

BA French and German
For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3

UCAS code: RR12

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:	Dr Melani Schroeter
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 progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French and German, who are well-informed about French and German literature, culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline.

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 of French and German 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 optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their Personal Tutor, 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 column after its title.

Part 1 in French and German includes the study of both languages (with an intensive language course for students with no German) and an introduction to aspects of modern French literature, culture, history and politics, and German culture and history.

In Part 2 students continue with the study of the French and the German language. In French they choose from a variety of optional modules listed in the relevant handbook and in German also take modules based on a variety of short options on German culture from 1750 to the present.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in France or a Francophone country and in Germany or Austria encourages students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of French and German culture. They also engage in independent study for their dissertation.

In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study in each subject and are free to pursue their interests within French and German studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

FR101	Advanced 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

In German

Compulsory modules

Either (for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

LA1PG4	German Level 4	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	4

Or (for students entering with no knowledge of German)

GM1IG1	Intensive German 1	20	4
GM1IG2	Intensive German 2	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	4

Optional modules

Students may take modules up to the value of 20 credits from the list below.

Code	Title	Credits	Level
GM1ILG	The Inner Life of the German Language	10	4
GM1NPP	The German Nazi-Past and the Present	10	4
GM1LRH	Literary Reflection of Historical Events	10	4
GM1IHD	Interpreting Historical Documents	10	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

FR201	French Language	20	5
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Optional modules

Students must choose optional modules to the value of 40 credits, including at least one culture module. 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 German

Compulsory language module

Either

GM2L2	German Language II	20	5
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Or

(only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 1)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4
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Optional modules

Students take a further 40 credits (20 in each of the two terms) from a list of optional modules on German culture and language.

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

Compulsory modules

FR2Y31A	University Study Abroad (Half Year)	20	5
GM3YL5B	German Language (half year in a Germanphone country)	20	6
FR3YGM	French/German Dissertation	40	6
FR3YL5B	French Language (half year in a Frenchphone country)	20	6

Take 20 credits from the modules below:

GM2YS20	German Scheine (half year)	20	5
GM2YAAB	Assistantship Abroad (half year)	20	5
GM2YWPB	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
GM3L6	Advanced German Language III	20	6

Optional modules

Students must choose two optional modules to the value of 40 credits, including one culture module. 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 German

In addition to the compulsory language module, students will take two 20-credit modules to be chosen from a list of options available in the Department.

All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will be subject to a minimum and maximum number of participants.

(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, or from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, 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, to proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in French and German.

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 completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French or German-speaking country.

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.

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>.

Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad modules University Study abroad and German Scheine will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian and French universities, and the Oral/Aural modules will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 320 points from 4 subjects or 300 from 3 subjects (A or AS 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 B) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at AS French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Candidates must have either A-level German or A* at GCSE. Except that students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.

Mature applicants. While such candidates will normally be expected to have the entry qualifications given above, 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 the Reading International 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

In addition the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students in both subjects provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies Resource Room contains a range of reference works, newspapers and magazines which can be used by students, and offers congenial study space. DVDs are also available for loan from the departmental offices. The Self-Access Centre for 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 and German television by satellite.

Career prospects

Students graduating in French and German go on to work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, 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 German can be an important asset. Some 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 at German or Austrian, and French, universities 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 the Erasmus & Study Abroad website.

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. A wide range of French and German vocabulary and idiom.
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of French and German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. A selection of core and specialist topics in French and German history, society, literature and culture
4. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
5. Methods of critical textual analysis

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-5)
Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)
Group work in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-5)
Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-5)
Dissertation (any of 1-5 depending on chosen topic)
Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)

Assessment

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-5)
Oral examination (1-2)
Dissertation (4-5)
Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically;
2. Identify and analyse problems and issues;
3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments;
4. Evaluate alternative critical views;
5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another;
6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena;
7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).

Assessment

Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Communicate in French and German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in French and German
3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. give oral presentations
3. use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. manage time and work to deadlines
6. work independently and be self-reliant
7. take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. plan and evaluate career possibilities

Assessment

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

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.