

BA English Literature and German
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

UCAS code: QR32

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	English and Modern Languages
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	22/Aug/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Chloe Houston
Programme Advisor:	Dr Melani Schroeter
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, cultural and historical texts from a range of periods, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis, and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written German. The course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

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.

In addition, students on this joint degree programme are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: the ability to formulate and evaluate arguments, use of library and relevant information resources, self-reliance, effective time management, and cultural awareness.

Programme content

In Part 1 students take 60 credits in English Literature and 60 credits in German. In Parts 2 and 3 they must normally take 60 credits in both English Literature and German in each Part, but may, in consultation with their programme adviser, choose to take up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the university. The Year Abroad takes place in the third year of the degree programme.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EN1GC	Genre and Context	20	4
EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
EN1RC	Research and Criticism	20	4

In German

Compulsory modules

Either	for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)		
GM1L3	Advanced German Language I	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4
Or	(for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)		
GM1L2	Intermediate German Language	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4
Or	(for students entering with no knowledge of German)		
GM1L1A	Beginners German Language I	20	4
GM1L1B	Beginners German Language II	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Optional modules

Students on the Advanced and Intermediate pathways will select a further 20-credit module from a list of options available in the Department. The complete list of options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

In English Literature (60 credits):

Students choose three optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one option must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

In German

Compulsory language module in German

Either (for students on the Advanced pathway):

GM2L4	Advanced German Language II	20	5
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Or (for students on the Intermediate or Beginners pathway):

GM2L3	Advanced German Language I	20	5
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Optional modules

Students must select 40 credits from a list of options available in the Department. A minimum of 20 of these credits must be made up of German-specific modules

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

Compulsory modules

ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5
ML2YSWA	University study/ Work placement/ Assistantship abroad	80	5

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

GM3L6	Advanced German Language III	20	6
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In English Literature

Students may choose to take either the 40-credit Dissertation in English and one 20-credit optional module or 60 credits of optional modules

Optional modules: A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

In German

Students must select 40 credits from a list of options available in the Department. A minimum of 20 of these credits must be made up of German-specific modules.

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

(NB: students will not be allowed to take any IWLP level 1 module for credit in their final year.)

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must obtain:

- (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above;
- (ii) a mark of 40% in each of the compulsory modules
- (iii) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

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 the Year Abroad, a student must achieve a threshold performance

To progress from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must achieve (i) a weighted average of 40% over the 120 Year Abroad credits; (ii) marks of at least 40% in ML2YSWA; and (iii) marks of at least 30% in ML2YL5.

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)

Part 2: one-sixth

Year abroad: one-sixth

Part 3: two-thirds

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

German language modules are taught in small groups; other modules in German and in English typically involve a mixture of lectures, small-group seminars and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, assessment will be conducted through a mixture of assessed essays and formal examination. The Year Abroad module German Scheine will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian universities, and Oral and Aural German will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

Conventions for degree classification are explained in the Programme Handbook, The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

A levels: ABB-BBB including minimum grade B in English Literature or a related subject, and minimum grade B at A level or AS level in German or another modern foreign language, or grade A* at GCSE.

IB: 32 points overall including 5 at Higher level in English and 5 at Higher level in German or another modern foreign language.

Scottish Highers: AABBB

Irish Highers: AAABB at Higher level including English

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will be usually be expected to have a B at A level in English or equivalent qualifications, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Mary Morrissey

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

Students in the Department of English Literature receive a Handbook which gives information about the programme, staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University, such as the Study Advice Team and the Counselling Service, as well as guidance on study skills such as note-taking and referencing. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. The Part 1 module EN1RC Research and Context fosters core skills in research and writing through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical exercises, and guides students in the selection and use of appropriate resources. This module also introduces students to the subject librarian and to the wealth of print and electronic resources, including the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR, held by the Library. Support for the Dissertation starts in Part 2, with lectures, seminars and tutorials helping students to develop an appropriate topic, which is then supervised in Part 3 through a combination of group work and individual supervision. Throughout the Programme, all written assignments are returned with written feedback, and from Part 2 this is supported by one-to-one essay tutorials. Further academic and personal support is provided through the personal tutor system.

Career learning

Career learning starts in Part 1 with the skills-focused module EN1RC Research and Criticism, in whose Summer Term students work on and submit a career learning exercise. Feedback on this exercise is provided at the start of Part 2 through the Personal Tutor system. Students are also regularly reminded that they may make an appointment with the Department's Careers Tutor at any time. They may also consult the Placement Tutor at regular drop-in sessions. All of this information is summarised in a Career Development folder on Blackboard, which provides links to the Careers Centre, the RED (Reading Experience and Development) award, the UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities) Programme and other University resources and opportunities, as well as the Department's own graduate database which outlines the career paths and provides contact details of past students who have agreed to be contactable by present undergraduates.

Career prospects

In recent years students who have gained a degree on this programme have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. Joint degrees involving a language (like degrees in other arts subjects) can also lead to careers in such areas as marketing and computing, or may be a prelude to study in law or accountancy. Increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of German can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad. A Reading degree in English Literature and German provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

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 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.

Placement opportunities

In addition to the Part 2 module EN2CAW Communications at work, which involves a placement, all English Literature modules at Parts 2 and 3 come with the option of an 'academic placement' which complements and develops the learning on a module. These academic placements may take place either before or after the teaching of the module. They will normally be assessed by a placement report in lieu of one element from the normal assessment pattern, but students may also elect not to have their placement report contribute towards assessment for the module. Students have the chance to discuss and develop their placement ideas at regular drop-in sessions held by the Placement Tutor. Students may take a maximum of two placements over the course of their degree.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

In English Literature

1. Literary texts in English Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day
2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama
3. Methods of critical textual analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts
5. A range of approaches in English studies
6. Selected special fields of English Literature

In German

7. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom
8. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
9. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
10. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
11. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-1900
12. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1-5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 4 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules.

Small-group teaching on language and options (7-8, 10-12)

Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (9)

Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (3, 10-12)

Feedback on language work and essay assignments (7-12)

Dissertation (any of 1-12 depending on chosen topic)

Study or other residence abroad (7-8; also 9).

Assessment

[in English Literature] In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 4, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams.

[in German; all parts]

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (3, 7-12)

Oral examination (7-8)

Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (7-8).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identification of problems and issues

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), through close guided study of texts (3),

3. The ability to read closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions
5. Ability to understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
6. Ability to transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
7. Ability to analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
8. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

In English Literature

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of texts
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language
4. Bibliographical and research skills
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. An ability to relate the study of English to cultural and social issues

In German, the ability to:

7. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
8. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
9. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
10. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
11. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
12. Organize and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments
3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches
4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
6. Time-management skills
7. A creative approach to problem-solving
8. Group and interpersonal skills
9. An ability to work independently, to self-evaluate and self-reflect
10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing
11. Ability to take account of different linguistic and cultural environments

seminar preparation and discussion (1-3, 5-6), and essay writing and feedback through tutorials (1-6); through language classes (7)

Assessment

1 - 3 and 5 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays and unseen exams, 6 is assessed specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme 1- 5 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials. 7 is assessed in certain language examinations.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 - 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.

In German, skills 7-8 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 9 and also 10 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skill 12 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations. In German, skills 7-10 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 12 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations (1 - 9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, essay writing. Time-management skills (6) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (9) are particularly important in the year abroad, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 11. We require that all summatively assessed essays (in

12. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

German all assessed essays) are word-processed (10). Career management (12) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

1 - 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. 11 is not directly assessed but informs a student's work throughout the programme, especially in the third and final years.

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.