

## **BA French and Politics**

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
For students entering Part 1 in 2002  
Programme Director: Professor N.D. Segal  
Programme Adviser: Dr A. Knapp and Dr. J. Lester  
Board of Studies: French and Politics  
Accreditation: n/a

## **UCAS code: LR21**

The University of Reading  
The University of Reading  
Modern Languages, Politics  
Programme length: 4 years  
Date of specification: July 2002

### **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 literature, culture, history and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development.

The Politics 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 and comparative government and politics. 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**

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working, information technology (word-processing and use of web-based material) and career management. Students on this programme are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills in addition to those prescribed by the University: use of library resources, self-reliance, cultural awareness.

### **Programme content**

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the programme Director.

Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, 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) Certificate level**

*Students must take at least 40 credits in French and at least 40 credits in Politics.*

A further 20-credit optional module in French and/or in Politics may be taken if desired.

Additional modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those offered in the Part 1 Handbook.

	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<b>French</b>		
<b>Either:</b>		
<b>Advanced French</b>		
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
FR101 <i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C
FR103 <i>Contemporary France</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>		
FR104 <i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
<b>Or:</b>		
<b>Intermediate French</b>		
<i>Compulsory Modules</i>		
FR102 <i>Intermediate French Language</i>	20	C
FR103 <i>Contemporary France</i>	20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>		
FR104 <i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C
On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.		

### **Politics**

<i>Compulsory Module</i>		
PO1GOV <i>Politics II, Comparative Government</i>	20	C
<i>Either:</i>		
POL1IR <i>Politics I, International Relations</i>	20	C
<i>Or:</i>		
POL1THE <i>Politics III, Political Theory</i>	20	C

### **Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level**

*Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Politics.*  
Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the Department of French Studies.

	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<b>French</b>		
<i>Compulsory module</i>		
FR201     French Language 2	20	I
<i>Optional modules</i>		
Students must choose two-20 credit additional modules from the list below. Students may replace 20 of these credits with modules from other programmes.		
FR202 <i>The Crusades</i>	20	I
FR203 <i>Introduction to Medieval Literature</i>	20	I
FR204 <i>The poet's art: French poetry and prose poetry of the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries</i>	20	I
FR205 <i>The Ingénue's Progress (Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries): L'Ecole des Femmes, La Princesse de Clèves, Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i>	20	I
FR206 <i>La littérature au siècle des Lumières: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot</i>	20	I
FR207 <i>France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870</i>	20	I

FR208	<i>Realism and desire in four French novels, 1846-1926: Balzac, Flaubert, Proust, Gide</i>	20	I
FR209	<i>Five Wars and Three Republics: France 1870-1962</i>	20	I
FR210	<i>Closed Spaces: Twentieth-century theatre</i>	20	I
FR211	<i>Introduction to the Francophone Literature of the Maghreb</i>	20	I
FR212	<i>From Realist novel to Nouvelle Vague cinema: who makes the meaning?</i>	20	I
FR213	<i>Le quatrième pouvoir : la presse et les médias en France</i>	20	I

### **Politics** (60 credits)

#### *Compulsory*

PO2 SOP	<i>Study of Politics</i>	10	I
PO2 CGP	<i>Comparative Government (Established States)</i>	20	I
PO2 CGC	<i>Comparative Government (New States)</i>	10	I

#### *Options (one of)*

PO2 AFG	<i>African Government and Politics</i>	20	I
PO2 AMG	<i>American Government and Politics</i>	20	I
PO2 BGP	<i>British Government and Politics</i>	20	I
PO2 EPI	<i>European Political Integration</i>	20	I
PO2 MIR	<i>Modern International Relations</i>	20	I
PO2 PHC	<i>Political Classics</i>	20	I
PO2 RGP	<i>Russian Government and Politics</i>	20	I

### **Year Abroad (three terms in a French-speaking country)**

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
PO3DIS	<i>Dissertation in Politics (to be assessed at Part 3)</i>	40	H
FR302	<i>French Oral</i>	40	H
<i>Optional module</i>			
<b>either</b>			
FR231	<i>University study abroad</i>	40	I
<b>or</b>			
FR232	<i>Assistantship abroad</i>	40	I
<b>or</b>			
FR233	<i>Work placement abroad</i>	40	I

### **Part 3 (three terms) Honours level**

*Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Politics.*

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<b>French</b>			
<i>Compulsory module</i>			
FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>	20	H

#### *Optional modules*

Students must take two modules from the list below.

FR304	<i>Provençal</i>	20	H
FR305	<i>The Legend of Tristan and Iseut</i>	20	H
FR306	<i>Warriors and Heroes : the Medieval French Epic</i>	20	H
FR307	<i>Between Rome and France: exile and displacement in French Renaissance poetry and prose</i>	20	H
FR308	<i>Seventeenth-century French tragedy</i>	20	H
FR309	<i>Aspects of the Eighteenth-Century French Novel</i>	20	H
FR310	<i>Women &amp; men in the French récit</i>	20	H
FR311	<i>Modern French Drama</i>	20	H
FR312	<i>The Writing of Samuel Beckett</i>	20	H
FR313	<i>French-Canadian Novel</i>	20	H
FR314	<i>The Algerian Novel of French Expression</i>	20	H
FR315	<i>French Cinema</i>	20	H
FR316	<i>The French Right since 1940</i>	20	H
FR317	<i>André Gide 1869-1951</i>	20	H
FR318	<i>French Departmental Play</i>	20	H
FR319	<i>Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution</i>	20	H
FR320	<i>French-Canadian Cinema</i>	20	H
FR321	<i>France and Europe since 1945</i>	20	H
FR322	<i>Les droits de l'homme en question</i>	20	H
FR323	<i>Translation into French</i>	20	H
FR324	<i>Forms of the Book in France: texts and their readers from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment</i>	20	H

### Politics

*For students having taken Political Classics or Modern International Relations at Part 2, three of the following:*

PO3 BFD	<i>British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945</i>	20	H
PO3 CDT	<i>Democracy and Citizenship</i>	20	H
PO3 FPA	<i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i>	20	H
PO3 MI	<i>Modern Ideologies</i>	20	H
PO3 POC	<i>Policing Citizens</i>	20	H
PO3 CPT	<i>Political Theory and Public Affairs</i>	20	H
PO3 PIE	<i>Politics of the International Economy</i>	20	H
PO3 MEA	<i>Politics and International Relations of the Middle East</i>	20	H
PO3 POP	<i>Politics of Protest</i>	20	H
PO3 SNA	<i>Strategy in the Nuclear Age</i>	20	H
PO3 UKP	<i>United Kingdom Politics since 1960</i>	20	H
PO3 WEG	<i>West European Government and Politics</i>	20	H
PO3 USV	<i>(The) United States and the Vietnam War</i>	20	H
PO3 WPE	<i>War, Peace and International Ethics</i>	20	H

*(For students NOT having taken Political Classics or Modern International Relations at Part 2 at least one of the following):*

PO3 BFD	<i>British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945</i>	20	H
PO3 CDT	<i>Democracy and Citizenship</i>	20	H
PO3 FPA	<i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i>	20	H
PO3 CPT	<i>Political Theory and Public Affairs</i>	20	H
PO3 PIE	<i>Politics of the International Economy</i>	20	H
PO3 SNA	<i>Strategy in the Nuclear Age</i>	20	H
PO3 USV	<i>(The) United States and the Vietnam War</i>	20	H

**Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, or from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, students must have obtained an overall average of 40 % in the 120 credits in the Examination as a whole, and achieved not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

In addition, in Parts 1 and 2, students must have obtained a mark of 40% in each compulsory French modules and 40% in each of two Politics modules.

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

**Summary of teaching and assessment**

In French the modular structure of the literature or history programmes in Parts 2 and 3 allows for classes of no more than 12 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. In Part 1, lectures to the entire year group will be accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students.

Part 1, 2 and 3 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. The French Oral will be examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

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

In Politics, Part 1 modules and Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 optional modules are usually taught by seminars. All modules other than the study of Politics and the Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of course work (25%) and examination (75%).

**Weighting**

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but it should be noted that Part 2 modules and Year Abroad I-level modules will count for 33% of final assessment, and Year abroad H-level modules and Part 3 modules will count for 67% of final assessment.

**Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 280 points from 4 subjects ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must have either 'A' level French, 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A at GCSE French. 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 EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

Admissions Tutors (Dr Mary Bryden in French, Dr Jonathan Golub in International Relations)

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses 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, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Within both departments students receive a Handbook which gives details of course content, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University. The Access Point for Individual Language Learning (APILL) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French television by satellite. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty to support cinema studies.

The French Departmental Handbook issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. It is also available on the internet: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/AcaDepts/lf/French/undergraduatecourses.html>. The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. The Department has a comprehensive website containing information and learning material. The website is regularly updated. The grammar course at Part 2 has all the Powerpoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. French Career Management Skills at Part 2 has its own Blackboard site, containing computer-assessed and other learning activities.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in this programme work in many different fields.

A degree in French and Politics, 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 numbers 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 translating.

### **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 a Socrates agreement.

The Department of French Studies participates in SOCRATES exchanges with the following institutes of higher education: Brest ESC, Clermont-Ferrand ESC, Geneva, Grenoble III, Le Havre ESC, Liege HEC, Lyon II, Lyon IEP, Montpellier ESC, Montpellier III, Paris III, Paris Dauphine, Poitiers, Poitiers IAE, Rennes IEP, Rennes II, Strasbourg, Toulouse I, Toulouse II, Tours ESCM.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

The French part of the programme aims to equip students with the ability to seek and identify sources of information; make articulate written and oral presentations; conduct lucid arguments in

support of a case, using evidence appropriately; analyse the form and content of written and audio-visual communication; appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management. Particular parts of the programme will also have enabled students to develop relevant IT and Career Management skills.

By the end of French part of the programme, students are expected to be able to:

- understand native-spoken French within an educated French environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
- read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts;
- write accurately in French with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style;

The Politics part of the programme will equip graduates with a range of generic intellectual skills, enabling them to:

- gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources;
- identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems;
- construct reasoned argument and exercise critical judgement;
- reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of feedback;
- manage their own learning self-critically.

It will also equip them with a range of personal transferable skills, enabling them to;

- communicate effectively in speech and writing;
- use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical information;
- work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management;
- collaborate with others to achieve common goals.

### **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*

<b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b>	<b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b>
<p><b>In French</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The French language</li> <li>2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture</li> <li>3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis</li> </ol> <p><b>In Politics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics;</li> <li>5. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations;</li> <li>6. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The acquisition of French grammar is by Powerpoint lectures in at Part 1, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. In Part 2, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.</li> <li>2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 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.</li> </ol> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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 (4 – 6) is by coursework and written unseen examinations. Also presentations and discussion in supervisor-led seminars.</p>

## *Skills and other attributes*



<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <p><b>In French</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. critically apply literary and historical concepts</li> <li>2. identify and solve problems</li> <li>3. analyse and interpret</li> <li>4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference</li> </ol> <p><b>In Politics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. think logically on Political matters;</li> <li>6. analyse issues in political life;</li> <li>7. understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics;</li> <li>8. transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the disciplines to another.</li> </ol>		<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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.</p>
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<p><b>C. Practical skills – able to:</b></p> <p><b>In French</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency;</li> <li>2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;</li> <li>3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;</li> <li>4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.</li> </ol> <p><b>In Politics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own;</li> <li>6. utilise problem-solving skills;</li> <li>7. manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.</li> </ol>		<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2 - 7 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.</p>
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<p><b>D. Transferable skills – able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;</li> <li>2. manage time and work to deadlines;</li> <li>3. participate effectively in groups;</li> <li>4. work independently;</li> <li>5. find information and use information technology;</li> <li>6. be responsible and self-reliant;</li> <li>7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others.</li> <li>8. Careers Management</li> </ol>		<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>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 and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS student development scheme. 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.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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 and technology-enhanced language learning. These skills are not formally assessed.</p>
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*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 expect 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 module and programme handbooks.