

**BA German and Italian**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6**

**UCAS code: RR23**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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:                      | 22/Aug/2016                                 |
| Programme Director:                         | Dr Melani Schroeter                         |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Dr Federico Faloppa                         |
| 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 and Italian, who are well-informed about German and Italian 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, team working, career management, interpersonal skills, learning skills, 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 of German and Italian 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. Careers management skills will be taught in both Parts 2 and 3.

**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 can be made up from any optional modules in this programme. In Part 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 and history. Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Other students take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies: this also permits qualification for Part 2. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take optional modules on historical, cultural and literary topics from 1750 to the present.. In Italian students take one compulsory 20-credit language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Italy and in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German and Italian culture. In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study in each subject and are free to pursue their interests within German and Italian studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options. Up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)***Compulsory modules*

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

| <i>Module Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>        | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 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 |
|-------|------------------------------|----|---|

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.

## Modules in Italian Studies

**For students with A-Level or equivalent:**

Compulsory modules:

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i>                      | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| IT1L3       | Advanced Italian Language I       | 20             | 4            |
| IT1002      | Twentieth-century Italian Culture | 20             | 4            |

Optional module:

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i>   | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| IT1004      | Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture<br>(in translation) | 20             | 4            |

**For non-advanced students:**

Compulsory modules:

|                    |   |    |   |
|--------------------|---|----|---|
| <b>Either</b>      | (for students with GCSE or AS-level)                                  |    |   |
| IT1L2              | Intermediate Italian Language   | 20 | 4 |
| <b>Or</b>          | (for students with no previous knowledge of Italian)                  |    |   |
| IT1L1              | Beginners Italian Language  | 20 | 4 |
| <b>Plus either</b> |   |    |   |
| IT1004             | Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)             | 20 | 4 |
| <b>Or</b>          |   |    |   |
| IT10M1             | Making Italians: A Journey in the History and Culture of Modern Italy | 20 | 4 |

Optional modules (to the total of 20 credits)

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*

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

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.

## Modules in Italian Studies

### Compulsory modules

|               |                               | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Either</b> |                               |                |              |
| IT2L2         | Intermediate Italian Language | 20             | 5            |
| <b>OR</b>     |                               |                |              |
| IT2L4         | Advanced Italian Language II  | 20             | 5            |

### Optional modules (to the total of 40 credits)

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

### 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

|       |                               |    |   |
|-------|-------------------------------|----|---|
| GM3L6 | Advanced German Language III  | 20 | 6 |
| IT3L6 | Advanced Italian Language III | 20 | 6 |

Students must normally take modules to the value of 60 credits in German and 60 credits in Italian, but 20 credits taken elsewhere in the University may be substituted for one of the non-language modules.

### 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, including additions to the above list, 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.)

### Italian Studies

Optional modules (to the total of 40 credits)

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 Italian specific modules.

Students will not be allowed to take any IWLP level 1 module for credit in their final year.

### Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% or above in all of their compulsory modules in German and Italian, and must have achieved an overall average of 40% in the Part 1 examination and have no module mark under 30%, 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.

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% - 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)**

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 modules *German Scheine* and *Italian credits* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German/Austrian and Italian universities, and the Oral/Aural modules will be examined at Part 3.

#### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained BBB/ABC from three A level subjects including grade B in German for Advanced level entry, or A\* in German at GCSE for entry at Intermediate level, or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German (and, where appropriate for the level of entry, Italian). Students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have A\* at GCSE, or equivalent, in a European foreign language. (No previous knowledge of Italian is required for this programme)

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 Tutors, who may be contacted via [german@reading.ac.uk](mailto:german@reading.ac.uk) or (for Italian) [l.m.sampson@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.sampson@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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

In addition the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students in both subjects 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. The University Language Centre (ULC) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching German and Italian television by satellite. The Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a Part I co-ordinator for Italian as well as a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and 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 and Italian go on to 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 and Italian 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.

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

#### **Placement opportunities**

Students have the possibility of doing a work placement in a German speaking country during the first part of their Year Abroad instead of studying.

#### **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 and Italian vocabulary and idiom.
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German and Italian 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 and Italian history, society, literature and culture
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)
- Group work 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*:**

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

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 and Italian at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German and Italian
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

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. Career management skills (8) are taught at both Parts 2 and 3.

#### *Assessment*

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, and 8 via careers management. 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.**