

BA German, Part-time (Day-time)

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Modern Languages

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2002
Programme Director: Dr Ian Roe
Programme Adviser: Dr Ian Roe
Board of Studies: German Studies
Accreditation: n/a

Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: July 2002

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline.

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 of German will develop their abilities to deal with intellectual problems effectively by locating information, assessing it critically, communicating independent points of view logically and clearly (both orally and in writing), and substantiating opinions with evidence; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

Part-time degree programmes, like full-time programmes, are made up of study elements called *modules*. The size of a module is measured in terms of *credits*, a credit entails a notional 10 hours of study. For a full-time programme each year contains modules totalling 120 credits. Most modules are 20 credits in size but some are 10 credits and others are multiples of 20 credits (for example dissertations are often 40 credits in size).

Modules are offered at one of three levels. In ascending order these are:

Certificate (C) level

Intermediate (I) level

Honours (H) level

All part-time degree programmes entail study of modules totalling a minimum of 360 credits.

Students must take the compulsory and optional modules required for their degree programme, the following minimum number of credits being required at the levels indicated:

Certificate level (C) 100 credits minimum

Intermediate level (I) 100 credits minimum

Honours level (H) 100 credits minimum

Part-time programmes are divided into two sections:

Part 1 involves studying modules totalling at least 80 credits and no more than 120 Certificate level credits (120 credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study), then listing the Part 1 Examination in order to preview to the remainder of the degree.

Post-Part I, where students take the remaining modules needed to complete their degree programme.

Students must take at C level those modules required for progression to one or more degree subjects, but may take individual modules from any available programme to make up the necessary minimum total of 100 credits at C level.

Of the 100 or more credits taken at I level, 5 are taken up with Career Management Skills.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to study any H level modules.

The content of this particular degree programme is:

Part 1	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
Either (for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)		
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
GM1AGL <i>Advanced German Language</i>	20	C
GM1AGC <i>Advanced German History and Culture</i>	20	C
Optional module		
GM1VAG <i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)		
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
GM1IGL <i>Intermediate German Language</i>	20	C
GM1IGC <i>Intermediate German History and Culture</i>	20	C
<i>Optional module</i>		
GM1VAG <i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
Level I	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
GM2L2 <i>German Language II</i>	20	I
GM2DU <i>Divisions and Unities</i>	20	I

GM2RRR	<i>Reality, Reason and Revolution</i>	20	I
GM2OP1	<i>German Option Module 1</i>	20	I
GM2OP2	<i>German Option Module 2</i>	20	I

Optional modules

GM2LB	<i>German for Business Purposes</i>	20	I
GM2OP3	<i>German Option Module 3</i>	20	I

(Option Modules 1 and 2 and (if taken) Option Module 3 will each be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided)

Of the credits taken at Level I, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills

Level H		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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Compulsory modules

GM3GPT	<i>Translation into German and English</i>	20	H
GM3O20	<i>Oral and Aural German</i>	20	H
<i>One of</i>			
GM3GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H
GM3GMB	<i>German for Business and Management</i>	20	H

Three or four to be chosen from a list of available options, currently including

GM3GAR	<i>Germany in the Age of Revolution</i>	20	H
GM3V19	<i>Nineteenth-Century Vienna</i>	20	H
GM3WR	<i>Culture and Society of the Weimar Republic</i>	20	H
GM3GDR	<i>The GDR: Politics, Society and Culture</i>	20	H
GM3BU	<i>Beyond Unification: German Novels of the 90s</i>	20	H
GM3PL	<i>German Departmental Play</i>	20	I

(All optional modules, including additions to the above list, are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants)

Progression requirements

The structure of part-time degrees is that students first of all take the degree subject(s) they want to study at Certificate level. The subject(s) form Part 1 of the programme. Part 1 must contain at least 80 credits, so that, if the modules for a student's chosen subject (s) add up to less than 80 credits, an additional module or two will need to be taken to achieve that total.

There is a Part 1 Examination in May or June, which students have to pass in order to go on to their degree choice at Intermediate and Honours levels.

To proceed from Part 1 students must have passed modules totalling at least 80 credits at Certificate level and must also have passed those modules required for progression to their chosen degree, with a minimum mark of 40%. To pass the Part 1 Examination a student must have a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module. Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules in a re-examination held in September.

Students must complete at least 80 credits at I level before they can proceed to any module at level H.

Re-examinations for C, I and H level modules are held annually in September.

Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

Certificate of Higher Education	100 credits at levels C and 20 credits at any level.
Diploma of Higher Education	240 credits, with at least 100 credits at I level or above.

The specific progression requirements for this programme are as follows:

To proceed to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% in each of their two compulsory German modules and must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole and no module mark under 30%.

To proceed from Level I to Level H students must obtain a mark of 40% in *German Language II* and in *Divisions and Unities*. Students must satisfy the examiners that they have fulfilled the residence requirement in a German-speaking country (20 credits) before completing Level H modules.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook, but it should be noted that Level I modules will count for 33% of final assessment, and H-Level modules will count for 67% of final assessment. The *Oral and Aural German* module will be assessed at an appropriate point in Level H, on completion of the residence requirement in a German-speaking country.

Admission requirements

Either 260 pts from 3 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,

Or 280 pts from 4 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,

Or equivalent qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German.

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via german@reading.ac.uk.

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.

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Advice is also available from the Coordinator for Part-time First Degrees.

In addition the Department of German Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree programme students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The German Seminar Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space.

Career prospects

Students graduating in German work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, 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 German can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; others proceed to 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 are required to attend an approved module at an institution of higher education in a German-speaking country during two of the long vacations.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to equip students with:

- a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated German person in the reception and production of standard (non-technical) spoken and written German;
- a sound body of knowledge within the field of German Studies that is suited to their interests;
- familiarity with the theories and methods of the various disciplines covered and the ability to develop their own expertise and develop and present their arguments in these areas.

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

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom 2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English) 3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900 4. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-1900 5. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-1900 6. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues 7. Methods of critical textual analysis. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-7)</p> <p>Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)</p> <p>Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-7)</p> <p>Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-7)</p> <p>Dissertation (any of 1-7 depending on chosen topic)</p> <p>Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-7)</p> <p>Oral examination (1-2)</p> <p>Dissertation (6-7, also 4-5)</p> <p><i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2).</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically 2. Identify and analyse problems and issues 3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments 4. Evaluate alternative critical views 5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another 6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena 7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing 2. Understand a variety of types of 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular</p>

textual material in German

3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 & 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Pt 2 of the programme.

Assessment

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. Give oral presentations
3. Use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. Demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. Manage time and work to deadlines
6. Work independently and be self-reliant
7. Take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the period abroad.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management component. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

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, and learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.