

**BA French and International Relations**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9**

**UCAS code: RL12**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies, Politics and International Relations.
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	15/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	Prof Andrew Knapp Dr Jeremy Lester
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The French part of the programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development. The International Relations curriculum gives students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main sub fields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and politics, and international relations. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of domestic and international politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. They progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, numeracy, 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 programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with information about the number and availability of modules from which the student must make a selection (the selected modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their Personal Tutor, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits in each module is shown in column after its title.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	C
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	C
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	C

**Either:**

Advanced French

*Compulsory modules*

FR101	Advanced French Language	20	C
and either			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

*Optional Module*

**either**

FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

**Or:**

Intermediate French

*Compulsory modules*

FR102	Intermediate French Language	20	C
and either			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

*Optional module:*

FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	C
or			
FR104	French Cinema	20	C

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

In International Relations optional module:

PO1BRI	British Society	20	C
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**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR201	French Language	20	I
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	I
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	I
ML2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	I

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Politics  
In addition to the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are allocated to Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the School of Languages and European Studies.

*French optional modules*

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

*International Relations optional modules*

Students must choose one option module to the value of 20 credits.

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	I
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	I
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	I
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	I
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	I
PO2RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	I

**Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)***Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR3Y02	Oral in French	40	H
PO3LDS	Politics (Joint Language) Dissertation	40	H

Optional module  
either

FR2Y31	University study abroad	40	I
or			
FR2Y32	Assistantship abroad	40	I
or			
FR2Y33	Work placement abroad	40	I

**Part 3 (three terms)***Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR303	Advanced French Language Skills	20	H

*French optional modules*

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook. (NB: In those programmes where the taking of 20 credits outside the main programme is permitted, no IWLP Level 1 Romance Language, or a Beginners' Latin, module, can be taken for credit by any Language finalist)

*International Relations (60 credits)*

Students choose three 20-credit modules from two lists. If PO2PHC or PO21CGP were not taken at Part 2, at least one option must be taken from List B.

## List A

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	H
PO3EUS	European Security	20	H
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	H
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	H
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	H
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	H
PO3SWW	Stratgy in the Two World Wars	20	H
PO3UNI	The UN and International Order	20	H
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	H

## List B

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	H
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	H
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	H
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	H
PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	H
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics from 1960	20	H
PO3USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	H

**Progression requirements**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1 and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, and to have obtained at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules taken for French and International Relations.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.

In addition, students must normally have obtained at least 40% in 40 credits from PO modules (excluding PO2SOP) *and* obtain a pass grade in the module PO2SOP *and* at least 40% in the compulsory French module.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must normally satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French-speaking country.

In the final assessment, the weighting ratio between modules taken during Year 2, modules taken during the Year Abroad, and modules taken during Part 3 is 2: 3: 4. Thus modules taken during Year 2 count for 22.2% of the total credit weighting, modules taken during the Year Abroad count for 33.3% of the total credit weighting, and modules taken during Part 3 count for 44.4% of the total credit weighting.

### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

In French, in Part 1, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. The structure of the content modules in Parts 2 allows for classes normally of no more than 25 students, and at Part 3 of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 18 students except for the grammar component of FR201 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access.

Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework, formal examination or a mix of coursework and formal examination.

To be eligible for Honours, students must normally have obtained an overall average of 40%.

In International Relations, Part 1 and Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 optional modules are usually taught by seminars. All modules at Parts 2 and 3 other than the Study of Politics module and the Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of course work (25%) and examination (75%). Modules at Part 1 are assessed at 40% and 60% respectively.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three 'A' level subjects or 320 from four, to include 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade C) to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) OR 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the International Students office first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

### **Admissions Tutor:**

### **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 Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEEC), In-sessional 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. 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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

The departmental course handbooks issued to Part 1 and degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies Resource Room contains a range of reference works/videos/DVDs which can be used by students, and offers congenial study spaces. Foreign language newspapers and magazines are also available in the department. The Self-Access Language Centre has a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages.

In International Relations, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. Feedback is given on essay work. There is also a departmental Library and a photocopier available for students' use.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in this programme work in many different fields.

A degree in French and International Relations, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to the study of law and accountancy; and a large number of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be a distinct asset.

It can also lead to a career in education, in schools, colleges, extra-mural departments or the WEA, or to teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; or it can be the basis for post-graduate courses in various areas, including translation.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad either as an assistant teacher, on work placement or at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter.

### **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

In French

1. The French language, 2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture, 3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

In International Relations

4. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics; 5. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations; 6. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small group learning and regular assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. The acquisition of French grammar is by PowerPoint lectures at Part 2, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.

2, 3. Acquisition of aspects 2 - 6 is by lecture and seminar or 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 unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3), an oral examination (1)

and dissertation (2-3). The assessment (5-8) is by coursework and written unseen examinations. Also presentations and discussion in supervisor-led seminars.

### **Skills and other attributes**

#### **B. Intellectual skills - able to:**

In French

1. critically apply literary and historical concepts
2. identify and solve problems
3. analyse and interpret
4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

In International Relations

5. think logically on Political matters;
6. analyse issues in political life;
7. understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics;
8. transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the disciplines to another.

#### **C. Practical skills - able to:**

In French

1. speak, write, read and understand French at a high level of proficiency;
2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

In International Relations

5. critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own;
6. utilise problem-solving skills;
7. manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.

#### **D. Transferable skills - able to:**

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. Careers Management

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced.

#### *Assessment*

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1 - 8 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

#### **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. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of 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 French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.

#### *Assessment*

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2 - 8 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All courses 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 courses within the programme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.

### *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. It will be assessed by essay and dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing, but this skill is not formally assessed. 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.**