

**BA German Studies & English Language  
For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4**

**UCAS code: QR3F**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Linguistics; Modern Languages
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	19/May/2015
Programme Director:	Dr Melani Schroeter
Programme Advisor:	Prof Jane Setter Dr Christiana Themistocleous
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme in German Studies and English Language aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in those subjects. The German part of the programme aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who have a sound critical understanding of German language and German-speaking culture, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development. In English Language there is special emphasis upon the use of the English language in social contexts, and upon the application of knowledge about language to problem solving in the contemporary world. The programme is distinctive in situating theories and descriptions developed in linguistics within an interdisciplinary and applied perspective.

**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 career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology 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 English Language 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 are taught in both Parts 2 and 3.

**Programme content**

The profile which follows lists those modules which must be taken ('compulsory'), and one or more lists of modules from which students must make a selection ('optional'). Students must choose modules from these lists or, where permitted, from modules on other programmes, to make 120 credits in each Part.

In German Part 1 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. Up to 20 additional credits may be taken from the options available. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and 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 Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 German, students take one language module and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of options available in the Department.

In English Language students take 40 credits at Part 1, with an option to take an additional 20 credits. 20 credits may be made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and the final year, students must normally take 60 credits each year in both subjects, but, in consultation with their programme adviser, they may choose to take up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

LS1SG	Sounds, Grammar and Meaning	20	4
LS1ELS	English Language and Society	20	4

## German

### 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):

LA1PG4	IWLP German Level 4	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

#### Or (for students entering with no knowledge of German):

GM1IG1	Intensive German 1	20	4
GM1IG2	Intensive German 2	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

### Optional modules

Students can choose optional modules up to a maximum of 20 credits from the following list:

GM1NPP	The German Nazi Past & the Present	10	4
GM1LRH	Literary Reflections of Historical Events	10	4
GM1ILG	The Inner Life of the German Language	10	4
GM1IHD	Interpreting Historical Documents	10	4

### Optional modules totalling 20 credits:

#### Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS1ELU	English Language in Use	20	4
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## Part 2 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

GM2L4	Advanced German Language II	20	5
LS2EG	English Grammar	10	5
LS2EP	English Phonology	10	5
LS2LRP	Language Research Project	10	5
LS2SL	Sociolinguistics	10	5

Students take 120 credits in Part 2, 60 in German and 60 in English Language. A maximum of 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the agreement of the Programme Director.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

## German

### Compulsory language module

Either (for students proceeding from GM1AGL):

GM2L4	Advanced German Language II	20	5
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Or (for students proceeding from LA1PG4 or GM1IG1 and GM1IG2)

GM2L3	Advanced German Language I	20	5
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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 available from the Department.

## In English Language

Optional modules totalling 20 credits, selected from a list available from within the Department, subject to availability.

At the discretion of the programme convenor, students may choose to replace the 20-credit optional module in English Language with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5
ML3YSWA	University Study/Work Placement/Assistantship	80	6

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

GM3L6	Advanced German Language III	20	6
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### **Part 3 (three terms)**

Students take 120 credits in Part 3, made up as indicated. The maximum number of credits which may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University is 20, subject to the agreement of the Programme Director.

(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 German**

In addition to the compulsory language module, students will select modules totalling 40 credits from a list of options available in the Department.

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

Students may not take optional modules at level 6 which they have already studied at level 5.

### **English Language (60 credits)**

Optional modules totalling 60 credits, selected from a list available from within the Department, subject to availability.

At the discretion of the programme convenor, students may choose to replace one 20-credit module in English Language with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

### **Progression requirements**

To proceed to Part 2, a student must obtain:

- (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at Level 4 or above;
- (ii) a mark of at least 40% or above in their compulsory modules in German, and must have achieved an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 examination;
- (iii) a mark of at least 40% in each of the English Language modules LS1SG and LS1ELS, amounting to 40 credits;
- (iv) at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

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 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

Modules are taught by lectures, seminars and small group practical work. Some modules are assessed wholly by coursework, some wholly by examination, and others by a mixture of the two: details are given in the module descriptions.

The Dissertation modules, for which preparation is given in English Language on the module LS2LRP, are additionally supported by individual supervision in both Departments.

The Year Abroad *Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and oral exams will take place in the Summer Term of Part 3.

#### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme will normally be required to have obtained:

GCSE English: Grade C or above

German: GCSE Grade A\*. Except that students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A\* at GCSE or equivalent in a European foreign language.

BBB/ABC from three A level subjects including a grade B in German (or A\* at GCSE) and also including a grade B in English Literature or Language.

International Baccalaureat: Pass the diploma overall and achieve 6,5,5 at Higher Level with English at Higher Level.

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBC-BBBBB in Highers including English.

Access: Students graduating from Access programmes will be considered on an individual basis

Edexcel/BTEC (Level 3): Distinction Distinction Merit

Scottish (Advanced) Highers: ABB.

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level.

Mature and international applicants. It will be appreciated from the extensive list of qualification routes above that we welcome applications from candidates with a range of backgrounds, including mature candidates and those from other countries. While the list above is indicative, it is not intended to be exhaustive, and all such candidates can be sure that their applications will be considered individually and by taking account of particular circumstances. International candidates who are not offering one of the listed set of qualifications are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

**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)

Students receive Handbooks from both Departments, which give details of the programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, preparation of written work (especially the dissertation), dates of terms and examinations, the University's procedure for assessment, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialised help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. Liaison Officers in both departments ensure co-ordination of the programme and assessment across the Departments, and attend to individual student needs and problems. The programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. In English Language, students at Part 1 receive an induction course in Academic Writing. Academic feedback and guidance from both Departments is given through detailed written comments, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. The module in research methods (in English Language) prepares students for the Part 3 dissertation, which is individually supervised.

The Department of English Language has three networked PCs that are intended for use by students researching corpora and databases, such as the British National Corpus and CoBUILD, as well as a wide range of instrumentation for the investigation of many aspects of speech. English Language also has its own research corpora and databases, and these can be accessed from these machines. The facility uses the very latest software in language and speech analysis. Also available for students are word-processing and statistics, e-mail, and Internet access. Further PCs are located in the student common room for student use.

The Library is well-stocked with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD-ROM and such on-line resources as JSTOR and First Search. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

Careers prospects for Reading graduates in German Studies and English Language are very wide ranging. Graduates find that the specific as well as transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work, including teaching, publishing, journalism, translating, business, management, administration, public relations, and advertising. This programme of study also equips graduates to organise complex data and to work in IT environments - skills demanded in many types of employment that are not directly concerned with language and communication. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research. More broadly, the degree provides students with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace.

#### **Opportunities for study abroad**

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

### **Placement opportunities**

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad in Germany or Austria. Students either study at a university with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter, or go on a placement which may be either a teaching placement or a work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and the Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

### **Programme Outcomes**

Knowledge and understanding

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. the German language
2. German politics and literature

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

1 is achieved through the language modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3. 2 is achieved through the other German

3. the principles of phonological contrast and the organisation of the sound system of English.
4. principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse
5. the main areas of applied linguistic inquiry
6. the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making
7. a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied
8. ways in which the mind acquires, stores and processes language, drawing on theories from linguistics, psychology, speech science and neuroscience.

modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3.

3-8 are achieved through Part 1 modules Sounds, Grammar and Meaning and English Language & Society, Part 2 modules Sociolinguistics, Language and the Mind, English Grammar and English Phonology as well as, by lectures and small group seminars. Further knowledge and understanding in areas 3-7 are offered in option modules at Parts 2 and 3, by lectures, small group seminars and guided assignments. 8 is achieved through the Part 2 module Language and the Mind with an optional module Psycholinguistics, which are both lecture based with guided assignments.

#### *Assessment*

1 and 2 are assessed by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination and coursework essays. 3-8 are assessed by coursework and written examination. Oral presentations also contribute in theoretical and applied areas.

### **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. analyse and solve problems
2. generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate
3. critically assess theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts
4. value contrasting academic arguments and claims
5. negotiate both primary and secondary applied linguistic sources and demonstrate how they interrelate
6. develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues, and challenge received conclusions
7. develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation
8. plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic

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

1-6 are achieved through demonstration and example in lectures as well as experience in small group seminars, and the Part 2 module Language Research Project.

7 and 8 are achieved mainly through the Part 2 module Language Research Project.

3-6 are achieved through the progression of concepts particularly in the compulsory modules across Parts 1, 2 and 3. Further opportunities are offered through option modules, especially those in theoretical and applied areas at Parts 2 and 3.

#### *Assessment*

1-6 form part of the evaluation of the quality of students' coursework and their written examinations. Additionally, 7 and 8 are assessed through small-scale project work in the Language Research Project.

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

1. speak, write, read and understand German at a high or near-native level of proficiency
2. produce a phonological transcript of English speech
3. analyse English sentences
4. analyse and interpret linguistic data from various psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic perspectives.
5. assemble and assess the information contained in modern electronic linguistic corpora
6. prepare bibliographies and references

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

1 is achieved through the compulsory German language modules taken throughout the programme. 2 is achieved through small group phonetics practical sessions, based on general information provided in the main core lectures on the sounds of language.

3 is achieved through compulsory modules Sounds, Grammar and Meaning and English Grammar.

4 is achieved through the compulsory Part 2 modules Language Research Project and Sociolinguistics.

5-6 are achieved through introductory sessions and assignment in the module Language Research Project.

*Assessment*

1 is assessed by orals and unseen examinations. There is also regular unassessed coursework. 2-6 are assessed by assignment.

**D. Transferable skills - able to:**

1. use IT (including word-processing, internet search and communication and database analysis)
2. define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by methods appropriate to the topic
3. assess the effectiveness of given instances of spoken, written and multi-modal texts
4. work as part of a team
5. use library resources
6. manage time
7. formulate and implement career plans
8. deploy critical awareness of language and society in effective communication in a range of career contexts

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1-6 are achieved through the Part 2 module Language Research Project  
3 is additionally achieved in a number of option modules..  
5 and 6 are also required for successful execution of assignments throughout the programme  
7 is achieved through Career Management Skills  
8 will be addressed throughout the course and further developed through Career Management Skills.

*Assessment*

1 is assessed by coursework  
2 is assessed by group presentation and individual writing up of the project carried out in the Part 2 module Language Research Project  
3 is assessed by coursework and examination on relevant modules  
4-6 are not specifically assessed but contribute to success in forms of assessment generally  
7 is assessed by three equally weighted assignments

**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.**