

Programme Specification

International Foundation Programme

For students entering Foundation year in September 2024

UCAS Code: N1Q3

FFIFP

FFIFPJAN

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	1 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	International Foundation Programme (January intake) - 1 years (UCAS Code: Q3N1)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	QAA International Pathways Characteristics Statement 2022, OFQUAL Level 3 Descriptor, OFQUAL GCE Level 3 Guidance, QAA Quality Code for Higher Education 2018

Programme information and content

The purpose of the International Foundation Year Programme (IFP) is to provide international students who have not met the direct entry requirement to undergraduate study with an alternative opportunity to access higher education. The IFP is an NQF Level 3 programme that offers students a supportive environment to prepare for study on their intended undergraduate degree.

The programme has been created to meet the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds and prior learning experiences. It uses a variety of teaching and learning methods that are consistent with the demands of undergraduate study while having the agility to support the needs of a diverse cohort.

The intention of the IFP is to provide students with the opportunity to develop the core skills and knowledge required for successful study in their chosen undergraduate degree. Therefore, the aims of the course are to,

- develop the skills required for undergraduate study including academic, independent learning, research, critical reflection, problem solving, employability, intellectual, personal, and practical transferable skills.
- develop core knowledge in the subjects relevant to their chosen undergraduate discipline.

The IFP uses a student-centred approach to learning and development, which provides access to subject specialism content that integrates practical and theoretical aspects of the disciplines, while creating skills transferable to a real-world context. Academic tutoring

support is embedded throughout the programme and other services including welfare and wellbeing support are available at the University.

As the programme accepts international students from a wide range of cultural, socio-economic, and political environments, awareness around the principles of multiculturalism, equality, diversity, and inclusion in a national, international, and institutional context are actively encouraged. Thus, helping to provide students with opportunities to develop an appreciation for the value of difference.

Foundation year:	<p>The IFP course consists of 140 credits which includes compulsory and optional modules dependent on the student’s intended degree and level of English. For students who require a higher level of English for their intended undergraduate degree, or do not meet the English language standard specified for undergraduate study, the two 20 credit modules Academic English 1 (IF0AE1) and Academic English 2 (IF0AE2) or Academic English 1 (IF0E1J) and Academic English 2 (IF0E2J) for January start, are compulsory.</p> <p>The 20-credit Academic Skills module is compulsory for all students. This will be in addition to any specified modules dependent on the student’s intended degree programme. The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme.</p>
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Programme Learning Outcomes - International Foundation Programme

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key concepts, theories, and principles required for undergraduate study in a verbal and written format.
2	Use skills and knowledge to produce original work that demonstrates an ability to interpret, analyse, evaluate, critically reflect, and develop evidenced arguments with supported conclusions.
3	Within the context of the subject and/or discipline demonstrate a knowledge of different approaches, perspectives, and issues.
4	Demonstrate the ability to work independently as well as effectively in a collaborative learning environment.
5	Communicate clearly using a structured and logical format which incorporates terminology, concepts, principles, and theories relevant to the discipline.
6	Use information technology with academic integrity, including appropriate use of academic online resources, to enhance learning and facilitate the presentation of information.
7	Demonstrate essential numerical and graphical skills to support study into the intended discipline.

8	Follow instructions and taught methods to accurately complete tasks within the context of the subject. For example, laboratory work, problem solving, researching, and referencing.
9	Demonstrate ability to act ethically, professionally and with integrity by adopting good academic practices. This includes the acknowledgment of source materials used when creating original work, by following appropriate referencing conventions.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The foundation year comprises 140 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ACA	Academic Skills	20	0

All students on the programme must take the compulsory 20-credit Academic Skills module, plus optional modules required for their intended degree. Students starting in January will take Academic Skills (IF0ACJ) instead of Academic Skills (IF0ACA).

In addition to the 20-credit Academic Skills module, students without the required level of English for their intended degree, or those who do not meet the English language standard specified for undergraduate study must take the two 20-credit modules Academic English 1 (IF0AE1) and Academic English 2 (IF0AE2) or Academic English 1 (IF0E1J) and Academic English 2 (IF0E2J for January start. The remaining 80 credits will be made up of specified modules dependent on the intended degree programme and/or optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme.

The optional modules available on the IFP are provided by the International Study & Language Institute (ISLI) and other Schools at the University. The optional modules available each year are subject to change and the most up to date list can be found online in the Course Catalogue and in the International Foundation Programme Handbook for the relevant academic year. **Students must select optional modules which are aligned to the requirements of their chosen degree** and guidance will be provided during programme induction. Optional modules available cover a wide range of subject areas for example Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Business Management, Economics, Mathematics, Ecology & Environment, Politics, Law, Physics, Statistics, Data Science and Sociology.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

Not applicable

Study Abroad:

Not applicable

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

The teaching and learning on the IFP will use approaches suitable for the preparation of higher education study in the subject and discipline and can include e.g., lectures, seminars, workshops, practical laboratory sessions, individual tutorials, independent tasks, group work, presentations, use of virtual learning environments, independent study, synchronous and asynchronous digital technology activities, active-learning, problem, and case-based activities.

All students will be expected to conduct self-study activities in addition to the face-to-face teaching sessions. While an indication of the amount self-study required is shown in the module descriptions, the actual amount of additional self-study required to be successful can vary dependent on the individual developmental needs of the student and the demands of the modules taken.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The International Foundation Programme will include at least 15 hours of classroom-based teaching each week.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

Assessment

The aim of the summative assessments will be to determine the attainment of the learning outcomes. Formative assessments will have a focus on developmental learning through assessments and feedback.

The IFP will use a variety of assessment methods relevant to subject and discipline, these can include written assessments e.g., coursework or examinations, and verbal assessments e.g., presentations. Information regarding assessment methods can be found in the relevant module descriptions.

Qualification criteria for admission to intended degree

To achieve a threshold performance on completion of the International Foundation Programme, a student is required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 0;
- (ii) Have no more than 40 credits of modules at Part 0 with marks below 35%; and
- (iii) Achieve a mark of at least 40% in the Academic Skills module.

In order to qualify for and be admitted onto an intended undergraduate degree programme, a student must achieve a threshold performance and additional requirements dependent on the intended degree programme.

For the purposes of presenting these additional requirements **subject modules** are defined as any module excluding IF0ACA Academic Skills or IF0ACJ Academic Skills for January start, IF0AE1 Academic English 1 and IF0AE2 Academic English 2 or, IF0E1J Academic English 1 and IF0E2J Academic English 2 for January start.

Specified modules are compulsory subject modules requiring a specific score for acceptance onto a particular intended degree programme.

Additional requirements for degrees are now given by school:

The School of Literature and Languages, School of Humanities, School of the Built Environment (except BSc Architecture) and BSc Computer Science from the School of Mathematical, Physical and Computational Sciences

1. At least 40% in each module

The School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, School of Biological Sciences, School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy (excluding MPharm Pharmacy), School of Mathematical, Physical and Computational Sciences, (except BSc Computer Science as noted above) School of Psychology and Clinical Language Science, School of Politics, Economics and International Relations, School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences, Institute of Education and School of Art, Communication and Design.

1. at least 55% in 40 credits of subject modules, including any specified modules requiring 55%,

2. at least 50% in 40 credits of subject modules, including any specified modules requiring 50%,

3. at least 40% in each of the remaining modules

The School of Law, Henley Business School, MPharm Pharmacy from the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy and BSc Architecture from the School of the Built Environment.

1. at least 60% in 80 credits of subject modules including any specified modules requiring 60%

2. at least 40% in each of the remaining modules

MSci Speech and Language Therapy

1. at least 70% in 40 credits of subject modules including any specified modules requiring 70%

2. at least 60% in 40 additional credits of subject modules including any specified modules requiring 60%

3. at least 40% in each of the remaining modules

On programmes where there is external accreditation the requirement of the accrediting body must also be met. Information on the additional requirements will be provided by the IFP Programme Director.

For students that are required to improve their English Language level the two 20 credit modules IF0AE1 Academic English 1 and IF0AE2 Academic English 2 or IF0E1J Academic English 1 and IF0E2J Academic English 2 for January start will be taken instead of 40 credits of optional modules. These modules are only taken where a student does not have the required English language level for their chosen degree. These English language requirements along with the score required in IF0AE1 and IF0AE2 or IF0E1J and IF0E2J for January start to meet them are below.

English Language requirements for progression to University of Reading programmes	
BSc Speech and Language Therapy	IELTS 8.0 (with no skill below 7.5)
Degree programmes in Arts, Humanities and Social Science (except Politics, Economics and International Relations)	IELTS 7.0 (with no skill below 6.0) or a pass at 60% in the Academic English 1 IF0AE1 and Academic English 2 IF0AE2 modules (equivalent to CEFR C1).
Degree programmes in the Henley Business School Degree programmes in the School of Politics, Economics, and International Relations Degree programmes in the School of Law	IELTS 6.5 (no skill below 6.0) or a pass at 55% in the Academic English 1 IF0AE1 and Academic English 2 IF0AE2 modules (equivalent to CEFR B2).

Students who pass the Programme but do not qualify to progress to any degree programme will be entitled to an International Foundation Programme Certificate of completion.

Additional costs of the programme

During the IFP you will incur additional costs which may include e.g., trips and learning materials.

IFP students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the Module Convenor. Some textbooks may be available second hand and a range of resources to support your curriculum will be available through the virtual learning environment and the library.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2023.

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.

International Foundation Programme for students entering Foundation year in session
2024/25

4 July 2023

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