BA Linguistics with Italian
For students entering Part 1 in 2002

UCAS Code: Q1R3

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s): Linguistics, Languages and Related Studies

Faculty of Arts & Humanities
Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: May 2005
Programme Director: Professor Michael Garman
Programme Adviser: Dr Kristyan Spelman Miller
Board of Studies: BA Linguistics
Accreditation: Not appropriate

Summary of programme aims

The programme in Linguistics with Italian aims to enable students to achieve their full intellectual potential by means of the rigorous and critical study of language; to provide students with the foundation skills for further independent study and research; and to equip them with a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

The Italian part of the programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. It aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in Italian and who, by virtue of the Year Abroad, are also aware of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and current affairs.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all 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 career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

On completion of this programme, students are expected to have an appreciation of the principles of the scientific study of language; a knowledge of the nature of language, and an understanding of the role and significance of language in the individual and society; practical skills in the analysis of language; a range of transferable intellectual skills including the ability to synthesise, analyse and evaluate information and theoretical claims and to communicate effectively through written and oral reports to varied audiences; the ability to work independently and co-operatively; and an awareness and experience of the application of information technology to language studies, and basic computing skills. In addition, the Italian language programme also 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 communications; appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; articulate in rational discourse the expression of emotion; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management. The year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-) cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The following profile states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with lists of modules in any Part from which students must make a selection (the option modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme advisor, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits for each module is

shown after its title.

Part 1 introduces students to the levels of linguistic analysis that relate to sound, grammar and meaning – this constitutes the 'core' of the discipline. It also introduces applications of linguistics, in individual and social aspects of language. Students study the Italian language and get an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level (or equivalent qualifications) in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Students without an A level in Italian (including complete beginners) take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

Part 2 consolidates the core areas in a module that runs intensively in the Autumn term: this is extended in separate modules for sound structure and grammar and meaning in the Spring and Summer terms. Running alongside these core modules is a further obligatory module in research methods training, and a wide range of option modules that allow students to explore further applications of linguistics, beyond the core. Students also take two compulsory 20-credit Italian language modules (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience).

During the Year Abroad the experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones: by the end of this period the differences between former beginners and other students will have been eliminated. Students further broaden their knowledge of Linguistics and Italian culture by pursuing courses of their own choice at an Italian University; and they engage in independent study for their dissertation.

Part 3 completes the core with advanced-level modules in sound structure and grammar and meaning. It also builds on the research methods training with the dissertation module, which allows students to follow their particular interests in their own investigation. This, together with a further wide range of option modules, provides flexibility and the opportunity for specialisation in two-thirds of the credits in the final year. There are two modules of further Italian language study.

Part 1 (three terms)   *Credits   Level*

Students are required to take 120 credits at Part 1, of which at least 40 and a maximum of 60 must be in Linguistics, and at least 40 and a maximum of 60 must be in Italian, made up from the modules below. The remaining credits may be made up of any combination of 10- and 20-credit modules offered in the university, subject to the requirement for Part 1 examination.

Linguistics
Compulsory module
Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS1SG	*Sounds, Grammar and Meaning*	20	C

Optional modules totalling 20 or 40 credits:
Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS1IS	*Language in the Individual & in Society*	20	C
LS1LS	*Linguistic Studies*	20	C

Italian
For advanced students:
Compulsory modules

IT1001	*Advanced Italian Language 1*	20	C
IT1002	*Twentieth Century Italian Culture*	20	C

For students without A level in Italian (including complete beginners):
Compulsory module

IT1003	*Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture*	40	C

Optional module (open to all students)

IT1004	*Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)*	20	C

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that assessed coursework will be undertaken in the Christmas and Easter vacation.

Part 2 (three terms)   *Credits   Level*

Students take 120 credits in Part 2, made up as indicated.

Up to 20 credits from the list of optional modules can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills.

Linguistics

Modules totalling 80 credits, as follows:

Compulsory modules:

Autumn term:

LS2LG	*Core Linguistics*	20	I

Spring and Summer terms:

LS2PP	*Principles of Phonetics & Phonology*	20	I

OR

LS2PS	*Principles of Syntax & Semantics*	20	I

Autumn, Spring and Summer terms:

LS2RM	*Research Methods*	20	I

Optional modules totalling 20 credits:

Autumn term:

LS2CL	*Child Language Development*	10	I
LS2CS	*Computer-Based Corpus Studies*	10	I
LS2DA	*Discourse Analysis*	10	I
LS2EG	*English Grammar*	10	I
LS2SL	*Sociolinguistics*	10	I

Spring term:

LS2EP	*English Phonology*	10	I
LS2LT	*Applied Linguistics & Language Teaching*	10	I
LS2PY	*Language Play*	10	I
LS2VE	*Varieties of English*	10	I
LS2VC	*Language Variation & Change*	10	I

Italian

Modules totalling 40 credits, as follows:

Compulsory modules

Either

IT201	*Advanced Italian Language II*	20	I

Or

IT202	*Intermediate Italian Language*	20	I

IT203	*History of the Italian Language*	20	I

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 5-7 of the Summer term, save that those

modules running entirely in the Autumn term will be assessed by assignments to be completed over the Christmas vacation.

Year Abroad (three terms)   *Credits*   *Level*
In this Part, students will take a further 120 credits, made up of 40 credits in Linguistics and 80 credits for the Italian Department during their Year Abroad.
The Italian Oral module and the Written and Oral Presentation module are examined in Reading at the beginning of Part 3

Linguistics
Compulsory modules

LS2A1	*Year Abroad Module –1*	20	I
LS2A2	*Year Abroad Module –2*	20	I

Italian
Compulsory modules

IT331	*Italian Oral*	20	H
IT332	*Italian Written and Oral Presentation*	20	H
IT3LS	*Italian Dissertation (preparation)*	20	H
IT231	*Credits from Italian University course (1)*	20	I

The *Credits from Italian University* module is based on marks deriving from one examination taken at an Italian University on any subject related to Italian Studies.

Part 3 (three terms)   *Credits*   *Level*
Students take 120 credits in Part 3, made up as indicated.
Up to 20 credits from the list of optional modules can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.
Not all optional modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Linguistics
Modules totalling 80 credits, as follows:
Compulsory modules:
Autumn and Spring terms:

LS3AP	*Advanced Phonetics & Phonology*	20	H

OR

LS3AS	*Advanced Syntax & Semantics*	20	H
IT3LS	*Italian Dissertation (completion)*	20	H

Optional modules totalling 40 credits:
Autumn or Spring term:

LS3AA	*Linguistic Aspects of Aphasia*	10	H
LS3ASD	*Approaches to Spoken Discourse*	10	H
LS3AWD	*Approaches to Written Discourse*	10	H
LS3CB	*Corpus-Based Approaches to Language Description*	10	H
LS3CL	*Child Language Development*	10	H
LS3EG	*English Grammar*	10	H
LS3EP	*English Phonology*	10	H
LS3EW	*English in the World*	10	H
LS3FL	*First Language Acquisition*	10	H
LS3LP	*Language Pathology*	10	H
LS3LSE	*Literacy in Society and Education*	10	H

LS3PL	*Psycholinguistics*	10	H
LS3RT	*Research Topics in English Grammar*	10	H
LS3SL	*Sociolinguistics*	10	H
LS3SLT	*Second Language Learning & Teaching*	10	H

Italian
Modules totalling 40 credits, as follows:
Compulsory modules

| IT301 | *Advanced Italian III* | 20 | H |
| IT302 | *Additional Advanced Italian* | 20 | H |

The examination of these modules will take place in weeks 3-7 of the Summer term, save that those modules running entirely in the Autumn term will be assessed by assignments to be completed over the Christmas vacation.

Progression requirements
To proceed to Part 2, a student must (a) obtain an average of at least 40% across the Linguistics modules, and in each of their compulsory modules in Italian, and (b) achieve an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits taken in the examination.
To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, students must obtain a mark of 40% in their compulsory modules in Italian and obtain an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits at Part 2. In each case, the student must have 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 module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.
To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study in Italy and completed the assessments required by the programme.

Summary of teaching and assessment
Modules are taught by lectures, seminars and small group practical work. The Dissertation module additionally is supported by individual supervision. Language modules are taught in small groups. Some modules are assessed wholly by coursework, some wholly by examination, and others by a mixture of the two: details are given in the module descriptions.
The Year Abroad modules will derive credits from marks obtained in examinations set by the foreign university; and the Oral in Italian will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.
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.

The University's honours classification is as follows:

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

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
GCSE English: Grade C

UCAS Tariff: 260 points from 3 A Levels or 280 points from 3 A Levels and 1 AS Level.
International Baccalaureat: Pass with 30 points
Irish Leaving Certificate: Four B grades and one C grade
Access: 70% overall
Advanced GVNQ: B in A level + Distinction in GNVQ (Adv) - 12 modules or Distinction + Pass 4 additional modules
Edexcel/BTEC: Five Distinctions and the remainder at Merit level
Scottish Highers: Four B grades
European Baccalaureat: 70% overall
German Abitur: Pass with average of 2.4
Greek Apolytirion   17/20 + UCAS Tariff as above
Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level
IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been conducted in English

Mature and international applicants. It will be appreciated from the extensive list of qualification routes above that we welcome applications from candidates with a range of backgrounds, including mature candidates and those from other countries. While the list above is indicative, it is not intended to be exhaustive, and all such candidates can be sure that their applications will be considered individually and by taking account of particular circumstances. International candidates who are not offering one of the listed set of qualifications are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitably of their qualifications.

The Admissions Secretary is Mrs Barbara Barnes, who will pass on any enquiries to the Admissions Tutor, and can be contacted by:
Telephone – (0118) 931 8141 (+44 118 prefix for callers from outside the UK)
Fax – (0118) 975 6506
Email – b.w.barnes@rdg.ac.uk
or by post.

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 through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their Personal Tutors regularly to review their progress, and through the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.
At Part 1, students receive an induction course in Academic Writing. Each student is provided with a course handbook which contains full details of the degree programme, the staff and facilities in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, and a range of useful information including advice on note-taking in lectures, preparation of written work especially the dissertation, and dates of terms and examinations, and the University's procedure for assessment. The Italian Departmental Handbook is provided to students in the first year, and is also available at: http://www.rdg.ac.uk/italian Each Part of the programme has a Course Tutor to advise students on selection of modules, learning and assessment. Learning on core modules is supported by small group seminars. Learning is also supported by dedicated facilities in the School. The Corpus Facility has 6 networked PCs that are intended in the first instance for

students researching corpora and databases, such as the British National Corpus and CoBUILD. We also have our own research corpora and databases, and these can be accessed from these machines. The facility uses the very latest software in language and speech analysis. Also available for students are word-processing and statistics, e-mail, and Internet access. Further PCs are located in the student common room for student use. The Speech Research Laboratory is well equipped with a wide range of instrumentation for the investigation of many aspects of speech, and the technical staff and phonetics lecturers are available to advise and help with its setting up and use. The Communication Disorders Centre includes a speech and language therapy clinic in the local NHS Trust, and provides students with opportunities for learning and research. There is also a Language Acquisition Laboratory, which provides an essential testing ground for linguistic theories.

Career prospects
Students graduating in Linguistics are equipped to enter a range of professions that obviously concern themselves with written or spoken language: for example, publishing, broadcasting, advertising and translating, as well as academic Linguistics. In some cases, further study and qualifications will be necessary, for which Linguistics forms an excellent foundation, as in teaching, including second and foreign language teaching, and speech and language therapy. More broadly, employers have come to recognise that graduates in Linguistics have the ability to organise complex data and to work in IT environments, and these are skills that are in demand in many types of employment that are not directly concerned with language.
Graduating in a foreign language allows students to work in many different fields. Some use their language skills in teaching, including teaching English as a foreign language abroad; others proceed to postgraduate courses in various areas, including translating. A degree involving a foreign language can also, like degrees in other arts subjects, lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; and increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of a foreign language can be a distinct asset.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Students of Linguistics with Italian spend the whole of the third year studying at one of the universities which have exchange schemes under SOCRATES: Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Trieste, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, Salerno and Venezia. Further information on these Universities is available at http://www.rdg.ac.uk/italian

Educational aims of the programme
The programme in Linguistics aims to enable students to achieve their full intellectual potential by means of the rigorous and critical study of language; to develop students' skills in core areas of linguistics including phonetics, phonology, syntax and semantics; to allow students to develop their own interests in the applications of linguistics in a variety of areas; to provide students with the foundation skills for further independent study and research; and, by exposing students to a variety of learning experiences, to equip them with a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers.
The Italian part of the programme aims to enable students to achieve a high level of understanding of the language, culture and society that may be applied to their further studies and career.

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:
Core areas, represented in 1-6:
1. the systems for the production and perception of human speech sounds
2. the principles of phonological contrast and organisation of linguistic sound systems
3. the principles of derivational and inflectional morphology
4. the principles for determining syntactic constituents and their inter-relations
5. the principles of semantic contrast, and the role of sense, reference and denotation
6. the principles of pragmatics, including speech acts, entailment and presupposition
Additionally,
7. a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied
8. the Italian language
9. selected topics in Italian history, politics and/or literature and culture

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1-6 are achieved through Part 1 module *Sounds, Grammar and Meaning* and Part 2 module *Core Linguistics*, by lectures and small group seminars. Additionally, small group phonetics practical sessions focus on 1. Further knowledge and understanding in areas 1-6 are offered in option modules at Parts 2 and 3, by lectures, small group seminars and guided assignments. 7 is achieved through Part 1 module *Language in the Individual & Society*, by lectures and small group seminars, and through further Part 2 and 3 option modules, by lectures and guided assignments.
8 is achieved through the language modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3, and during the Year Abroad.
9 is achieved through the other Italian modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3, and additionally the Year Abroad in Italy offers immersion in Italian culture.
Assessment
1-7 are assessed by coursework and written examination; 1 is additionally assessed by oral examination. Dissertation and oral presentations also contribute in core and applied areas.
8-9 are assessed by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination, coursework essays, an oral examination and dissertation.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:
1. think logically
2. analyse and solve problems
3. operationalise abstract concepts for testing of hypotheses
4. assimilate rapidly-evolving concepts and models of language
5. generalise knowledge and methods from one area of study to others
6. plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic
7. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1-2 are achieved through demonstration and example in all lectures and small group seminars; additionally, through language practicals at Parts 1 and 2, and the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.
3 is achieved mainly through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.
4 is achieved through the progression of concepts particularly in the modules *Sounds, Grammar and Meaning* at Part 1 and *Core Linguistics* at Part 2; further opportunities are offered through option modules, especially those in core and applied areas at Part 3.
5 is achieved through the combination of core and applied modules at Parts 1, 2 and 3.
6. is achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.
7 is achieved by means of 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
1-5 form part of the evaluation of the quality of students' coursework and their written examinations. Additionally, 6 is assessed through small-scale and subsequent larger project work, respectively, in the modules *Research Methods*, and the *Dissertation*.
7 is assessed by a variety of assessment methods employed which place great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate these skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

C. Practical skills – able to:
1. perceive, produce and transcribe a full range of sounds produced by the human vocal tract
2. analyse an unknown language at all levels of linguistic organisation
3. identify patterns in complex linguistic data and account for them in terms of appropriate levels of representation and generative rules
4. address and assemble the information contained in modern electronic linguistic corpora
5. run appropriate statistical tests on numerical data
6. speak, write, read and understand Italian at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
7. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic analysis;
8. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
9. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
1 is achieved through small group phonetics practical sessions, based on general information provided in the main core lectures on the sounds of language.
2-3 are achieved through small group language practical sessions at Parts 2 and 3 which exercise field linguistic techniques, based on lectures on the core areas of language structure and function; also, through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and through the *Dissertation* at Part 3.
4 is achieved through introductory sessions and assignment in the module *Research Methods*, and through the option module *Computer-Based Corpus Studies*.
5 is achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*
6-9 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 Italian. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of Italian to a high level.

Assessment
1 is assessed by oral examination.
2-5 are assessed by assignment;
3-4 are additionally assessable by written examination, and 5 by evaluation of the *Dissertation*
6 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is also regular unassessed coursework.
7-9 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.

D. Transferable skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. use IT (word processing, using standard and statistical software)	1-6 are achieved through the Part 2 module *Research Methods*
2. define a research topic and mount a principled investigation by means of hypothesis-formulation and testing	2, 5 and 6 are additionally achieved through the *Dissertation*
3. give oral presentations	3 is additionally achieved in a number of option modules, and in the *Second Year Conference*
4. work as part of a team	
5. use library resources	5 and 6 are also required for successful execution of assignments throughout the programme
6. manage time	
7. formulate and implement career plans	7 is achieved through the 5-credit Part 2 distributed module *Career Management Skills*
8. be responsible and self-reliant	
9 assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others, especially from another culture.	8-9 are a particular focus of the year abroad, their importance being taught during preparatory sessions in Part 2.
	Assessment
	1 is assessed by coursework and is also assessable in the *Dissertation*
	2 is assessed by group presentation and individual writing up of the project carried out in the Part 2 module *Research Methods*, and in the *Dissertation*
	3 is assessed by staff observation and contributes to coursework on relevant modules
	4-6 are not specifically assessed but contribute to success in forms of assessment generally
	7 is assessed by three equally weighted assignments
	8-9 are not specifically assessed but jointly contribute to success in forms of assessment generally.

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.