

BA in Film & Theatre and German

UCAS code: RW24

Awarding Institution:

The University of Reading

Teaching Institution:

The University of Reading

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

Dance, Drama and Performance;
Communication, Media, Film and
Cultural Studies; and Languages and
Related Studies

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Programme length: 4 years

For students entering Part 1 in 2003

Date of specification: April 2003

Programme Director:

Brian Woolland

Programme Advisers:

Dr Alastair Phillips and

Dr Peter Barker

Board of Studies:

Film, Theatre & Television, German

Accreditation:

not applicable

Summary of programme aims

The central aim of the programme is to enable students to gain an understanding of major areas of cinema and of theatre since the late nineteenth century, and become competent communicators in German and well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers and theatre practitioners, become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of literary, film and drama texts, and gain a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated German person in the reception and production of spoken and written German.

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 develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

In addition, on completion of this programme, students are expected to have developed a range of specific transferable skills including: critical analysis and coherent argument; the ability to formulate and evaluate their own arguments and those of others; researching and evaluating evidence; use of library resources; undertaking self-directed, independent work; developing projects through co-operation and dialogue; taking leadership and management roles; effective time management; cultural awareness.

Programme content

Each Part of the degree comprises 120 credits. Students must normally take a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits worth of modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television and a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 60 credits worth of modules in the German Department in Part 1. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from modules available elsewhere in the University. In Parts 2 and 4 they must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both the Film, Theatre & Television and the German Departments in each Part. In Part 3 (study abroad), each student will take 40 credits in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television (the dissertation) and 80 credits worth of modules, or equivalent modes of study, in German. In Parts 2 or 4, students may substitute a Faculty module of 20 credits for a module of either Department in consultation with their programme adviser.

Part 1 (three terms) Credits Level

Film, Theatre & Television Department

Compulsory module

FT1CHA	<i>Critical and Historical Approaches to Film and Theatre</i>	40	C
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Optional module

FT1TFC	<i>Introduction to Television Studies</i>	20	C
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German Department

For students entering with A-level German or equivalent:

Compulsory modules

GM1AGL	<i>Advanced German Language I</i>	20	C
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GM1AGC	<i>Advanced German History and Culture</i>	20	C
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Optional module

GM1VAG	<i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
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For students entering with GCSE German or equivalent:

Compulsory modules

GM1IGL	<i>Intermediate Language</i>	20	C
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GM1IGC	<i>Intermediate History and Culture</i>	20	C
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Optional module

GM1VAG	<i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
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Part 2 (three terms) Credits Level

Film, Theatre & Television Department

Students will normally take the following modules:

Either

FT2USIA	<i>Studies in US Cinema I</i>	20	I
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FT2BTA	<i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20	I
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[various]	<i>Critical Option [from group with A suffix]</i>	20	I
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Or

FT2US1A	<i>Studies in US Cinema I</i>	20+10	I
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+ B

FT2US1A	<i>Studies in British Theatre</i>	20+10	I
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+ B

Studies in US Cinema I (FT2US1A) and Studies in British Theatre (FT2BTA) are compulsory modules.

The Critical Option(s) will be selected from a list offered at the discretion of the Programme Director (not all options will necessarily be available every year) and chosen from the following:

FT2TCA	<i>Third Cinema</i>	20	I
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FT2ECA	<i>European Cinema Since 1945</i>	20	I
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FT2MA	<i>Musical in Film and Theatre</i>	20	I
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FT2MDA	<i>Modern European Drama</i>	20	I
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FT2DA	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20	I
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FT2BCA	<i>British Cinema</i>	20	I
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FT2WFA	<i>Women's Film and Theatre</i>	20	I
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FT2TVA	<i>Television Drama</i>	20	I
FT2NTA	<i>North American Theatre</i>	20	I
FT2RTA	<i>English Renaissance Theatre in the Modern Period</i>	20	I
FT2CPA	<i>Chekhov in Production</i>	20	I
FT2PTA	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	20	I
FT2JCA	<i>Japanese Cinema</i>	20	I

German Department

Compulsory modules

GM2L2	<i>Language 1</i>	20	I
GM2DU	<i>Division and Unities</i>	20	I

One of

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

Students may substitute for one 20 credit module a 20 credit module available elsewhere in the University.

Year Abroad (three terms)

Credits Level

Film, Theatre & Television Department

Compulsory module

FT3JDG	<i>Dissertation</i>	40	H
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German Department

Compulsory module

G3040	<i>Oral and Aural German</i>	40	H
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Either

GM2S40	<i>German Scheine (full year)</i>	40	I
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Or

GM2PL	<i>Placement/assistant's report</i>	40	I
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(this module includes 20 credits for Work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment)

Of the 120 credits in the Year abroad, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (level I) distributed throughout the modules.

Part 3 (three terms)

Credits Level

Film, Theatre & Television Department*Students will take**Either*

FT3AFA + B	<i>Alternative Forms in Film and Drama</i>	20 + 10	H
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[various] [A + B]	<i>Critical Option</i>	20 + 10	H
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Or

FT3AFA	<i>Alternative Forms in Film and Drama</i>	20	H
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[various]	<i>Critical Options [from group with A suffix]</i>	20	H
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Notes 10 credit modules **MUST** be taken together with the relevant 20 credit module, making the critical option worth 30 credits. The Critical Option(s) will be selected from a list offered at the discretion of the Programme Director (not all options will necessarily be available every year) and chosen from the following:

FT3TCA	<i>Third Cinema</i>	20	H
FT3TCB	<i>Third Cinema</i>	10	H
FT3ECA	<i>European Cinema Since 1945</i>	20	H
FT3ECB	<i>European Cinema Since 1945</i>	10	H
FT3MA	<i>The Musical in Film and Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3MB	<i>The Musical in Film and Theatre</i>	10	H
FT3MDA	<i>Modern European Drama</i>	20	H
FT3MDB	<i>Modern European Drama</i>	10	H
FT3DA	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	20	H
FT3DB	<i>Documentary Film and Television</i>	10	H
FT3BCA	<i>British Cinema</i>	20	H
FT3BCB	<i>British Cinema</i>	10	H
FT3WFA	<i>Women's Film and Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3WFB	<i>Women's Film and Theatre</i>	10	H
FT3TVA	<i>Television Drama</i>	20	H
FT3TVB	<i>Television Drama</i>	10	H
FT3NTA	<i>North American Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3NTB	<i>North American Theatre</i>	10	H
FT3RTA	<i>English Renaissance Theatre in the Modern Period</i>	20	H
FT3RTB	<i>English Renaissance Theatre in the Modern Period</i>	10	H
FT3CPA	<i>Chekhov in Production</i>	20	H
FT3CPB	<i>Chekhov in Production</i>	10	H
FT3PTA	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	20	H
FT3PTB	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	10	H
FT3JCA	<i>Japanese Cinema</i>	20	H
FT3JCB	<i>Japanese Cinema</i>	10	H
FT3USA	<i>US Cinema 2</i>	20	H
FT3USB	<i>US Cinema 2</i>	10	H

German Department*Compulsory modules.**One of:*

GM3GPT	<i>German Prose and Translation</i>	20	H
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GM3GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H
<i>Two of:</i>			
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>The German Play</i>	20	I

(Not all optional modules will be available in any one year; the availability of all optional modules is subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants)

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, students must: a) have obtained a mark of 40% or above in each of their two compulsory German modules and in each of the two compulsory modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television; b) must have achieved an average of 40% or above in the Part 1 examination as a whole; and c) have no module mark under 30%.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must: a) obtain a mark of 40% or above in German Language II and in the compulsory modules in Department of Film, Theatre & Television; b) must obtain an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits at Part 2; and c) have no module mark under 30%. Marks of not 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 cause

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 German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is through lectures, seminars and tutorials. Interaction in seminars is central to both parts of the programme, and weekly seminars, informed by lectures, are common to almost all modules in both Departments. Compulsory theatre visits and/or regular film screenings are integral to most modules in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. In German, Language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars.

Assessment of critical modules in Parts 2 and 3 of Film & Theatre is mainly by coursework, which includes formal essays of various kinds (including extended essays) as well as other written assignments such as take away exam questions. In German, most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad module *Scheine* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the German or Austrian university, and the Oral/Aural module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

The dissertation comprises a piece of independent research, directed through one-to-one tutorials, and assessed entirely through coursework.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbooks, 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 the Joint Degree programme are normally required to have obtained:

A levels

Either

280 points from 3 A2s, to include 100 pts (grade B) in one of English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies;

or

320 pts from 3 A2s + up to 2 AS, to include 100 pts (Grade B) in one of English Literature, Drama, Theatre Studies, Film Studies.

German A level is normally required, except for admission to the post-GCSE course.

AS

2 good AS grades are accepted as 1 supporting A level

Irish Leaving Certificate at least ABBBB (A in English Literature)

International Baccalaureate 31 points with 6 or 7 for Higher level English Literature

GCSE/O Language preferred: grade C or above.

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will be expected to have a B at A level English Literature, Theatre Studies, Drama Studies or Film Studies, or equivalent qualification. In other respects, generous concessions may be made to reflect the value of other qualifications and experience.

Admissions tutor: John Wieczorek (German), Alison Butler (Film, Theatre & Television)

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 Learning Resource Centre with some 200 workstations. 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.

Students receive Handbooks from both Departments, which gives details of the Programme, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University, such as the Study Skills Advisor and the Counselling Service. The Programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through regular seminars and language-classes (German) and detailed written comments (Film & Theatre), and academic and personal support is provided through the personal tutor system and PAR. A series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the year abroad, and dissertation workshops prepare students for the Year Abroad dissertation, which is individually supervised. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty (on the Whiteknights campus). The Department of Film, Theatre & Television has an extensive collection of films and television programmes, to which students may have access, and a range of viewing facilities. The Library, which has buildings on both the Whiteknights and Bulmershe campuses, has an extensive collection of printed materials as well as electronic databases, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and the DNB on CD ROM, and such on-line resources as JSTOR, First Search... Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

Since Film & Theatre and German is not a vocational programme, career possibilities are very wide ranging. Graduates find that the specific as well as the transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter many fields of work including education, banking, commerce and industry, arts administration, advertising, accountancy, personnel, the civil service, local government and the performance/media industries. Students may also go on to post-graduate study in both subject areas at MA and PhD levels, both at Reading and elsewhere. Increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of German can be a distinct asset.

Opportunities for study abroad

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad, as an assistant teacher or at a university with which the University of Reading has a Socrates exchange agreements: (in Germany) Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Regensburg, Potsdam, Trier, Tübingen, and (in Austria) Graz, Linz, Vienna.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme in Film & Theatre and German Studies seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to postgraduate study or a wide range of careers, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning.

The central aim of the Film & Theatre Combined Subject programme is to enable students to gain a confident grasp of critical methods appropriate to the study of Film & Theatre and an understanding of major areas of cinema and of theatre since the late nineteenth century. Students will experience some of the varied achievements of film-makers, writers and theatre practitioners and become familiar with a range of perspectives which can inform analysis of film and drama texts. The emphasis is on the close study of plays and films and on critical debates and competing theories that have influenced discussion of theatre and cinema.

The programme in German Studies adopts a multi-disciplinary approach and aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German and are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs. The programme therefore 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 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 selection of film and theatre texts from a range of national and cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century until the present day. A selection of literary texts in German and in translation from a variety of historical periods and cultural contexts.2. A variety of approaches to film and theatre making.3. Methods of, critical, dramatic, filmic and analysis4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to drama and film texts5. A range of approaches in German studies and Film and Theatre studies.6. Selected special fields of German studies and Film and Theatre7. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom and the fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, workshops, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading and viewing, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation. 7 is taught throughout all parts of the programme and is enhanced by the period of study abroad.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 – 5 and 7 are tested through a combination of essays, seen and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus seen and unseen exams, and the dissertation.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Capacity for independent analysis and research2. Identification of problems and issues3. The ability to read, watch analyse and interpret closely and critically4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions	<p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i></p> <p>Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading and viewing (1), preparation and discussion in seminars and workshops, essay writing (1, 2, 3) and essay feedback, in both written forms and individual tutorials (2, 3 and 4).</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>1 – 3 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays, seen and unseen exams. 1- 4 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.</p>
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C. Practical skills:

1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of literature, drama and film texts (including theatre performances).
2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches
3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English and German languages
4. Bibliographical and research skills
5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work
6. An ability to relate the study of Film & Theatre and German culture and language to cultural and social issues

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 – 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, workshops, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.

Assessment

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in seen and unseen examinations. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

D. Transferable skills:

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments
3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches
4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments
5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources
6. Time-management skills and the ability to manage personal workloads.
7. A creative approach to problem-solving
8. Group and interpersonal skills
9. An ability to self-evaluate and self-reflect
10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are developed through seminar and workshop discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback, seen and unseen examinations (1 – 9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analysing new material in essays, seen and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, essay writing and research for the dissertation. We require that all summatively assessed essays are word-processed (10).

Assessment

1 – 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, seen and unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. Formative assessments are for the guidance of the students, and do not contribute to the module mark.

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 the study module guides and programme handbooks.