

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

UCAS code: QR3K

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Linguistics; Languages and Related Studies
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	22/Aug/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Par Kumaraswami
Programme Advisor:	Dr Chloe Houston
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme in Spanish and English Literature aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in those subjects. This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, cultural and historical texts from a range of periods, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis, and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written Spanish. The course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines. The Spanish part of the programme aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in Spanish, who have a sound critical understanding of Spanish culture, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

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.

Students will be taught how 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. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title. In Part 1 students take 60 credits in the Modern Languages & European Studies Department, involving both language study and an introduction to aspects of Spanish culture. They also take 60 credits in the Department of English Literature, where they are introduced to fundamental debates about the study of literature through close analysis of selected texts from different periods. In Part 2 students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both Spanish and English. In the Spanish strand students continue their language studies and choose options from a range of broadly-based culture modules, while in English the programme provides increased breadth of coverage, focusing on texts within a variety of historical periods and generic traditions. The experience of living in a Spanish-speaking country during the Year Abroad encourages students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral ones, and allows them to extend their knowledge of the host culture by spending time either as a student in a Spanish-speaking University, as an assistant in a Spanish School or on a working placement.

In Part 3 students embark on more specialised work in both Spanish and English, taking one further Spanish language module, choosing two modules in each of Spanish and English from a wide range of advanced options.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EN1GC	Genre and Context	20	4
EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
EN1RC	Research and Criticism	20	4

Students will select a further 40-credits 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

SP2L4	Advanced Spanish Language II	20	5
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Spanish

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.

In English Literature:

Students choose three optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one option must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

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

SP3L6	Advanced Spanish Language III	20	6
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Spanish (40 credits)

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.

(NB: students will not be allowed to take any IWLP level 1 module for credit in their final year.)

In English Literature:

Students choose two optional 20 credit Topic modules, totalling 40 credits in all. A complete list of modules is available from the Department of English Literature.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain

1. an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
2. a minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in Spanish and English;
3. not less than 30% in any module except that a mark of less than 30% in a total of not more than 20 credits may be condoned at the discretion of the Examiners;
4. a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

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 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

Teaching is delivered in modules that involve lectures, seminars and (in some modules) workshops. Seminars will involve oral presentation by students, and workshops will include training and practice in the description and analysis of texts and transcripts. Spanish language modules are taught in small groups. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework, timed tests and/or formal examination, with the proportion of coursework increasing as the degree progresses.

Admission requirements

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

Within both departments students receive a Handbook which gives details of module content, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialised help within the University. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1, developing towards more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system.

The Self-Access centre for Language Learning contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching Spanish television by satellite. A media suite is available within the Faculty to support cinema studies.

The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has a Resource Room containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts as well as Spanish newspapers and magazines.

Career learning

Career prospects

In recent years students who have gained a degree on this programme have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. Joint degrees involving a language (like degrees in other arts subjects) can also lead to careers in such areas as marketing and computing, or may be a prelude to study in law or accountancy. Increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of Spanish can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad. A Reading degree in Spanish and English Literature provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

Opportunities for study abroad

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad in a Spanish-speaking country, mainly in Spain. 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.

Placement opportunities

Students may choose to do a work placement during their Year Abroad.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

In English Literature

1. Literary texts in English Literature from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day
2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama
3. Methods of critical textual analysis
4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts
5. A range of approaches in English studies
6. Selected special fields of English Literature

In Spanish

7. A wide range of Spanish vocabulary and idiom
8. The fundamental aspects and concepts of Spanish grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
9. Core aspects of Spanish history, society, literature and culture post-1900
10. A selection of specialist topics in Spanish history, society, literature and culture post-1900
11. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1-5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 4 introduces more specialised study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation. Small-group teaching on language and options (7-8, 10-11) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (9) Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (3, 10-11) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (7-11) Study or other residence abroad (7-8; also 9).

Assessment

[in English Literature] In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1-5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 4, assessment is through a

mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams.

[in Spanish; all parts]

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (3, 7-11)

Oral examination (7-8)

Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (7-8).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Capacity for independent analysis and research
2. Identification of problems and issues
3. The ability to read closely and critically
4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions
5. Ability to understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
6. Ability to transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
7. Ability to analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
8. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

In English Literature

1. The ability to criticise and formulate interpretations of texts
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language
4. Bibliographical and research skills
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. An ability to relate the study of English to cultural and social issues

In Spanish, the ability to:

7. Communicate in Spanish at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
8. Understand a variety of types of textual material in Spanish
9. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
10. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
11. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments
3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), through close guided study of texts (3), seminar preparation and discussion (1-3, 5-6), and essay writing and feedback through tutorials (1-6); and through language classes (7).

Assessment

1-3 and 5 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays and unseen exams, 6 is assessed specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme. 1-5 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials. 7 is assessed in certain language examinations.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1-3 and 6 are developed in seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, and essay feedback.

In Spanish, skills 7-8 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 9 and also 10 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skill 11 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1-3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.

In Spanish, skills 7-10 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 11 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and

4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
6. Time-management skills
7. A creative approach to problem-solving
8. Group and interpersonal skills
9. An ability to work independently, to self-evaluate and self-reflect
10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing
11. Ability to take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
12. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

unseen examinations (1 -9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, and essay writing. Time-management skills (6) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (9) are particularly important in the year abroad, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 11. We require that all summatively assessed essays (in German all assessed essays) are word-processed (10). Career management (12) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

1-7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, and unseen examinations. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. 11 is not directly assessed but informs a student's work throughout the programme, especially in the third and final years.

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.