

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

UCAS code: RR34

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/Apr/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Federico Faloppa
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 Italian and Spanish, who are well-informed about Italian 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, 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 Italian 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 Italian and Spanish includes the study of both languages and an introduction to aspects of modern Italian and Spanish / Latin-American literature, culture, history and politics.

In Part 2 students continue with the study of the Italian and the Spanish language. In both subjects they choose modules from a variety of optional modules listed in the relevant handbooks.

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

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
SP1L3	Advanced Spanish Language 1	20	4

Modules in Italian Studies

For students with A-Level or equivalent:

Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
IT1L3	Advanced Italian Language I	20	4
IT1002	Twentieth-century Italian Culture	20	4

Optional module:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
IT1004	Italian Medieval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4

For non-advanced students:

Compulsory modules :

Code	Title	Credits	Level
Either (for students with GCSE or AS-level)			
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

In Spanish

Compulsory modules

SP1L3	Advanced Spanish Language I	20	4
and either			
SP1I1	Icons of Spain and Latin America	20	4
or			
SP1SLAC	Introduction to Spanish and Latin American Culture	20	4

Optional modules

In addition to the compulsory language modules, students must take two 20-credit modules from a list of options available in the Department. The complete list of options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Compulsory module in Spanish

SP2L4	Advanced Spanish Language II	20	5
-------	------------------------------	----	---

Modules in Italian Studies

Compulsory modules (to total of 20 credits)

Either:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
IT2L4	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
Or			
IT2L2	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5

Modules in Italian Studies

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.

Modules in Spanish Studies

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

IT3L6	Advanced Italian 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 Spanish-specific modules.

A minimum of 20 credits of these must be made up of Italian-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 Italian and Spanish.

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 Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

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% 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 class classification is

Four year programmes with a Year Abroad (MFL)

Year 2: one sixth

Year Abroad: one sixth

Year 4: 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 Italian universities, and the Oral modules will be examined at the beginning 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 Italian (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take IT1001 (Advanced Italian Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' Italian or an A* at GCSE Italian to take GM202 (Intermediate Italian 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

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 Italian television by satellite.

Career learning

Career prospects

Students graduating in Italian 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 French 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

All students on this programme normally spend a year abroad in Italian and Spain. Students will study at universities 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 the Erasmus & Study Abroad website

Placement opportunities

Students have the possibility of doing a work placement during their year abroad in a Italian-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 Italian and Spanish vocabulary and idiom.
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian and Spanish grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. A selection of core and specialist topics in Italian 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

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), language classes (6).

Assessment

Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language

- another;
6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena;
 7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. Communicate in Italian and Spanish at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in Italian 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. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. 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

components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 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; skills 4 and skill 6 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; 6 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 (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.