

BA French with Japanese

UCAS Code R1T2

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2003
Programme Director: Prof. N. Segal
Programme Advisors: Ms A Furukawa
Board of Studies: French Studies
Accreditation: n/a

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Languages and Related Studies
Length of programme: 4 years
Date of Profile: February 2003

Summary of programme aims

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, history, culture and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development. The Japanese Language programme aims to enable students to achieve well-balanced understanding of both spoken and written Japanese as well as Japanese culture and society.

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), career management.

Students of French and Japanese 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

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). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part, plus 120 credits assigned to the Year Abroad to make a total of 480 credits for the whole degree. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University; in Part 3 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms)

Credits Level

In addition to the compulsory modules listed below, students must choose additional modules from this and/or other programmes to make 120 Part 1 credits in total.

Either (for students entering with a good A-level French or equivalent)
Advanced French

<i>Compulsory modules</i>			<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR101	<i>Advanced French Language</i>		20	C
JA1BJ1	<i>Beginners' Japanese I</i>		40	C
and either				
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>		20	C
or				
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>		20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>				
either				
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>		20	C
or				
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>		20	C

Or (for students entering with GCSE French Grade A* or equivalent)

Intermediate French

<i>Compulsory modules</i>			<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR102	<i>Intermediate French Language</i>		20	C
JA1BJ1	<i>Beginners' Japanese I</i>		40	C
and either				
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>		20	C
or				
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>		20	C
<i>Optional Module</i>				
either				
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>		20	C
or				
FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>		20	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Credits *Level*

(80 credits in French and 40 credits in Japanese)

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (level I)

Compulsory modules

FR201	<i>French Language 2</i>	20	I
JA2BJ2	<i>Beginners' Japanese II</i>	40	I

Optional modules

Students must choose THREE 20-credit additional modules from the list below. They may replace 20 of these credits with modules from other programmes. **Note:** the following modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information.

FR2MAN	Language: <i>French for Managers 2</i>	20	I
FR202	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>The Crusades</i>	20	I
FR203	Middle Ages/Medieval: <i>Introduction to Medieval Literature</i>	20	I
FR204	16th & 19th Centuries: <i>The poet's art: French poetry and prose poetry of the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries</i>	20	I

FR205	17th & 18th Centuries: <i>The Ingénue's Progress (Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries): L'Ecole des Femmes, La Princesse de Clèves, Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i>	20	I
FR206	18th Century: <i>La littérature au siècle des Lumières: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot</i>	20	I
FR207	18th & 19th Centuries: <i>France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870</i>	20	I
FR208	19th & 20th Centuries: <i>Realism and desire in four French novels, 1846-1926: Balzac, Flaubert, Proust, Gide</i>	20	I
FR209	19th & 20th Centuries: <i>Five Wars and Three Republics: France 1870-1962</i>	20	I
FR211	20th Century: <i>Introduction to the Francophone Literature of the Maghreb</i>	20	I
FR213	20th Century: <i>Le quatrième pouvoir : la presse et les médias en France</i>	20	I

Year Abroad (three terms)

Compulsory modules

		Credits	Level
FR301	<i>French Dissertation</i>	40	H
FR302	<i>Oral (half year)</i>	20	H
FR231	<i>University Study in France (half year)</i>	20	I
JA2PAL	<i>University Study in Japan (half year)</i>	20	I

A further 20 credits, which do not contribute to final assessment, are awarded for study experience in Japan.

Part 3 (three terms)

(At least 60 credits in French and 40 credits in Japanese)

Compulsory modules

		Credits	Level
FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills (French)</i>	20	H
JA3GR	<i>Japanese Grammar and Reading</i>	20	H
JA3OW	<i>Japanese Oral and Writing</i>	20	H

Optional modules

Students must take THREE modules from the list below. They may replace 20 credits with a Special Subject chosen from those offered within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Note: the following modules are subject to the availability of academic staff in any one year. Students should consult the relevant Departmental handbook for up-to-date information.

FR3MAN	<i>French for Managers</i>	20	H
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 & men in the French récit</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
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
FR326	<i>Creative Writing</i>	20	H

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2, students must have obtained a mark of 40% in their compulsory modules in French and Japanese and must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole and have no module mark under 30%, 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 Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of 40% in *French Language II* in *Beginners' Japanese II*, and must obtain an overall average of 40% and have no module mark under 30%, 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 Japan and in a French-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Language modules in French and Japanese are taught in small groups (taught in Japanese in Part 3); 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 Year Abroad *Study in France* and *Study in Japan* will be assessed on the basis of certificates, and/or marks and credits gained, and the French Oral module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

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.

Admissions 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 normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. 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. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the French departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via french@reading.ac.uk

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.

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.

The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. 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. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of French culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies.

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 at: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/french> containing information and learning material. The website is regularly updated. The grammar strand 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 learning activities.

A number of books on a variety of Japan-related topics are available in the Library and APILL provides a range of tapes and videos for students' self-study.

Career prospects

Students graduating in French and Japanese work in many different fields. A degree involving languages, 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 world of business and commerce, where their knowledge of French and Japanese can be an important asset.

Students graduating in Japanese will be equipped to develop their knowledge of the language in order to enhance their prospects of an international career with a Japanese dimension. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad, or in translating; others proceed to postgraduate courses in various areas.

Opportunities for study abroad

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad, half in French, half in Japan. The University of Reading has Socrates exchanges with a range of universities in France. In Japan, students will attend courses at one of three universities in Tokyo: Hosei, Jochi (Sophia) and Obirin.

Educational aims of the programme

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 also enable students to develop relevant IT and Career Management skills.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the French 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 Japanese Language 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.

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. the French language2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture3. key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis4. both spoken and written Japanese5. Japanese culture and society	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 1, French grammar is learnt in small groups. At Part 2, it is taught by Powerpoint lectures supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 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.4. is achieved through all the language-related modules in which both spoken and written Japanese are taught.5. is achieved through the Japanese Culture component in Part 1 and through the Period Abroad. In Part 2 and Part 3, this is achieved through the language components, in which cultural aspects are emphasised. <p>Assessment</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).</p>
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Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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

Assessment

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-5 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.
5. communicate comfortably both orally and in writing in a setting that involves Japanese culture.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skill 1 is taught in the language classes that are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French. For skill 2 and 4, all students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. For skill 3, comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each module. The half year in France further promotes the active learning of French to a high level, and the half-year in Japan promotes skill 5. Skill 5 is also taught through all the modules, in which both spoken and written Japanese are taught and in which cultural aspects are emphasised.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation. Skill 5 is assessed by coursework, oral tests and written examinations.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;
2. manage time and work to deadlines;
3. participate effectively in groups;
4. work independently;
5. find information and use information technology;
6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
8. Careers Management.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of students' work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning, 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, but these skills is not formally assessed.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably 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.