

Programme Specification

BA Modern Languages and History

For students entering Part 1 in September 2022

UCAS Code: R9V1

UFMLXHSSY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

In Modern Languages, the programme allows you to study a core language amongst the ones offered in the Department of Languages and Cultures. It aims to provide you with the ability to understand your chosen language as it is spoken within a mother-tongue environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy, to read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts and to write accurately in your chosen language, with an appropriate understanding of register and style. The programme emphasises student-centred learning, intensifying the learning experience through small group teaching and a range of opportunities to engage in projects and workshops. The culture studies modules relevant to your language of study are informed by staff research specialisms and designed to develop your intellectual skills and to critically apply literary and historical concepts, analyse and interpret a range of cultural texts, develop and demonstrate independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference.

Studying a Modern Language opens a variety of career paths. These include careers in business and marketing, publishing, international organisations, teaching and translation. The degree will equip you with a range of transferable skills, including structuring ideas and communicating them effectively, participating effectively in groups and team work, working independently, retrieving, structuring and presenting information, time management, responsibility as well as adaptability and self-reliance

The **History** element of this joint-disciplinary programme offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience. Throughout this process of discovery, students encounter a wide range of subjects and approaches, while having the opportunity to pursue their own enthusiasms, and to benefit from the research expertise and activities of staff.

We aim to familiarise students with a broad chronological range, whilst allowing them to specialise in particular periods and areas of British, European, African, Atlantic, US American, Russian, Middle Eastern and South Asian history, and to pursue their own interests further through independent study.

The programme develops subject-based and transferable skills, while encouraging a scholarly, committed and enthusiastic engagement with the study of the past.

Part 1: **In Modern Languages**, Part 1 develops your practical language skills in your core language module in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening). You will also have the opportunity to understand and apply key terms in the structural analysis of language. The culture studies modules provide you with a sound understanding of key issues and developments in history and culture of the country or countries where your chosen language is spoken.

In History introduces you to the discipline through study of long-term historical change across the medieval, early modern and modern periods, also familiarising you with the sub-fields of political, intellectual and cultural history. It aims to develop the research, presentational, organisational and essay-writing skills required for the successful study of history at undergraduate level, while highlighting contrasts between academic and popular history, and the importance of strategic career planning.

Part 2: **In Modern Languages**, Part 2 further develops your practical language skills in your core language module in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening), building on the work done in Part 1. The cultural studies modules provide you with an opportunity to encounter and critically engage with a range of material in the target language, such as films, literature, essays and historical documents, enhancing your ability to apply a range of analytical concepts as well as approaches to the critical analysis of this material.

In History: provides you with the opportunity to develop more specialised historical knowledge of historical periods and geographical areas. You also have the opportunity to select modules encouraging you to engage with public history beyond academia, identify the wide range of transferable skills arising from the study of history at BA level, and develop additional skills directly relevant to successful job applications. If you intend to undertake a final-year dissertation, we strongly recommended that your choices at Part 2 include a module introducing you to a variety of primary sources and research approaches.

Placement/Study abroad year: The Placement or Study Abroad will give you the opportunity to apply and enhance your practical language skills in either a work or study environment, or a combination of both. You will further develop your adaptability and self-reliance as well as your sensitivity to cultural difference.

Part 3: **In Modern Languages** Part 3 gives you the opportunity to build up on your existing language skills, refining your use of more complicated structures as well as variation in register and style. The cultural studies

modules will give you an opportunity to engage deeply and critically with topics based on staff research specialisms and to apply concepts and approaches for critical analysis to an increased amount of material in the target language.

In History: gives you the opportunity for more in-depth study through a further range of Options, and supervised, independent research if you undertake a dissertation. To enhance personal career-development, we give you the opportunity to apply at Part 2 to replace one of your Part 3 Options with a selective module based on a professional work placement.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
HS1JH1	Journeys through History 1: Power and People	20	4
HS1JH2	Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concepts'	20	4
HS1RSO	Research Skills and Opportunities in History	20	4

In Modern Languages

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language, the module taken will be dependent upon the language level at entry.

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in the chosen language.

Your remaining 20 credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures.

Part 2 Modules:

In Modern Languages

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language which will be dependent on the level studied at Part 1.

Students must select at least 20 credits of optional culture modules in the chosen language.

Your remaining 20 credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures.

In History

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules available in the Department of History.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5
ML2YS1	Semester 1 Study or Work Placement Abroad	40	5
ML2YS2	Semester 2 Study or Work Placement Abroad	40	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:**In Modern Languages**

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language to reach C1 level in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture modules in the chosen language.

Your remaining 20 credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures.

In History:

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules available in the Department of History.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

In Modern Languages: for textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £50 to £75 a year. The core textbook(s), which most students normally purchase, cost(s) £25 new, and there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy.

In **History**: where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs.

A few optional modules may include study trips of up to 3 to 9 days. For each participating student, the cost of the study trip is not expected to exceed £350.

Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Year Abroad: You may incur additional costs, in addition to those which you would normally expect to pay at the University, during your year abroad, in accordance with clause 6.4 of the Terms and Conditions for Undergraduate Students. These additional costs will depend on your host institution and destination, but may include the purchase of a visa, and mandatory medical insurance. Students will be briefed on these issues prior to them submitting the form detailing the institutions to which they would like to be allocated, and general information on additional costs is discussed in the Year Abroad preparatory meetings. *Further indicative details on costs and funding are available on the UoR Erasmus & Study Abroad webpages and the webpages of the host institution.*

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2021.

Placement opportunities

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

DBS checks may be required for students taking a professional placement module.

Teaching and learning delivery:

In **Modern Languages**: You will be taught: through seminars, language classes and lectures. Some modules involve a combination of lectures and seminars.

In **History**: You will be taught mainly through lectures and seminars. Some History modules include group and one-to-one supervisions and/or study trips. History is a subject which frequently requires preparation for classes through reading and independent study. Formal classes, of whatever kind, are there to give you guidance over content and approaches, and to offer opportunities for different kinds of learning (listening/note-taking;

discussions; formal and informal presentations; essay-writing; other kinds of writing) but the responsibility for study lies with you.

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.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 228 hours, Part 2 - 204 hours, Part 3 - 156 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations, practical examinations.

In History, besides formal essays, shorter written exercises such as book reviews and source analyses, the programme includes an innovative range of coursework assignments such as reflective reports, placement logs, wikis, blogs, vlogs and online galleries. Some modules may be partly assessed by oral presentation, visual presentation and/or online exercises. In the case of placement modules, a placement provider's report on the student's performance on placement may form part of the assessment process.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (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 a 20-credit language module and a 20-credit culture module in the language chosen, at Part 1; and
- (iv) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all compulsory modules in History at Part 1 (HS1JH1, HS1JH2, HS1RSO).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the Year Abroad.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Four-year programmes with a year abroad (MFL)

Part 2: one-third

Year Abroad: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Modern Languages and History for students entering Part 1 in session 2022/23
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