

BA German
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

UCAS code: R200

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Modern Languages
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	19/Jul/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Melani Schroeter
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline.

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, problem-solving, team working, interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, use of IT and career management and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Students of German 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 profile which follows lists modules which must be taken (compulsory) and those modules from which students must make a selection (optional modules). Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits are made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 3 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in German includes the study of both language (with an intensive language course for students with no German) and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language and take modules based on a variety of options available in the Department. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students take two modules of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

Careers management skills will be taught in both Parts 2 and 3.

Compulsory modules in German

Either (for students entering with A-level German or equivalent)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
GM1L3	Advanced German Language I	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
GM1L2	Intermediate German Language	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Or (for students entering with no knowledge of German)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
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GM1L1A	Beginners German Language I	20	4
GM111B	Beginners German Language II	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Students may select their remaining 80 credits (or 60 for Beginners) from options available in the Department or elsewhere in the University. The complete list of departmental options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
GM2L4	Advanced German Language II	20	5

Students must select 100 credits from a list of options available in the Department. A minimum of 60 of these credits must be made up of German-specific modules. 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the university.

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

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

Compulsory modules

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

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
GM3L6	Advanced German Language III	20	6

Students must select 100 credits from a list of options available in the Department. A minimum of 60 of these credits must be made up of German-specific modules. 20 credits may be taken from modules available elsewhere in the university.

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

- (i) obtain a mark of 40% or above in all of their compulsory German modules;
- (ii) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- (iii) achieve not less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.

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, student must achieve a threshold performance.

To proceed 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.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark interpretation

70% First class

-

100%

60% Upper

- Second class

69%

50% Lower

- Second class

59%

40% Third class

-

49%

35% Below

- Honours

39% Standard

0% - Fail

34%

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Four year programmes with a year abroad (MFL)

Year 2 (level 5) one-sixth

Year Abroad (level 5) one-sixth

Year 4 (level 6) four-sixths

Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad module *Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and the Oral/Aural module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

Admission requirements

BBB/ABC from three A level subjects including a grade B in German or other Modern Foreign Language (or A* at GCSE).

NB: A* in German is required if entering at Intermediate level with GCSE only.

Students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A at GCSE, or equivalent, in a European foreign language.

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via german@reading.ac.uk.

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

In addition the Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Departmental Resource Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

Career learning

Career prospects

Students graduating in German work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, 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 German can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; others proceed to post-graduate courses in various areas, including translating.

Opportunities for study abroad

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

Placement opportunities

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

Programme Outcomes

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. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
4. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
6. Methods of critical textual analysis.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6)
Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)
Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6)
Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6)
Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3).

Assessment

- Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-6)
Oral examination (1-2)

Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
2. Identify and analyse problems and issues
3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
4. Evaluate alternative critical views
5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
5. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. Formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. Give oral presentations
3. Use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. Demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. Manage time and work to deadlines
6. Work independently and be self-reliant
7. Take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), and language classes (6).

Assessment

Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, and 6 in language teaching.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skill 5 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 5 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Careers management skills (8) are incorporated in modules taught at Parts 2 and 3.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

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.