances only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter; they can also choose to combine a period of study (minimum 4 months) with one spent on an international work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

Students on this programme spend their third year at one of these Universities or they may request a work placement in Italy. Students who wish to take advantage of this opportunity must obtain authorisation from the Department of Italian in the second year of study. Applications should be handed in to the Programme Director of Italian Studies. Students may also decide to take up a shorter work placement during their year abroad which will form part of their assessment for IT3Y31 (Italian Oral and Textual Skills). In either of the above cases it is for the student to seek out an appropriate placement, but the Programme Director of Italian Studies might also offer some established placement opportunities to selected students. Further help may be provided by the Job Shop, located in the Student Advisory Service.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. Literary texts in English 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

##### **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.

7. A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom
8. Fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
9. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture
10. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered

Part 4 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.

The Italian language (7-8) is taught at three distinct levels in Part 1: beginners, intermediate, advanced. Separate teaching continues in Part 2, but after the year in Italy all students follow the same course. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills, and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate, and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is placed on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow university courses at the host institution.

9-10 are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for further development of independent research.

#### *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 4, assessment is based on a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation. In Italian, language work (7-8) is assessed by written and oral examinations. Courses taken during the Year Abroad are also examined orally. 9 and 10 are assessed by a combination of coursework essays and examination, and in the dissertation.

### **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 transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
7. Ability to analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
8. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

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

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), through close guided study of texts (3), seminar preparation and discussion (1-3, 5-6), and essay writing and feedback through tutorials (1-6); through language classes (7) and the completion of the dissertation (8)

#### *Assessment*

1 - 3 and 5 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays and unseen exams, 6 is assessed specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme 1- 5 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials. 7 is assessed in certain language examinations, 8 by means of the dissertation and the

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

In English Literature:

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. Bibliographical and research skills
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. An ability to relate the study of English Literature to cultural and social issues

In Italian, the ability to:

7. Communicate in Italian at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
8. Understand a variety of types of textual material in Italian
9. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
10. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
11. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
12. Organize one's day-to-day life and study during a period of residence abroad.

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

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments with appropriate use of evidence
3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches
4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
6. Time-management skills
7. A creative approach to problem-solving
8. Group and interpersonal skills
9. An ability to work independently, to self-evaluate and self-reflect
10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing
11. Ability to take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
12. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

extended essay which forms part of some modules.

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

1 - 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.

In Italian, skills 7-8 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading, and are enhanced by academic and everyday experience during the year abroad. Skills 9 and 10 are developed through regular seminars, essay assignments and feedback; skills 10 and 11 through the preparation for and presentation of the dissertation; skill 12 through the year abroad and the preparation provided during Part 2 of the programme.

#### *Assessment*

All the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.

In Italian, skills 7-10 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 10 and 11 are assessed through the dissertation; 12 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

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

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 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. Time-management skills (6) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (9) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 11, which informs the whole programme. We require that all assessed essays are word-processed (10). Career management (12) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

#### *Assessment*

1 - 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations (including examinations in Italy), and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay

feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. 11 is not directly assessed but informs a student's work throughout the programme, especially in the third and final years.

**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.**