

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

**UCAS code: QR3H**

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

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme in English Language with Italian aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in those subjects. There is special emphasis upon the use of the English language in its social context, and upon the application of knowledge about language to problem solving in the contemporary world. The Italian part of the programme aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in Italian, who have a sound critical understanding of Italian language, culture and history, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development. 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 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.

On completion of the programme, students will have mastered contemporary methodology for the study of language in use which involves the development of computer and IT skills, while techniques of text and language analysis will be relevant to a wide range of professional and personal contexts.

**Programme content**

The following profile states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with lists of modules in any Part from which students must make a selection (the option modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.

The compulsory modules provide a thorough and staged grounding in (1) theories and descriptions of the phonology, grammar, lexis and discourse of English; (2) the relation of knowledge about language to issues in society and education; (3) the relation of knowledge about language to the mind 4) Italian language and translation, and (5) further modules on aspects of Italian language in literature and film. The compulsory dissertation allows students to conduct a more specialised and guided investigation. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of language and the potential for its application through the structured yet flexible progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. All students must take a compulsory 20-credit language module (to which they will be allocated according to their previous experience) and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture. Part 1 in English Language (a) provides the basic resources for the description of the sounds, grammar and semantics of English, and (b) provides a broad overview of the scope of English Language and introduces a sociolinguistic perspective to the study of language.

In Part 2 students take one compulsory 20-credit Italian language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules. In English Language

Part 2 provides further grounding in English phonology and grammar, and adds to this theory and practice in psycholinguistics, and training in research methods. Part 3 provides one-to-one tutorials to enable students to prepare and write about a more specialised research topic for their dissertation. There is again a suite of options, including opportunities to select from topics available at Part 2 and study these at a more advanced level, and

also additional and more specialised topics. There is greater opportunity at Part 3 for students to select the topics they prefer to study, and for guided independent study. Further advanced modules in Italian language and culture are also provided.

### Part 1 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

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

### In Italian Studies

#### 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 Medieval 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
Or			
IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5

#### Plus

Either			
IT1004	Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
Or			
IT10M1	Making Italians: a journey in the history and culture of modern Italy	20	4

#### Optional module

One of			
IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
IT10M1	Making Italians: a journey in the history and culture of modern Italy	20	4

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that assessed coursework will be undertaken throughout the year, including in the Christmas and Easter vacation.

### In English Language

#### 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

LS2EG	English Grammar	10	5
LS3EP	English Phonology	10	5
LS2LRP	Language Research Project	10	5
LS2SL	Sociolinguistics	10	5

### Italian Studies (60 credits)

#### Compulsory modules

#### either

IT2L4	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
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#### or

IT2L2	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5
<b>or - if IT202 has been taken at Part 1</b>			
IT1L3	Advanced Italian Language I	20	4

*Optional modules (to total of 40 credits)*

Students must choose option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook. (Not all optional modules will be available in any one year; the availability of all optional modules is subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants.)

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that assessed coursework will be undertaken throughout the year, including in the Christmas and Easter vacation.

**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 one 20-credit module in Applied Linguistics with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

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

*Compulsory modules*

Module	Title	Credits	Level
ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5
ML3YSWA	University Study/Work Placement/Assistantship	80	6

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

IT3L6	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6
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**Italian Studies (40 credits)**

*Optional modules (up to the total of 40 credits)*

Students must choose two 20-credit optional modules. At least one module must be taken from the following list:

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 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)

Optional Modules

**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 Applied Linguistics with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

**Progression requirements**

To proceed to Part 2, a student must

- (a) obtain marks of at least 40% in each of the compulsory Part 1 modules LS1SG and LS1ELS in English Language; and
- b) obtain marks of at least 40% in each of the compulsory Part 1 Italian modules; and

- (c) achieve an overall average of at least 40% in 120 credits taken at Part 1; and  
(d) achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

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 Italian-speaking country and have handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook.

### **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

Teaching is delivered in modules that involve lectures, seminars and (in some modules) workshops. Seminars will involve oral presentation by students, and workshops will include training and practice in the description and analysis of texts and transcripts. Italian language modules are taught in small groups. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination, with the proportion of coursework increasing as the degree progresses.

### **Admission requirements**

Although it is not a requirement, it is recommended that applicants should have an 'A' level (or equivalent) in Italian, or a language other than English or Italian.

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

GCSE English: Grade C

BBB from three A Level subjects including Grade B in English Language, English Literature or English Language and Literature

International Baccalaureat: Pass with 25 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: ABBBB

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

Edexcel/BTEC (Level 3): Distinction Distinction Merit

Scottish (Advanced) Highers: 300 UCAS points from three Advanced Highers, or from five Highers

European Baccalaureat: 75% overall

German Abitur: Pass with average of 2.2

Greek Apolytirion: 17/20 + one or two A Levels or equivalent

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 Jane Setter

### **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)

At Part 1, students receive an induction course in Academic Writing. Each student is provided with a course handbook which contains full details of the degree programme, the staff and facilities in the School of Literature and Languages, and a range of useful information including advice on note-taking in lectures, preparation of written work especially the dissertation, and dates of terms and examinations, and the University's procedure for assessment. Each Part of the programme has a Course Tutor to advise students on selection of modules, learning and assessment. Learning on core modules is supported by small group seminars.

Learning is also supported by dedicated facilities in the School. The library of the University houses an important specialist collection of books, journals, dissertations and theses, reports and conference proceedings on Applied Linguistics, Italian and the Teaching and Learning of English. The Language Research Laboratory in the Department of Applied Linguistics has 6 networked PCs that are intended for 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. We also have our 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.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

The BA in Italian Studies and English Language at Reading offers a firm foundation for further study in the humanities or social sciences, and a set of skills relevant to many careers and life-long learning. Potential careers for graduates will include: teaching English and Italian abroad, speech therapy, publishing, linguistic computing, journalism, the Civil Service, the media (including advertising, marketing and public relations) and information technology (including library work). The proposed programme is also likely to be of interest to students intending to become teachers (although policy on admitting graduates in subjects not named in the National Curriculum is changeable). The Teacher Training Agency and representatives of providers of Initial Teacher Training have been consulted, and have indicated that, provided graduates meet the specific requirements for entry to teacher training in force at the time, this programme is likely to constitute an appropriate first degree, particularly for entrants to the primary phase. The interdisciplinary nature of the degree, and the emphasis on transferable skills such as analysis of language data, including the use of IT, problem-solving, oral presentations and team-working, will produce graduates prepared for a wide range of professions, including those listed above.

#### **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.

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional circumstances only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter; alternatively they can choose a placement option. This option is subject to the approval of the Programme Director, who evaluates - after consulting his/her colleagues in Italian Studies - if the student has acquired the competence and the skills required for the placement. They can also choose to combine a period of study (minimum 4 months) with one spent on an international work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites. Students who wish to take advantage of placement opportunities must obtain authorisation in the second year of their study. Applications should be handed in to the Placements Co-ordinator and the Programme Director in Italian Studies. In either of the above cases, it is for the student to seek out an appropriate placement. Further help may be provided by the Job Shop, located in the Student Advisory Service.

### **Placement opportunities**

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional circumstances only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter; they can also choose to combine a period of study (minimum 4 months) with one spent on an international work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

Students on this programme spend their third year at one of these Universities or they may request a work placement in Italy. Students who wish to take advantage of this opportunity must obtain authorisation from the Department in the second year of study. Applications should be handed in to the Placement Co-ordinator. Students may also decide to take up a shorter work placement during their year abroad which will form part of their assessment for IT3Y31 (Italian Oral and Textual Skills). In either of the above cases it is for the student to seek out an appropriate placement. Further help may be provided by the Job Shop, located in the Student Advisory Service.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

Knowledge and understanding of:

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

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

1-6 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 1-5 are offered in option modules at Parts 2 and 3, by lectures, small group seminars and guided assignments. 6 is achieved through the Part 2 module Language and the Mind with an optional module Psycholinguistics, which are both lecture based with guided assignments. 7 is achieved through the language modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3. 8 is achieved through the other Italian modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3.

##### *Assessment*

1-6 are assessed by coursework and written examination. Oral presentations also contribute in theoretical and applied areas. 7 and 8 are assessed by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination and coursework essays.

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

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

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. evaluate 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

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

Able to:

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

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

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 demonstration and example in lectures as well as experience in small group seminars, the Part 2 module Research Methods.

7 and 8 are achieved mainly through the Part 2 module Research Methods. 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 modules Research Methods.

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

1 is achieved through small group phonetics practical sessions, based on general information provided in the main core lectures on the sounds of language.

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

3 is achieved through the compulsory Part 2 modules Language and the Mind, Sociolinguistics and Research Methods.

4-5 are achieved through introductory sessions and assignment in the module Research Methods, and through the option module Corpus-Based Approaches to Language Description.

6 is achieved through the compulsory Italian language modules taken throughout the programme.

### *Assessment*

1-5 are assessed by assignment;

6 is assessed by orals and unseen examinations.

There is also regular unassessed coursework.

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

1-6 are achieved through the Part 2 module Research Methods

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 the 5-credit Part 2 distributed module Career Management Skills

8 will be addressed throughout the course and further developed in the Career Management Skills Module.

### *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 Research Methods

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.**