

Programme Specification

BA Modern Languages and History

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

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
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Languages, Cultures and Societies/History

Programme information and content

Studying Modern Languages and History at the University of Reading enables you to develop a high level of proficiency in your core language whilst deepening your knowledge of related culture and equipping you with a deep historical understanding of the world.

In **Modern Languages** you can start the study of your core language at beginner, intermediate or advanced level (post-A level or equivalent). This programme will allow you to achieve level C1 (or above) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Your degree transcript will specify which language you have studied and which level you have achieved.

The culture modules in both **Modern Languages** and **History** are informed by staff research specialisms and will allow you to analyse and interpret a range of historical and cultural material; understand and critically apply key linguistic, literary/historical and cultural concepts; and develop and demonstrate independence of thought, sensitivity to historical perspectives and to cultural difference. In **Modern Languages**, you may also be able to cover cultural aspects relevant to other languages and their cultures through optional cross-cultural modules. Our teaching places an emphasis on interactive, student-centred learning.

In **History**, a range of options is available, running from the medieval to the modern period and traversing the globe through Africa, America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. You can explore a variety of historical approaches, including but not exclusive to cultural, economic, political, religious and social history, developing in the process a knowledge of textual analysis, theory and methodology. This part of the programme engages with questions of class, race, gender, sexuality, theology, ideology and power, interrogating various perspectives to enable students to navigate differences of opinion and perspective.

Studying a modern language and history opens a variety of career paths, enabling you to follow the career or life path of your choosing. These include careers in business and marketing, publishing, international organisations and charities, museum and archive work, teaching and translation. The degree will equip you with a range of transferable skills, including understanding and evaluating evidence, structuring ideas and communicating them effectively, and intercultural and historical competence.

Part 1:	For Part 1, in Modern Languages you will develop your practical language skills in your core language modules in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening). The culture modules provide you with a sound understanding of key issues and developments in language and relevant history and culture. In History students sample a range of historical topics and develop such core skills as evaluating primary sources and communicating sustained historical arguments underpinned by referenced research. Compulsory modules are designed to provide students with the broad historical knowledge necessary to develop their studies into the second year.
Part 2:	In Modern Languages, you will further develop your practical language skills in your core language modules in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening), building on the work done in Part 1. The culture modules provide you with an opportunity to encounter and engage with a range of material in the target language. This will enhance your ability to apply a variety of concepts and approaches to the critical analysis of this material. The History options introduce students to ongoing historiographical debates and enable them to intervene in questions of historical pertinence. Students intending to write their Dissertation in History should take HS2PFD Preparing for your Dissertation, as one of their optional modules in History.
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:	In Modern Languages, Part 3 gives you the opportunity to build on your existing language skills. In your core language module you will refine your use of more complicated structures as well as variations in register and style, and in both language and culture modules you will be exposed to an increased amount of material in the target language for discussion and for critical analysis In History, students enjoy greater specialisation, and engage deeply and critically with topics based on staff research specialisms. Optional modules in History enable students to create their own interpretations of historical material and follow their particular interests in History.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Modern Languages and History

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
2	Use the target language for purposes of understanding, expression and communication, achieving C1 level proficiency (or above) in the CEFR
3	Interpret key aspects of the history, literature, culture and societies of the areas where the target language is used
4	Apply relevant disciplinary concepts and methods for the analysis of cultural materials and social/cultural and historical issues
5	Analyse sources in the target language
6	Analyse and interpret historical sources and cultural works in their specific contexts
7	Gain extensive subject knowledge across a wide range of historical subjects and themes
8	Become capable of contextualising historical knowledge and responding to ongoing global affairs from an informed historical perspective
9	Assemble the analytical tools to develop critical and empathetic interpretations of material, with an appreciation of genre, perspective, content and purpose
10	Learn to construct evidence-based arguments and use supporting evidence appropriately
11	Develop written and oral communication skills in different styles and formats
12	Demonstrate intercultural awareness, understanding and competence

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
HS1MH	Making History and You: Practices and Possibilities	20	4
HS1PIH	Perspectives in History	20	4

In History

You must take 20 credits of optional modules available in the Department of History or from an approved list.

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:

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.

Students must take 60 credits in History and 60 credits in Modern Languages.

In History

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules available in the Department of History. Students may replace 20 credits of optional modules in History with modules from an approved list..

Students intending to take a final-year Dissertation in History should take HS2PFD as one of their optional modules in History

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.

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 History:

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules available in the Department of History. which may include a 40-credit Dissertation in History.

Students may replace 20-credits of optional modules in History with modules from an approved list.

In Modern Languages:

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language, to reach level C1 (or above) of the CEFR.

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.

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:

You will be taught through a mix of seminars, language classes and lectures. Some modules may include group work.

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

The programme 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.

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 their 20-credit core language module for their chosen language.

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

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

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. A few optional modules may include study trips of up to 9 days. For each participating student, the cost of the study trip is not normally expected to exceed £350. Assistance with study trip costs may be available to students in financial need.

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. 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 Modern Languages and History for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28
2 July 2026

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