

**BA French and Economics**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6**

**UCAS code: LR11**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies, Economics
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	11/Dec/2017
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	Prof Françoise Le Saux Dr Sarah Jewell
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies

**Summary of programme aims**

This is a multi-disciplinary programme in which students take modules in both departments alongside single subject students.

The French part of the programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. It aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone literature, history, culture and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

The Economics part of the programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in the subject. It focuses on coverage of economic principles and their relevant application: the areas of economic principles are compulsory in the second part of the degree, and relevant applications are compulsory in the final part. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the basic elements of economic theory and of relevant uses and applications.

**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.

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; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

**Programme content**

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), and indicates when the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, from lists appearing in relevant handbooks and in consultation with their Personal Tutor, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

EC113	Introductory Microeconomics	20	4
EC114	Introductory Macroeconomics	20	4
EC115	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 1	10	4
EC116	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 1	10	4

**French Studies**

**Compulsory modules**

FR1L3	Advanced French Language I	20	4
or			
FR1L2	Intermediate French Language	20	4
and either			
FR1MMF	The Making of Modern France	20	4

or				
FR11FC	Introduction to French Culture	20	4	

#### Optional modules

Students can choose one option to the value of 20 credits. The complete list of options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

### Part 2 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

FR2L4	Advanced French Language II	20	5
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5

#### In French

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 French specific modules.

#### Optional modules in Economics:

Students must choose one optional module to the value of 20 credits from the following list:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
EC204	Introductory Econometrics	20	5
EC208	Business Economics	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
EC242	Economics of the Environment and Energy	20	5
EC243	Economic History	20	5

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

#### *Compulsory modules*

Code	Title	Credits	Level
ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5
ML2YSWA	University study/Work placement/Assistantship abroad	80	5

### Part 3 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

FR3L6	Advanced French Language III	20	6
FR3LMB	French Language for Management & Business II	20	6

#### In French

Students must select 20 credits from a list of options available in the Department. Students will not be allowed to take any IWLP level 1 modules for credit in their final year.

#### Optional modules in Economics (to total of 60 credits):

Code	Title	Credits	Level
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC314	Public Economics	20	6
EC315	History of Economic Thought	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC320	Money and Banking	20	6

EC324	European Urban and Regional Economics	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land, Development and Planning	20	6
EC337	Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change	20	6
EC339	Microeconomics for Developing Countries	20	6
EC342	Macroeconomics for Developing Countries	20	6
EC343	Behavioural Economics	20	6
EC344	Banking in Emerging Economies	20	6
EC347	Industrial Organisation	20	6
EC348	Business History	20	6
EC3DSI	Dissertation (for joint degrees)	40	6

(NB: In those programmes where the taking of 20 credits outside the main programme is permitted, no IWLP Level 1 Romance Language, or a Beginners' Latin, module, can be taken for credit by any Language finalist)

### Progression requirements

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2 students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned. In addition, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in their compulsory modules in French and in Economics.

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 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 ML2Y5WA; and (iii) marks of at least 30% in ML2YL5.

### Summary of Teaching and Assessment

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

Year 2 (Level 5) one-sixth

Year 3 (Level 5 - Year Abroad) one-sixth

Year 4 four-sixths

In Part 1, FR1MMF is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR1IFC 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 and/or formal examination. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

In Economics the delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final

assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is one third, other than in special cases. To be eligible for Honours, students must normally have obtained an overall average of 40%.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three A level subjects or 320 points from 4 subjects (A or AS levels), including 2 full A levels. Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE A level French (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take FR1L3 (Advanced French Language I) in Part 1, or 50 points at AS French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR1L2 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE A level French (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take FR1L3 (Advanced French Language I) in Part 1, or 50 points at AS 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. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the 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, In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. 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 the Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: <http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials>.

The Self-Access Centre for Language Learning and the Language Resources Centre contain 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. DVDs are available for loan from the Departmental office. The grammar strand at Part 2 has all the PowerPoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

A degree involving French, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; many students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be a distinct asset.

In recent years graduates from the French and Economics programme have entered a variety of careers in both the private and the public sectors. Examples include jobs in banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, and universities.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad in a French-speaking country, mainly in France. 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**

Students may choose to do a work placement during their Year Abroad.

### **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

###### **In French**

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.

###### **In Economics**

1. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising micro-economics and macroeconomics;
2. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods;
3. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

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

###### **In French**

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 2, grammar is taught by PowerPoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.
- 2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context.

###### **In Economics**

Formal lectures, classes and practical sessions, supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study. Students undertake project work and write essays, in which they learn to apply economic concepts to relevant real world issues.

###### *Assessment*

In French, the assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3) and an oral examination (1).

Economics modules are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations.

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

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

###### **In French**

1. critically apply literary and historical concepts;

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

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above.

2. identify and solve problems;
3. analyse and interpret;
4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference;

**In Economics**

5. think logically;
6. apply analytical principles to a range of problems;
7. organise tasks into a structured form;
8. assess the impact of recent and current changes on business and organisational circumstances;
9. transfer appropriate techniques and knowledge from one topic within the subject matter to another;
10. plan, organise and write a report on an independent project.

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

**In French**

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;

**In Economics**

5. understand and develop a chain of economic reasoning
6. formulate and analyse economic problems
7. evaluate economic policies
8. write critical analyses of economic questions.

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

**In French**

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

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*

In French, the variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

In Economics, 5-8 are covered extensively in the core modules; 9-10 are given wide scope in the optional modules; 10 is assessed directly by means of the essays prepared in Parts 2 and 3 in all modules.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each module where appropriate. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.

In Economics, the core subjects concentrate on formal economic reasoning. Problem solving forms an important part of class work especially in Parts 2 and 3. The specialised options involve writing detailed assessments of set topics.

*Assessment*

In French, 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 and unseen written examinations.

In Economics, most skills are tested through a combination of coursework, including both problem solving and essays, and through unseen examinations.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All modules require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different modules within the programme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2. IT

of others.

8. Careers Management

**In Economics**

9. use IT (word-processing);

10. communicate ideas in a logical way;

11. give oral presentations;

12. contribute to group discussions ;

13. use library resources both on- and off-line;

14. manage time.

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 Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.

In Economics, the use of IT is required throughout the Part 2 and 3 modules. Seminars in Parts 2 and 3 involve group discussions and oral presentations. Library resources have to be used continuously in the preparation of essays and project work. The highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work requires good time management.

*Assessment*

In French, effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency - clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. It will be assessed by essay. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing and technology-enhanced language learning. These skills are not formally assessed. In Economics, most skills are tested indirectly through the preparation of course and project work.

**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.**