

**BA French (part time)  
For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5**

**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:	19/Sep/2014
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress, where appropriate, to a variety of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written French and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of French and Francophone culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests.

**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, 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 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.

**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. Most Department modules correspond to 20 credits.

Modules are offered at one of three Levels. In ascending order these are:

- Level 4 (corresponding to Part 1 of the standard degree course)
- Level 5 (corresponding to Part 2 of the standard degree course)
- Level 6 (corresponding to Part 3 of the standard degree course)

To obtain a Single Honours degree in French Studies a Part-time student needs to accumulate, from each of the Levels 4, 5, and 6, credits totalling 360. The majority of these credits will be gained by taking modules within the modern languages Department but, as explained below, there is scope for choosing modules offered on other degree programmes.

The pace at which Part-timers amass their credits varies according to individual choice in a way that is not possible for Full-timers who have to achieve 120 credits per year of their studies before moving on to the next Level. The University allows Part-timers to begin taking Level 5 modules as soon as they have 80 credits at Level 4, and similarly, to commence Level 6 modules once 80 credits at 5 Level have been secured. If they opt for a 120 Level 4, 120 Level 5, 120 Level 6 sequence, Part-timers need to keep firmly in mind the stipulated overall tally of 360 credits.

The content of this particular degree programme is:

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

Or				
FR1L2	Intermediate French Language		20	4

Plus 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

It is possible to take FR103 in addition to (rather than instead of) FR104 in order to bring your total of Part 1 credits in French up to 60.

The remaining credits at Level 4 should be chosen from other Departments in the Faculty, to make up a total of 120.

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

FR2L4	Advanced French Language II	20	5
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*Optional modules*

10-credit Level 5 modules must be chosen from the current Departmental list to make up a total of 100-120. All modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. 20 credits at level 5 may be chosen from another Department in the Faculty, to make up a total of 120.

**Part 3 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

FR3L6	Advanced Language III		<i>Credit</i> 20	<i>Level</i> 6
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plus

*Optional modules*

EITHER				
FR301	Long Dissertation		40	6

and TWO or THREE 20-credit, Level 6 modules from the advertised list of Departmental modules

OR

FR3SD	Short Dissertation	20	6
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and THREE or FOUR 20-credit, Level 6 modules from the list in question.

If the total number of credits at level 6 chosen within the Modern Languages Department adds up to 100, the remaining 20 credits at level 6 should be chosen from another Department in the Faculty, to make up a total of 120.

(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*

Students must take four modules from the list below. They may replace 20 credits with a module from other programmes. Note: the following modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. New modules may be offered. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information.:

FR3MAN	French for Managers	20	6
FR304	Provençal	20	6
FR305	The Legend of Tristan and Iseut	20	6
FR306	Warriors and Heroes : the Medieval French Epic	20	6
FR307	Between Rome and France: exile and displacement in French Renaissance poetry and prose	20	6
FR308	Seventeenth-century French tragedy	20	6
FR313	French-Canadian Novel	20	6
FR314	The Algerian Novel of French Expression	20	6
FR315	French Cinema	20	6
FR316	The French Right since 1940	20	6
FR317	André Gide 1869-1951	20	6
FR319	Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution	20	6
FR320	French-Canadian Cinema	20	6
FR321	France and Europe since 1945	20	6
FR323	Translation into French	20	6

#### **Progression requirements**

Part-timers must have 40 credits in French at Level 4 (Part 1). They can, if they wish, take up to 60 credits in French at this stage. If their aim is to obtain the 80 credits enabling them to embark immediately on Level 5 modules they must make up the remaining credits by selecting a module or modules from elsewhere in the University. They must also pass the Part 1 examinations in May/June.

To pass these examinations, candidates must have

- a minimum average of 40% across all modules taken
- a minimum mark of 40% in modules specifically required for progression to a degree in French
- no more than one 20 credit (non-compulsory) module mark of under 30%

Anyone who fails the May/June examinations has the right to resit in the following August/September.

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

In Parts 2 and 3 students may take up to 20 credits from modules available on degree programmes elsewhere in the University. They may also, subject to the approval of the Head of Department, take 20 credits from modules at one level above or below the level they have reached in their programme.

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. An overall average of 40% minimum is required for a Pass and there must be no more than one 20 credit (non-compulsory) module mark of under 30%

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

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.

Part-time students are strongly encouraged to spend time amounting to a minimum of six weeks, in a French-speaking country over the duration of their degree. Any period of residence is not, however, assessed.

Part-timers who decide to terminate their degree course prematurely can still be awarded the following qualifications provided that they have the minimum number of credits indicated:

- Certificate of Higher Education: 100 credits at Level 4 plus 20 credits at any Level
- Diploma of Higher Education: 240 credits, with at least 100 credits at 5 Level or above.

### **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

### **Three-year programmes**

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

In Part 1, 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 15 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 FR2L4 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.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three A level subjects or 320 from four, to include 2 full A levels. Candidates must normally have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE A level French (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take FR1L3 (Advanced French Language I) OR 50 points at A/S French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR1L2 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE A level French (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take FR1L3 (Advanced French Language I) OR 50 points at A/S French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR1L2 (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.

Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the Departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via [languages@reading.ac.uk](mailto:languages@reading.ac.uk). 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:** 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)

The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive 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 television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies.

The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has a Resource Room containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, French newspapers and magazines are also available outside the Resource Room and DVDs are available for loan from the Departmental Office.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in French work in many different fields. 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. A degree involving French can lead 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 can be a distinct asset.

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

Part-time students are strongly encouraged to spend time amounting to a minimum of six weeks, in a French-speaking country over the duration of their degree.

#### **Placement opportunities**

See above.

### **Programme Outcomes**

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to:

1. understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
2. read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts;
3. write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style.

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 language
2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture
3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

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

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. 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), an oral examination (1) and dissertation (1-3).

### **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;
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 appropriate written and oral responses to the tasks set.

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

1. speak, write, read and understand French 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 where appropriate at the outset of each module. At Part 1 classes and tutorials help students to work on the production of essays. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French.

#### *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 and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PAR student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. 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 is 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, but this skill is not formally assessed. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**