

Programme Specification

BA Italian and Classical Studies

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: QR83

UFITXCL

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
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Languages, Cultures and Societies/Classics and Ancient History (including Byzantine Studies and Modern Greek)

Programme information and content

Our degree in Italian and Classical Studies will allow you to explore a variety of significant languages and cultures of both the ancient and modern worlds.

In **Italian**, this programme will allow you to progress in your language competence and achieve level C1 (or above) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), whilst also studying Italian culture modules. Not only does the programme aim to provide you with the ability to understand mother tongue-spoken Italian and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy, but also will enable you to read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts as well as to write accurately in Italian with an appropriate understanding of register and style. Student-centred learning is at the core of this programme, intensifying the learning experience through small group teaching and a range of opportunities to engage in projects and workshops. You will study in modules that are informed by staff research specialisms and designed to develop your intellectual skills, 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.

In **Classical Studies** we teach a broad and inclusive version of the ancient world, using and evaluating many diverse forms of evidence – archaeological, literary, philosophical, and historical. Our guiding principle is that the ancient world should be accessible to all, and everyone can benefit from and enjoy studying it. The capacities and interests that we foster will thus enable our graduates to act as engaged citizens of the multicultural modern world, open to new arguments and able to adjust their perspectives in line with the evidence. Students also have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of ancient languages. Students will expand the range, depth and sophistication of their knowledge of Classical Studies through the structured progression of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the programme.

A degree in Italian and Classical Studies opens a variety of career paths. These include careers in museum and archive work, publishing, national and international cultural organisations, teaching and translation. Studying Italian and Classical Studies will equip

you with a range of transferable skills, valued by a wide range of employers, 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.

Part 1:	In Italian you will develop your practical language skills in your Italian 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 Italian as well as European history and culture. Part 1 of Classical Studies introduces you to the study of Greek and Roman civilizations with a particular emphasis on the range of different texts and how we know about them, alongside the development of writing skills to explore specific topics in ancient literature, history, and culture.
Part 2:	In Italian Part 2 further develops your practical language skills in your Italian 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 variety of analytical concepts as well as approaches to the critical analysis of this material. Part 2 in Classical Studies enables you to develop your knowledge of the ancient world by studying a wide range of literary forms and their reception, as well as a range of different periods from ancient history across a choice of modules, from Alexander the Great to Late Antiquity. A careers-focused module will encourage you to reflect on the transferable skills you are gaining through your degree and guide you towards the best ways to present these to prospective employers.
Placement/Study abroad year:	The Year 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:	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. You will have the opportunity to apply concepts and approaches for critical analysis to an increased amount of material in the target language. Part 3 allows you to specialise in ways that suit your interests in both Italian and Classical Studies. Part 3 modules also enable you to contribute to debates that shape our subject by choosing from a range of modules built around the research specialisms of our staff.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Italian and Classical Studies

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	Identify the structures, registers and varieties of the target language(s)
2	Use the target language(s) for purposes of understanding, expression and communication, achieving C1 level proficiency (or above) in the CEFR in at least one language
3	Interpret key aspects of the history, literature, culture and societies of the areas where the target language(s) is/are used
4	Demonstrate understanding of the principles and methods by which ancient literary texts are read and analysed
5	Demonstrate acquaintance with a diverse set of primary sources and scholarship
6	Identify suitable sources of information in primary materials and in scholarship
7	Analyse sources in the target language(s)
8	Construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, using supporting evidence appropriately
9	Analyse and synthesise complex data sets and make connections between different types of evidence
10	Define complex problems and identify appropriate strategies to solve them
11	Demonstrate intercultural awareness, understanding and competence
12	Demonstrate a wide range of skills relating to employability in the wider world of work; these include teamworking, problem solving, communication, independent working and digital literacy.

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.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
N/A

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
CL1SO	Ancient Song	20	4
CL1TR	Texts, Readers, and Writers	20	4
IT10MI	Making Italians: A Journey in the History and Culture of Modern Italy	20	4

Students must also take one 20-credit module in Beginners', Intermediate or Advanced Italian language.

Students will also need to select one 20-credit optional module from those available in the Department of Languages and Cultures.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Classics, or from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ML2PYA	Preparing for the Year Abroad Part 2	0	5

The module ML2PYA Preparing for the Year Abroad Part 2 is compulsory for all students on the 4 year programme with a Year Abroad.

In Italian

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

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules from a list provided by the Department of Languages and Cultures of which at least 20 credits will be made up of an optional culture module in Italian.

In Classics

Students must select 40 credits of modules in Classics, with at least 20 credits of modules in Ancient Epic (CL2AE) or Ancient Drama (CL2DR).

20 credits from Classics can be replaced by another module from an approved list.

Students must choose one 20-credit employability module from a list supplied by the Department of Classics.

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:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IT3L6	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6

In Italian

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules from a list provided by the Department of Languages and Cultures of which at least 20 credits will be made up of an optional culture module in Italian.

In Classics

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules in the Departments of Classics. These may include one 40 credit dissertation or the 40 credit Independent Project Module (CL3IPR). Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available from an approved list.

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.

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:

For **Italian**: You will be taught through seminars, language classes and lectures. Some modules involve a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

For **Classical Studies** you will be taught through a mixture of lectures and seminars in Parts 1 and 2, with a greater emphasis on seminars in Part 3. The dissertation or independent project in Part 3 comprise a piece of work based on supervised independent study. Throughout the programme, you should treat the feedback you get for oral and written work

as an important learning resource, and you are strongly encouraged to discuss your feedback with staff.

The 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 - 204 hours, Part 2 - 130 hours, Part 3 - 96 hours. Latin and Greek language classes will have more contact hours (up to 80 hours per year for beginners' languages).

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

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

For **Italian** you will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including essays, research reports and class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

For **Classical Studies** you will be assessed through a wide range of suitable activities, from essays and exams (both written and oral) to presentations, creative responses, and reflective exercises. These activities will become more complex as you progress from Part 1 to Parts 2 and 3. You should expect one or two assessed assignments per 20 credits, except in language modules, where frequent assessments are essential to monitor progress.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in IT1L1 OR IT1L2 OR IT1L3

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.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) 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: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

In Italian

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 Classical Studies

Some modules use textbooks that are recommended for purchase; the estimated cost is £150 across the programme.

Optional modules may include visits to museums and field trips, including abroad. Travel and/or accommodation costs may range from £20 for a day trip to London to £600 for a week abroad. Placements may require students to cover the cost of their travel.

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.

For students studying on a year abroad, a discounted fee of 15% of the normal Tuition Fee is payable to the University for the year abroad, as detailed in the Fees Policy. No Tuition Fee is paid to the host institution abroad for which there is a valid exchange agreement in place.

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. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 Italian and Classical Studies for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28
2 July 2026
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