

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

UCAS code: RV41

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 Par Kumaraswami
Programme Advisor:	Prof Patrick Major Mrs Deborah King
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme in Spanish and History aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in those subjects. Through the History element, students will engage with a broad chronological range but, also, are able to specialise in particular periods and areas of British, European, American, Russian, South Asian, Middle Eastern and African history which provide both points of comparison and contrast with their studies of Spanish history and culture. 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.

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.

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. Part 1 in Spanish includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Spanish and Latin-American history and culture. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. In Part 2 Spanish, students continue with the study of the Spanish language, and take 40 credits of optional modules based on a variety of options available in the Department.

In History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Spain or a Spanish-speaking country enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of Spanish/Latin-American culture. 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.

Students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies. At this stage, they are expected to work more independently.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
SP1L3	Advanced Spanish Language 1	20	4
HS1RSO	Research Skills and Opportunities in History	20	4
HS1JH1	Journeys through History 1: Power and People	20	4
HS1JH2	Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concept	20	4

Optional Modules

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

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 History:

Students must take 60 credits: These can be chosen from the list of Part 2 Option modules or students may wish to replace one or two Option modules with one or more of the core modules My Career: Working it Out, Public History: Its Uses and Abuses, and/or Historical Approaches and My Dissertation

HS2HAD Historical Approaches and My Dissertation is recommended if taking a History Dissertation. A list of Option modules can be obtained from the Department of History.

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

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 History:

Students can choose to take either the 40 credit dissertation in History or a 40 credit Special Subject. Students must also choose a 20 credit Part 3 Option module.

A complete list of Option modules is available from the Department of History and not all modules will necessarily be available in any one year.

Progression requirements

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must:

1. achieve an overall average of 40% over the 120 credits taken at Part 1, and
2. obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module, and
3. achieve a mark of at least 30% in 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 A level History 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 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

The Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme and provides detailed course handbooks for each section of the programme; a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. The Departmental Resource Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. In the Department of History, students are assigned Personal Tutors, and have online study tips via Blackboard, as well as the Studying History at Reading Handbook, which provides most of this information in one handy booklet. The Department also runs a Facebook and Twitter page which will give updates on forthcoming events. Additional support is given through orientation sessions on module choices, and Dissertation advice. There is full written feedback on assessed work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to Personal Tutors for discussion with students. There is also a History Resource Room which provides quiet study space and a photocopier.

Career learning

Career prospects

Graduates in Spanish and History are trained in clear thinking, language skills, diligence, independence, adaptability and the ability to understand people and situations in the world at large. Past graduates have used their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment both in Britain and abroad. Jobs have included accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. Many also enter the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing while others go into the civil service and local government. Several graduates also go on to postgraduate study in either History or Spanish, both at MA and PhD level, at Reading and elsewhere

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.

The Discovering Archives and Collections module and the History Education module at Part 3 give students the opportunity to experience a professional placement in either archive work or teaching, which also encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

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1. a wide range of Spanish vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of Spanish grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English);
2. core aspects of Spanish history, society, literature and culture post-1900, together with a selection of additional topics in Spanish history, society, literature and culture;
3. the broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions;
4. key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis;
5. a range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues;
6. the contextualisation of forces, events and individual experiences in the historical process;
7. the nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture;
8. the nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking Spanish is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The Year Abroad in a Spanish-speaking country offers immersion in Spanish language and culture.

Acquisition of aspects 2 -8 is by lecture, workshop, seminar, tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context.

Assessment

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, and skills exercises.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

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1. analyse and interpret historical, literary or cinematic works in their cultural, socio-economic and political contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. read a variety of texts closely and critically;
4. identify problems and issues and conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
5. think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions;
6. accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources;
7. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practise in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced. Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay and project preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements.

Assessment

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Throughout the programme skills are assessed through a combination of coursework essays and examinations.

C. Practical skills - able to:

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1. speak, write, read and understand Spanish at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. develop and carry out individual research

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Detailed bibliographies are provided at the outset of

programmes and strategies;

3. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
4. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations and engage in critical argument using relevant evidence or theoretical approaches;
5. acquire bibliographical and research skills through the retrieval and selection of information from a variety of sources;
6. organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

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1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;
2. manage time and work to deadlines;
3. participate effectively in groups;
4. work independently;
5. find information and use information technology;
6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
8. show sensitivity to cultural differences;
9. make informed career plans.

each course. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in Spanish. The Year Abroad further promotes the active learning of Spanish to a high level.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, skills exercises, and examinations. Skill 5 is developed throughout the programme and skill 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different modules within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the personal tutor system. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skills 6 and 8 are especially developed during the Year Abroad, its importance being established during the preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Skill 9 is promoted by careers management skills.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency - clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. Written skills are examined at every stage both under timed conditions and in course work. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.

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.