BA Spanish Studies & English Language   **UCAS code: QR34**
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

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: 30/Jun/2016
Programme Director: Dr Par Kumaraswami
Programme Advisor: Dr Christiana Themistocleous
                                             Prof Jane Setter

Board of Studies: Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:

Summary of programme aims
The programme in Spanish Studies and English Language aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in those subjects. 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. There is special emphasis upon the use of the English language in its social context, and upon the application of knowledge about language to problem solving in the contemporary world. The programme is distinctive in situating theories and descriptions developed in linguistics within an interdisciplinary and applied perspective.

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, interpersonal skills, team-working, 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.

On completion of the programme, students will have mastered contemporary methodology for the study of language in use which involves the development of computer and IT skills, while techniques of text and language analysis will be relevant to a wide range of professional and personal contexts.

Programme content
The following profile states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with lists of modules in any Part from which students must make a selection (the option modules). 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.

The compulsory modules provide a thorough and staged grounding in (1) theories and descriptions of the phonology, grammar, lexis and discourse of English; (2) the relation of knowledge about language to issues in society and education; (3) the relation of knowledge about language to the mind, and (4) Spanish language and translation. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of language and the potential for its application through the structured yet flexible progression of the programme through Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 1 (a) provides the basic resources for the description of the sounds, grammar and semantics of English, and (b) provides a broad overview of the scope of English Language and introduces a sociolinguistic perspective to the study of language. Students will also take a Spanish language module, and at least one further module on aspects of Spanish culture. Part 2 provides further grounding in English phonology and grammar, and adds to this theory and practice in psycholinguistics, and training in research methods. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the Spanish language, and take modules based on a variety of options available in the Department. In Part 3 there is again a suite of options in English Language, including opportunities to select from topics available at Part 2 and study these at a more advanced level, and also additional and more specialised topics. There is greater opportunity at Part 3 for students to select the topics they prefer to study, and for guided independent study. In Part 3 Spanish students take one language module and are free to pursue their interests within Spanish Studies by selecting from a range of options available in the Department.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LS1SG	Sounds, Grammar and Meaning	20	4
LS1ELS	English Language and Society	20	4
LS1TAL	Techniques and Skills for Applied Linguistics	20	4
SP1L3	Advanced Spanish Language I	20	4

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.

In English Language
Optional modules totalling 20 credits:
Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LS1ELU	English Language in Use	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
SP2L4	Advanced Spanish Language II	20	5
LS2EG	English Grammar	10	5
LS2EP	English Phonology	10	5
LS2SLG	Sociolinguistics	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 Spanish-specific modules.

In English Language
Optional modules totalling 20 credits, selected from a list available from within the Department, subject to availability. At the discretion of the programme convenor, students may choose to replace one 20-credit module in Applied Linguistics with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5
ML2YSWA	University study/Work placement/Assistantship abroad	80	5

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
SP3L6	Advanced Spanish Language III	20	6

Spanish
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 Language

Optional modules totalling 60 credits, selected from a list available from within the Department, subject to availability.

At the discretion of the programme convenor, students may choose to replace one 20-credit module in Applied Linguistics with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2, a student must obtain:

(a) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part I, where all the credits are at Level 4 or above;

(b) a mark of at least 40% or above in their compulsory modules in Spanish, and must have achieved an overall average of 40% in the Part I examination;

(c) a mark of at least 40% in each of the English Language modules LS1SG, LS1ELS and LS1TAL, amounting to 60 credits;

(d) at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

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

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

Entrants to this programme will normally be required to have obtained:

GCSE English: Grade C

GCSE Spanish: Grade A* or A Level
BBB from 3 A Level subjects including Grade B in English Language, English Literature or English Language & Literature and Grade B in Spanish
International Baccalaureat: Pass with 25 points
Irish Leaving Certificate: ABBBB
Access: Students graduating from Access programmes will be considered on an individual basis
Edexcel/BTEC (Level 3): Distinction Distinction Merit
Scottish (Advanced) Highers: 300 UCAS points from three Advanced Highers, or from five Highers
European Baccalaureat: 75% overall
German Abitur: Pass with average of 2.2
Greek Apolytirion: 17/20 + one or two A Levels or equivalent
Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level.

Mature and international applicants. It will be appreciated from the extensive list of qualification routes above that we welcome applications from candidates with a range of backgrounds, including mature candidates and those from other countries. While the list above is indicative, it is not intended to be exhaustive, and all such candidates can be sure that their applications will be considered individually and by taking account of particular circumstances. International candidates who are not offering one of the listed set of qualifications are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitably 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-sessional 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

Students receive Handbooks from both Departments, which give details of the programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, preparation of written work, dates of terms and examinations, the University's procedure for assessment, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialised help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service.
Liaison Officers in both departments ensure co-ordination of the programme and assessment across the Departments, and attend to individual student needs and problems. The programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. In English Language, students at Part 1 receive an induction course in Academic Writing. Academic feedback and guidance from both Departments is given through detailed written comments, and academic andpersonal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme.
The Department of English Language has three networked PCs that are intended for use by students researching corpora and databases, such as the British National Corpus and CoBUILD, as well as a wide range of instrumentation for the investigation of many aspects of speech. English Language also has its own research corpora and databases, and these can be accessed from these machines. The facility uses the very latest software in language and speech analysis. Also available for students are word-processing and statistics, e-mail, and Internet access. Further PCs are located in the student common room for student use.
The Library is well-stocked with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD-ROM and such on-line resources as JSTOR and First Search. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career learning

Career prospects
Careers prospects for Reading graduates in Spanish Studies and English Language are very wide ranging. Graduates find that the specific as well as transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work, including teaching, publishing, journalism, translating, business, management,administration, public relations, and advertising. This programme of study also equips graduates to organise complex data and to work in IT environments -skills demanded in many types of employment that are not directly concerned with language and communication. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research. More broadly, the degree provides students with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace

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:

Knowledge and understanding of:
1. the principles of phonological contrast and the organisation of the sound system of English.
2. principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse
3. the main areas of applied linguistic inquiry
4. the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making
5. a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied
6. ways in which the mind acquires, stores and processes language drawing on theories from linguistics, psychology, speech science and neuroscience.
7. the Spanish language
8. Spanish and Latin-American politics and literature

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1-6 are achieved through Part 1 modules Sounds, Grammar and Meaning and English Language & Society, Part 2 modules Sociolinguistics, English grammar and English Phonology as well as by lectures and small group seminars. Further knowledge and understanding in areas 1-6 are offered in option modules at Parts 2 and 3, by lectures, small group seminars and guided assignments. 7 is achieved through the language modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3. 8 is achieved through the other Spanish modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Assessment
1-6 are assessed by coursework and written examination. Oral presentations also contribute in theoretical and applied areas. 7 and 8 are assessed by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination and coursework essays.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

Able to:
1. analyse and solve problems
2. generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate
3. critically assess theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts
4. evaluate contrasting academic arguments and claims
5. negotiate both primary and secondary applied linguistic sources and demonstrate how they

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1-6 are achieved through demonstration and example in lectures as well as experience in small group seminars.
3-6 are achieved through the progression of concepts particularly in the compulsory modules across Parts 1, 2 and 3. Further opportunities are offered through option modules, especially those in theoretical and applied areas at Parts 2 and 3.

Assessment
1-6 form part of the evaluation of the quality of

interrelate
6. develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues, and challenge received conclusions
7. develop creative intelligence in independent research and interpretation.

students' coursework and their written examinations.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

Able to:
1. produce a phonological transcript of English speech
2. analyse English sentences
3. analyse and interpret linguistic data from various psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic perspectives.
4. assemble and assess the information contained in modern electronic linguistic corpora
5. prepare bibliographies and references
6. speak, write, read and understand Spanish at a high or near-native level of proficiency

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is achieved through small group phonetics practical sessions, based on general information provided in the main core lectures on the sounds of language. 2 is achieved through compulsory modules Sounds, Grammar and Meaning and English Grammar.
3 is achieved through the compulsory Part 2 module in Sociolinguistics.
6 is achieved through the compulsory Spanish language modules taken throughout the programme.

Assessment
1-5 are assessed by assignment.
6 is assessed by orals and unseen examinations.
There is also regular unassessed coursework.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

Able to:
1. use IT (including word-processing, internet search and communication and database analysis)
2. define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by methods appropriate to the topic
3. assess the effectiveness of given instances of spoken, written and multi-modal texts
4. work as part of a team
5. use library resources
6. manage time
7. formulate and implement career plans
8. deploy critical awareness of language and society in effective communication in a range of career contexts

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 and 3 are achieved in a number of option modules.
5 and 6 are also required for successful execution of assignments throughout the programme
7 is achieved through Career Management Skills
8 will be addressed throughout the course and further developed through Career Management Skills.

Assessment
1 is assessed by coursework
2 is assessed by group presentation
3 is assessed by coursework and examination on relevant modules
4-6 are not specifically assessed but contribute to success in forms of assessment generally
7 is assessed by three equally weighted assignments

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.