

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

**UCAS code: RR23**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	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:	Dr Federico Faloppa
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 German and Italian, who are well-informed about German and Italian 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 (both written and oral), information handling, team working, career management, 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 German and Italian 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.

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

**Programme content**

The profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 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 and history. Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Other students take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies: this also permits qualification for Part 2. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take optional modules on historical, cultural and literary topics from 1750 to the present. In Italian students take one compulsory 20-credit language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Italy and in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German and Italian culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

In Part 3 students take one language module in both German and Italian, and are free to pursue their interests by selecting from a range of options available in the Department. Up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

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

<i>Module Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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)	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**

In addition students may take modules up to the value of 20 credits from the list below.

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

Italian Department

### **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 Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
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### **For non-advanced students (including complete beginners):**

*Compulsory modules*

**Either**

IT10L1	Italian Language 1 (Beginners)	20	4
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**Or**

IT10L2	Italian Language 2 (Improvers)	20	4
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**Plus one** of the following:

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
IT10M1	Making Italians	20	4

A further optional module may be chosen from:

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
IT10M1	Making Italians	20	4

### **Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

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

In Italian

Either:

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
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Or:

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5
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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.

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

GM3YL5B	German Language (half year in a Germanophone country)	20	6
GM3YDSI	Dissertation	40	6
IT2Y1	Credits from Italian University course (1)	20	5
IT3YL5B	Italian Language (half year in Italy)	20	6

Take 20 credits from

GM2YS20	German Scheine (half year)	20	5
Or			
GM2YAAB	Assistantship Abroad (half year)	20	5
Or			
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>
IT3L6	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6
GM3L6	Advanced German Language III	20	6

Students must normally take modules to the value of 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Italian, but 20 credits taken elsewhere in the University may be substituted for one of the non-language modules below.

Optional modules

Students can take four optional modules to the value of 80 credits. They must take at least one module from each of the following lists:

a)

GM3MODA	Mobility and the Metropolis: Berlin in German Literature	20	6
GM3WOS	War on Screen - Germany and its films about WWII	20	6
GM3MG	Migration in Germany	20	6

b)

IT305	Dante	20	6
IT3PSR	Performance and the Self in Renaissance Italy:	20	6
IT3HL	History of the Italian Language	20	6
IT3VS	Voice and the Self in Modern Italian Poetry	20	6

The rest of the credits can be taken within the Department. The complete list of Departmental 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 to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% or above in all of their compulsory modules in German and Italian, and must have achieved an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 examination and have no module mark under 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

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/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

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 *German Scheine* and *Italian credits* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian and Italian universities, and oral exams will take place in the Summer Term of Part 3.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained BBB/ABC from three A level subjects including grade B in German for Advanced level entry, or A\* in German at GCSE for entry at Intermediate level, or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German (and, where appropriate for the level of entry, Italian). Students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have A\* at GCSE, or equivalent, in a European foreign language. (No previous knowledge of Italian is required for this programme)

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutors, who may be contacted via [german@reading.ac.uk](mailto:german@reading.ac.uk) or (for Italian) [l.m.sampson@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.sampson@reading.ac.uk)

**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-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)

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 Departmental Resource Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. 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 German and Italian television by satellite. The Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a Part I co-ordinator for Italian as well as a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and during Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in German and Italian 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 German and Italian 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 the first half of their year abroad at a German or Austrian university, and the second half at an Italian university, 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 German and Italian vocabulary and idiom.
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German and Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
4. A selection of specialist topics in German and Italian history, society, literature and culture
5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
6. Methods of critical textual analysis

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

Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6)  
 Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)  
 Group work in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6)  
 Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6)  
 Dissertation (any of 1-6 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 (1-6)  
 Oral examination (1-2)  
 Dissertation (5-6, also 4)  
 Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)

#### **Skills and other attributes**

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

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

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

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

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

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.

#### **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.

#### *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 skills (8) are taught at both Parts 2 and 3.

#### *Assessment*

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 via careers management. 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.**