

**BA French**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3**

**UCAS code: R120**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies.
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	13/May/2015
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
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 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 literature, history, culture 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 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.

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 information about modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part, plus 120 credits assigned to the Year Abroad to make a total of 480 credits for the whole degree. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title.

**Either:**

FR101	Advanced French Language	20	4
or			
FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	4
and 20-40 credits			
from :			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	4
FR104	French Cinema	20	4

The remaining 60-80 credits can be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

FR201	French Language	20	5
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*Optional modules*

Students must choose five 20-credit additional modules. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

They may replace 20 of these credits with modules from outside the French Studies programmes.

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

FR3Y01	Dissertation	40	6
FR3YL5A	French Language (one year in a Francophone country)	40	6

#### Optional module either

FR2Y31	University study abroad	40	5
or			
FR2YAAA	Assistantship abroad (full year)	40	5
or			
FR2YWPA	Work placement abroad (full year)	40	5

With the permission of the Programme Director, students may replace one of the above with any two of the following:

FR2Y31A	University study abroad (half year)	20	5
or			
FR2YAAB	Assistantship abroad (half year)	20	5
or			
FR2YWPB	Work placement abroad (half year)	20	5

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR3L6	Advanced French Language III	20	6

Students must choose five 20-credit additional modules. A list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook. They may replace 20 of these credits with modules from outside the French Studies programmes.

(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 a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In addition students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French.

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 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.

### **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/extra-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

In Part 1, 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 15 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 a combination of coursework, timed tests and/or formal examination. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

#### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three A level subjects or 320 from four, to include 2 full A levels. Candidates must normally have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE A level French (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) OR 50 points at AS French or an A \*at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE A level French (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) OR 50 points at AS 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. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the Departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via [languages@reading.ac.uk](mailto:languages@reading.ac.uk)

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:** Dr S L Heywood

#### **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 Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The Self-Access Centre for Individual Language Learning 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 media suite to support cinema studies.

The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has a Resource Room containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts. Daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines are also available outside the Resource Room. DVDs are available for loan from the Departmental Office. The grammar strand at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. .

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in French work in many different fields. 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. A degree involving French 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.

### **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 an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

### **Programme Outcomes**

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to:

1. understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
2. read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts;
3. write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style.

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 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**

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, 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.

#### *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 (1-3).

### **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;
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 appropriate written and oral responses to the tasks set.

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

1. speak, write, read and understand French 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. At Part 1 classes and tutorials help students to work on the production of essays. 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.

#### **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;
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.

#### **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 different deadlines for different modules within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PAR student development scheme. 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 sessions in Part 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 and the year abroad 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 is 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, but this skill is not formally assessed. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is 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.**