

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

UCAS code: LR13

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:	08/Dec/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Federico Faloppa
Programme Advisor:	Dr Sarah Jewell
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The Italian programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests. The programme also aims to offer opportunities of work-related learning. The programme in Economics 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 third 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.

Programme content

The profile 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). Not all optional modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to options will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title, and the credit requirement for progression in Italian is indicated for each Part.

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. All students must take a compulsory 20-credit language module (to which they will be allocated according to their previous qualifications) and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

In Part 2 students take one compulsory 20-credit Italian language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules (up to 20 credits may derive from modules taken elsewhere in the University).

During the year abroad the experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones: by the end of this period the differences between former beginners and other students will have been eliminated. Students further broaden their knowledge of Italian culture by pursuing courses of their own choice at an Italian University.

Part 3 comprises one module of further language study, and five optional modules chosen from a range of specialised topics relating to many different aspects of Italian and European history and cultures. Up to 20 credits may derive from modules taken elsewhere in the University.

In Economics Part 1 deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject. These are developed in more depth in Part 2. In Part 3, choice over a range of options is available to explore specific sub-disciplines and/or applications.

Part 1 (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

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

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 (in translation)	20	4

For non-advanced students:

Compulsory modules :

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IT1L2	Intermediate Italian Language)	20	4
Or	(for students with no previous knowledge of Italian)		
IT1L1	Beginners Italian Language	20	4
Plus either			
IT1004	Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
Or			
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*

EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5

Modules in Italian Studies

Compulsory modules (to total of 20 credits)

Either:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IT2L4	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
Or			
IT2L2	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5

Optional modules in Italian Studies (to total of 40 credits)

Student must select 40 credits from a list of options available in the Department.

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

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC208	Business Economics	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
EC243	Economic History	20	5

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>
IT3L6	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6
IT3LMB	Italian Language for Management & Business	20	6

Optional modules in Italian Studies

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 module for credit in their final year.

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

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC314	Public Economics	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC320	Money & Banking	20	6
EC324	European Urban & Regional Economics	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land, Development & Planning	20	6
EC337	Processes of Long Term Political & Economic Change	20	6
EC339	Microeconomics for Developing Countries	20	6
EC342	Macroeconomics for Developing Countries	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 proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and
- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all specified language and content modules at Part 1; and
- (iv) obtain a weighted average of 40% across all compulsory modules in Economics at Part 1; and
- (v) obtain marks below 40%, but at least 30%, in compulsory modules in Economics amounting to not more than 20 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, students 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 normally satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in an Italian-speaking country and have handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

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.

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: one sixth
Year Abroad: one sixth
Year 4: four sixths

In Part 1 in Italian language modules are always taught in small groups and the other modules are taught by a mixture of lectures and seminars. In Parts 2 and 3 students are normally taught in small groups for all modules, and when lectures are used they are informal. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination.

The Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university.

In Economics teaching is by a mixture of lectures and classes. 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 20%, other than in special cases.

Admission requirements

No previous qualifications in Italian are required.

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained either

320 points from 4 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels

or

300 points from 3 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels.

Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Mature applicants: Applications from mature candidates are welcomed, and many have done notably well in the past. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A Levels or an Access course (70% or more usually required) but each case is assessed on its merits. Potential applicants should contact the Admissions Tutor well in advance to discuss individual circumstances.

International applicants: Applications from international candidates are also particularly welcomed. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the Admissions Tutor.

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

The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. 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 Italian television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of Italian culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Resources Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. Both departments provide written feedback on coursework, and all teachers have appointed office hours (in addition to lecture and class times) during which they may be consulted without prior appointment.

Career learning

Career prospects

Students graduating in Italian work in many different fields. Some 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. A degree involving Italian can also, like degrees in other arts subjects, lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, 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 Italian can be a distinct asset. The Economics component of this programme also makes available opportunities in banking and finance, accountancy, and the civil service.

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.

All students on this programme normally spend a year abroad at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter; alternatively they can choose a placement option. This option is subject to the approval of the Programme Director, who evaluates - after consulting his/her colleagues in Italian Studies - if the student has acquired the competence and the skills required for the placement. They can also choose to combine a period of study (minimum 4 months) with one spent on an international work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

Placement opportunities

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The Italian language
2. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but after

3. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered.
4. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics.
5. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods.
6. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

the year in Italy all students follow the same modules. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow University modules.

2,3. These areas are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and essays.

4,5,6. These are taught through normal 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

Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University modules are assessed by oral examinations. Modules on literature and culture are assessed by a combination of coursework and examination.

Economics modules are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Feedback is provided on assessed work.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. analyse and interpret literary or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. think critically and independently;
5. structure, analyse and solve problems;
6. think laterally and explore alternative solutions;
7. comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas;
8. suggest, organise, collect relevant data and compile a report on an economic issue.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. In Economics, substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and discussions provide the basis of ensuring the accumulating knowledge base becomes comprehensible.

Assessment

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework essays and examination.

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. speak, write, read and understand Italian at a high or near-native level of proficiency;
2. seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it critically;
3. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations;
4. plan and carry out limited research projects. And relating to Economics:
5. Collect and critically evaluate the major literature on a topic.
6. Obtain data, to use them, and to assess the empirical work of others that use economic data.
7. Use computerised tools for the purposes of research and learning.
8. Draw on the knowledge base in economics and economic research methods to suggest ways to solve problems. strategies

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;
2. think critically;
3. locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. participate effectively in group activities;
5. organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
6. show sensitivity to cultural differences;
7. make informed career plans.
8. use IT for data exchange, graphics, spreadsheets and other such software;
9. use library and web-based resources.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular unassessed coursework. The Year Abroad provides a range of experiences in the use of everyday and academic Italian. Primary source material and much secondary literature is in Italian. Bibliographies are provided for all modules, students are trained in library use, and many modules provide experience searching for information via the Internet. Students regularly give oral presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme extended essays may provide experience of researching topics independently.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-4 are assessed by a combination of coursework and examinations. Skills 5-8 are assessed through essays and project work.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-6 are developed progressively throughout the programme. Participation in seminars and oral classes develops skills in self-expression and teamwork. Critical thought, the construction of arguments, and information skills are all developed through essay writing, and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills are enhanced by the regular production of language work and the meeting of strict essay deadlines. Sensitivity to cultural difference informs the whole programme and, together with the development of self-motivation and self-reliance, is greatly encouraged by the Year Abroad.

Assessment

Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, including the examinations in Italy. Skill 4 is not directly assessed. There are strict, clearly-defined penalties for lateness in handing in assessed work and for plagiarism. In Economics, assessment is through the production of essays and project work, and through the critical evaluation of presentation performances.

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.