

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

**UCAS code: RR24**

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:	4 years
Date of specification:	22/Aug/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Melani Schroeter
Programme Advisor:	Dr Par Kumaraswami
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 Spanish, who are well-informed about German and Spanish / Latin-American literature, 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, interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, use of IT, problem-solving 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 and Spanish 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), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their Personal Tutor, to make 120 credits in each Part, plus 120 credits assigned to the Year Abroad to make a total of 480 credits for the whole degree. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title.

Part 1 in German and Spanish includes the study of both languages and an introduction to aspects of modern German and Spanish / Latin-American literature, culture, history and politics.

In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German and the Spanish language. In both subjects they choose modules based on a variety of options available in the Department.

During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria and Spain or a Latin-American country encourages students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German- and Spanish-speaking 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 Spanish Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options available in the Department.

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

**In Spanish**

SP1L3

Advanced Spanish Language I

20

4

### *Compulsory modules*

Either (for students entering with A-level 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 AS-level or GCSE):

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.

### **In Spanish**

Students can choose two options to the value of 40 credits. At least one option must be taken from the core module list. The complete list of options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

### **Part 2 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
SP2L4	Advanced Spanish Language II	20	5

In German the compulsory language module is:

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 pathways):

GM2L3	Advanced German Language I	20	5
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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.

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 Spanish-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*

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
GM3L6	Advanced German Language III	20	6
SP3L6	Advanced Spanish Language III	20	6

### *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.

All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and will be subject to 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.)

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 Spanish-specific modules.

(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, or from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, 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, to proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, students must have obtained a mark of at least 40% in each of their compulsory modules in German and Spanish.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

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:

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 University Study will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the Spanish / Latin-American and German universities, and the Oral modules will be examined in the Summer Term of Part 3.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 320 points from 4 subjects or 300 from 3 subjects ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level German (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take GM1AGL (Advanced German Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' German or an A\* at GCSE German to take GM1L2 (Intermediate German Language) in Part 1. Candidates must have either A-level Spanish or A\* at GCSE.

Mature applicants. While such candidates will normally be expected to have the entry qualifications given above, 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 the admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact the Reading International 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)

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 Department of Modern Languages and European Studies Resource Room contains a range of reference works, newspapers and magazines which can be used by students, and offers congenial study space. DVDs are also available for loan from the departmental offices. The Self-Access Centre for Language Learning in the Language Resource Centre contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching Spanish and German television by satellite.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in German and Spanish will 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 Spanish and 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.

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme will spend half of the Year Abroad in Germany or Austria, and the other half in Spain or another Spanish-speaking country. 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 during their year abroad in a German-speaking country and/or a Spanish-speaking country instead of studying. Students are responsible for finding work placements themselves, but will be supported in doing so by the Department's Year Abroad and Work Placement Officers.

### **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 Spanish vocabulary and idiom
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German and Spanish grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. A selection of core and specialist topics in German and Spanish history, society, literature and culture
4. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
5. Methods of critical textual analysis

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

Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-5)  
Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)  
Group work in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-5)  
Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-5)  
Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)

##### *Assessment*

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-5)  
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.

##### **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, 6 in language teaching.

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

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

##### **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.

#### **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**

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 (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

#### *Assessment*

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 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.**