

**BA French and Italian (part time)  
For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3**

**UCAS code:**

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:	5 years
Date of specification:	22/May/2013
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	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 postgraduate studies. It aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French and Italian, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests. They will also 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.

**Programme content**

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called modules. The size of a module is measured in terms of credits; a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. For a full-time programme, each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size). Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are: 4, 5 and 6 (honours Level)

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling a minimum of 360 credits. Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

- Certificate level 4 : 100 credits minimum
- Intermediate level 5: 100 credits minimum
- Honours level 6 : 100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 involves studying modules totalling at least 100 credits and no more than 120 level 4 credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study), then passing the Part 1 Examination in order to progress to the remainder of the degree. Post-Part I, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme. Students must take at level 4 those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at level 4.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at level 4 before they can proceed to study any level 5 modules. Students must complete at least 80 credits at level 5 before they can proceed to study any level 6 modules.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

**Either:**

Advanced French

or				
FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	4	
and either				
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	4	
or				
FR104	French Cinema	20	4	

*Optional Module:*

**either**

FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	4	
or				
FR104	French Cinema	20	4	

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

Modules in Italian Studies

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

Compulsory modules (40 credits):

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

Optional module: (20 credits):

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4	
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**For non-advanced students (including complete beginners):**

Compulsory modules (40 credits):

**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 either**

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4	
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**Or**

IT10M1	Making Italians	20	4	
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Optional module (20 credits):

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

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory French Module:*

FR201	French Language 2(	20	4	
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In Italian

Either:

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5	
or				
IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5	

In French

*Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)*

Students must choose optional 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.

*Modules in Italian Studies*  
*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. In Italian, there is a compulsory period of residence abroad, which must take place before the final year of studies. The length of this period is to be agreed upon by the student and the Department. The corresponding module will be assessed by oral examination(s) (10 credits) and either on the basis of marks gained abroad or on the completion of a project (10 credits).

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

FR303A	Advanced French Language Skills (3 yr)	20	6
IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6

Students take 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Italian

*French Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)*

If taking the French dissertation, students will then take one further optional module in French. If taking the Italian dissertation, students will take two further options in French. 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.

*Italian Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)*

A short dissertation (20 credits) for either French or Italian is also compulsory. As above, if taking the French dissertation, students will then take two further optional modules in Italian. If taking the Italian dissertation, students will take one further option in Italian.

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.

(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 achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

A second attempt is possible in August/September for those who do not qualify in May/June.

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.

Progression from Level 5 (Part 2) to Level 6 (Part 3) is effected in a similar way. A Part 2 examination pass in at least 80 credits' worth of Level 5 modules is a prerequisite for taking Level 6 modules.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3 students must:

1. achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
2. achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

The conventions for assessment and classification are cited on the University web pages, but it should be noted that Level 5 modules will count for 33% of the final assessment, and Level 6 modules will count for 67% of the final assessment.

**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>.

In French

In French, 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 12 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 coursework, timed tests and/or formal examination.

In Italian

Teaching is through seminars, lectures, essay tutorials and language classes. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained either

320 points from 4 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels

or

300 points from 3 subjects ('A' or A/S 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 'A/S' French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. No prior qualification in Italian is required. Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to 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 'A/S' 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. 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 either the EU or the International Students' Office first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

### **Admissions Tutor:**

### **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 French and Italian Programme Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide information on resources and study skills. 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 Italian television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French and Italian culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. 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 offer a congenial study space. DVDs are also available for loan from the departmental offices.

### **Career prospects**

A degree involving French and Italian, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads 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 and Italian can be a distinct asset. 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.

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

### **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. The French and the Italian language
2. French and Italian history, politics and/or literature and culture, and cinema
3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

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

French: 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.

Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but in Part 3 all students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study..

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), and an oral examination (1).

### **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 literary, historical or cinematic works in their cultural contexts
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 coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

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

1. Speak, write, read and understand French and Italian 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. 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 French and in Italian.

#### *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. 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 session in year 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 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 will be 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 and technology-enhanced language learning, but these skills are 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.**