

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

**UCAS code: RV21**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	History, Modern languages
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	13/May/2015
Programme Director:	Dr Melani Schroeter
Programme Advisor:	Prof Patrick Major
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and are able to place Germany in the context of broader global and European patterns of historical development. Through the History element, students will engage with a broad chronological range but, also, are able to specialise in particular periods and topics of British, European and American history which provide both points of comparison and contrast with their studies of German history and culture.

**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. Careers management skills will be taught in both Parts 2 and 3.

**Programme content**

Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. Part I in German includes the study of both language (with an intensive language course for students with no German) and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. In Part 2 German, students continue with the study of the German language, and take 40 credits of optional modules on historical, cultural and literary topics from 1750 to the present. In History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enable students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture. During this period they will prepare for their dissertations. In Part 3 students take one language module and are free to pursue their interests by selecting from a range of options available in the Department.

Students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies. At this stage, they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation involves a substantial research effort.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4

**In German Studies**

Students are required to take the following compulsory modules:

Either (for students entering with A-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	IWLP German Level 4	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners) Or (for students entering with no knowledge of German)	20	4
GM1IG1	Intensive German 1	20	4
GM1IG2	Intensive German 2	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	4

### Optional modules in German

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

Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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### Part 2 (three terms)

*Compulsory modules*

Either			
GM2L2	German Language II	20	5
Or			
GM1AGL	Advanced German Language (only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part 2)	20	5

### In German

*Optional modules (40 credits)*

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

### In History:

Students must take THREE Period modules (20 credits each), totalling 60 credits, normally two in the Autumn and one in the Spring. At least one of these must be from the Early (Medieval and Early Modern) era and one from the Modern .

A complete list of Period modules is available from the Department of History.

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

*Compulsory modules*

GM3YL5A	German Language (one year in a Germanphone country)	40	6
GM2YBR	German Book Review	20	5
HS3YDPG	Dissertation Preparation in History and German	20	6

### Optional Modules

Either			
GM2YS40	Scheine (full year)	40	5
or			
GM2YAAA	Assistantship abroad (full year)	40	5
or			
GM2YWPA	Work placement abroad (full year)	40	5

Both GM2YASR and GM2YWPL include within the 40 credits 20 credits for Work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment.

20 level 6 credits of the 40 credit joint dissertation are placed in the year abroad (Dissertation Preparation Module) with a further 20 in the final year (Dissertation Completion Module). When the module mark for the Dissertation Completion Module is known that mark is entered for both dissertation modules. The 20 credits taken during the year abroad (Dissertation Preparation) therefore has no result until it is assessed alongside the Part 3 Dissertation Completion Module. The mark for the Dissertation Preparation Module does not affect progression from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students may therefore progress to part 3 with no mark for the Dissertation Preparation Module.

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HS3DCG	Dissertation Completion in History and German	20	6
GM3L6	Advanced German Language III	20	6

### **In German**

Students take modules to the value of 40 credits 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)

### **In History:**

Students choose two optional 20 credit Topic modules, totalling 40 credits in all.

A complete list of modules is available from the Department of History.

### **Progression requirements**

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must:

1. achieve an overall average of 40% over the 120 credits taken in Part 1, and
2. obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module, and
3. achieve a mark of at least 30% in modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

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

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.

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

### **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

In German, 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 module Scheine will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and the oral exams will be held in the Summer Term of Part 3.

In History at Part 1, teaching is by large group lectures reinforced by seminars, and for those taking the Directed Study, individual supervision is provided. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. At all levels, independent research is expected and encouraged. It is most apparent and significant in the Dissertation, although individual supervisory support is also provided. All Parts are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination, while the Dissertation includes an element of oral presentation.

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

### **Admission requirements**

BBB/ABC from three A level subjects including a grade B in German or other Modern Foreign Language (or A\* at GCSE). B at A level in History is required.

IB: achieve 6,5,5 in three higher level subjects including History and minimum grade 5 in standard level German.

Scottish Highers: 300/320 UCAS points in Scottish Framework Qualifications, either 3 Advanced Highers or a combination of Advanced Highers and Highers. This must include B at Advanced Higher History in all cases.

Vocational Qualifications: AVCE, VCE and BTEC Nationals can be included in an application; but tariff points must be equal to those for A levels, and A level History at B must be included in all cases.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. Those not offering A level or IB qualifications are advised to contact the international admissions tutor as to the acceptability of their qualifications. For those whose education has not been undertaken in English, the IELTS requirement is 7.0, with no language component under 6.5.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Sophie 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-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, 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 Modern Languages & European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme and provides detailed course handbooks for each section of the programme; a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. The Departmental Resource Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. In History, students are provided with handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and sources of specialised help within the University. There is full written feedback on essay work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to Personal Tutors for discussion with students. There is also a History Resource Room which provides a quiet study space and a photocopier. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and German culture.

### **Career prospects**

Graduates in German and History are trained in clear thinking, language skills, diligence, independence, adaptability and the ability to understand people and situations in the world at large. Past graduates have used their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment both in Britain and abroad. Jobs have included accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. Many also enter the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing while others go into the civil service and local government. Several graduates also go on to postgraduate study in either History or German, both at MA and PhD level, at Reading and elsewhere.

### **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 at a German or Austrian university with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter, or as an assistant teacher, or on a work placement. Full details of destinations can be found on the Erasmus and Study Abroad website.

### **Programme Outcomes**

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to understand native-spoken German within an educated environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;  
write accurately in German with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style;  
read and understand a variety of historical and literary texts from different periods and discuss their significance in their cultural contexts;  
express clearly-constructed, soundly based arguments about the works and topics studied, making effective use both of published studies and of their own independent judgement.

## **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. a wide range of German vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English);
2. core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900, together with a selection of additional topics in German history, society, literature and culture;
3. the broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
4. key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis;
5. a range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues;
6. the contextualisation of forces, events and individual experiences in the historical process;
7. the nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture;
8. the nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.

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

Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking German is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The Year Abroad in a German-speaking country offers immersion in German language and culture. Acquisition of aspects 2 - 8 is by lecture, workshop, seminar, 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 seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, skills exercises, and dissertation. Knowledge and understanding are also tested by an oral exam attached to the Dissertation.

## **Skills and other attributes**

### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:**

1. analyse and interpret historical, literary or cinematic works in their cultural, socio-economic and political contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. read a variety of texts closely and critically;
4. identify problems and issues and conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence

### **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, practise in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced. Through specific focus on topics,

appropriately;

5. think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions;
6. accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources;
7. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference.

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

1. speak, write, read and understand German at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
4. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations and engage in critical argument using relevant evidence or theoretical approaches;
5. acquire bibliographical and research skills through the retrieval and selection of information from a variety of sources;
6. organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

### **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. show sensitivity to cultural differences;
9. make informed career plans.

issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay, project, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The Dissertation requires students to engage creatively and critically with primary sources and/or historical interpretative works.

#### *Assessment*

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Throughout the programme skills are assessed through a combination of coursework essays and examinations and all of the skills are relevant to the production of the dissertation.

#### **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. Detailed 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 German. The Year Abroad further promotes the active learning of German 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, skills exercises, and examinations. Skill 5 is developed throughout the programme but is particularly relevant to the dissertation. Skill 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

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

All modules require regular written and 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 personal tutor system. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skills 6 and 8 are especially developed during the Year Abroad, its importance being established during the preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by

being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Skill 9 is promoted by careers management skills.

*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. Written skills are examined at every stage both under timed conditions and in course work. Oral skills are examined in the dissertation presentation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. 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.**