

BA German and Politics

For students entering Part 1 in 2003

UCAS Code MR12

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of profile: November 2005
Programme Director: Dr Wiczorek
Programme Advisors: Dr Golub
Board of Studies: German and Politics

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Modern Languages
Length of programme: 4 years

Summary of programme aims

The programme in 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 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 to them outside the confines of the discipline.

The programme in Politics aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to one of the three main subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. Students focus on compulsory modules in Politics and associated optional modules. The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

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 German and Politics 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 profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part, and also the Year Abroad, comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 40 credits are made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 3 students may replace up to 20 credits in optional modules with modules taken elsewhere in the university.

In German, Part 1 includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture and history. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take a compulsory module on German history and culture from 1945 to the present; a second broadly-based culture module allows a wide range of choice. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

In Politics, Part 1 requires the module in Comparative Government as well as at least one further Politics module. In Part 2 students continue with further compulsory modules in Comparative Government (Established States) and (New States), as well as an option. In the Year Abroad students write a dissertation in the Government, Politics and International Relations of Germany to be submitted by the first day of the Autumn term of the final year. In Part 3 students take options in Politics.

Part 1 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

Students must take modules worth a minimum of 40 credits in German and 40 credits in Politics and must choose additional modules from this or other programmes to make 120 Part 1 credits in total.

In German

Compulsory modules

Either (for students entering with A-level German or equivalent)

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

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

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

Optional module

GM1VAG	<i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
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In Politics

Compulsory Module

PO1 GOV	<i>Politics II Comparative Government</i>	20	C
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Either:

PO1 IR	<i>Politics I, International Relations</i>	20	C
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Or:

PO1 THE	<i>Politics III, Political Theory</i>	20	C
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Optional module:

A third module from above (either <i>POIIR</i> or <i>POITHE</i>)	20	C
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Part 2 (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In German (60 credits)			
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
GM2L2	<i>German Language II</i>	20	I
GM2DU	<i>Divisions and Unities</i>	20	I
<i>One of</i>			
GM2RRR	<i>Reality, Reason and Revolution</i>	20	I
GM2OP1	<i>German Option Module 1</i>	20	I
<i>(German Option Module 1 will be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided.)</i>			

In Politics (60 credits)			
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
PO2 SOP	<i>Study of Politics</i>	10	I
PO2 CGP	<i>Comparative Government (Established States)</i>	20	I
PO2 CGC	<i>Comparative Government (New States)</i>	10	I
<i>Optional modules (one of)</i>			
PO2 AFG	<i>African Government and Politics</i>	20	I
PO2 AMG	<i>American Government and Politics</i>	20	I
PO2 BGP	<i>British Government and Politics</i>	20	I
PO2 EPI	<i>European Political Integration</i>	20	I
PO2 MIR	<i>Modern International Relations</i>	20	I
PO2 PHC	<i>Political Classics</i>	20	I
PO2 RGP	<i>Russian Government and Politics</i>	20	I

Year Abroad (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
GM3O40	<i>Oral and Aural German (full year)</i>	40	H
PO3DIS	<i>Dissertation in Politics</i>	40	H
<i>Either</i>			
GM2S40	<i>German Scheine (full year)</i>	40	I
<i>Or</i>			
GM2ASR or GM2WPL	<i>Placement/assistant's report</i> <i>(this module includes 20 credits for Work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment)</i>	40	I

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

Part 3 (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
In German (60 credits)			
<i>One of</i>			
GM3GPT	<i>Translation into German and English</i>	20	H
GM3GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H

Two 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
GM3UR	<i>Unification & the Integration of the GDR</i>	20	H
GM3TGL	<i>Trends in Modern German Language</i>	20	H

(Not all optional modules will be available in any one year; all optional modules, including possible additions to the above list, are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants)

In Politics

Any two or three of the following, except that students NOT having taken Political Classics or Modern International Relations at Part 2 must take at least one of the asterisked modules:

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

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% in their compulsory modules in German and Politics 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 *German Language II* and in the compulsory modules in Politics and must obtain an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits at Part 2 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 or employment in a German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

Summary of teaching and assessment

(In German) 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 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.

(In Politics) Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 modules typically involve seminars only. All modules other than the Study of Politics, Dissertation and General Essay are assessed by a mixture of course work (25%) and examination (75%).

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

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 Tutors, who may be contacted via german@reading.ac.uk or j.s.golub@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. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. Guidance and welfare support is also provided by the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

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 course 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. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

In Politics, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essays, a departmental Library and a photocopier.

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.

Over the years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as child care, youth employment, probation and so on. In the private sector, recent jobs include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

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 on a work-placement, or at a university with which the University of Reading has a Socrates exchange agreement: (in Germany) Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Regensburg, Potsdam, Trier, Tübingen, and (in Austria) Graz, Linz, Vienna.

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.

The Politics component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in Politics and International Relations. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of the main sub-fields of the discipline and have acquired appropriate study skills.

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-19004. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues6. Methods of critical textual analysis7. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics8. The various approaches and the study of Politics9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.	<p>→</p> <p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3) Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6) Dissertation (any of 7-9 depending on chosen topic) Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3) 7-9 are taught through a combination of lectures and seminars. In Parts 1 and 2 the emphasis is on lectures in core modules supplemented by seminars: in Part 3 the emphasis is on seminars for all modules.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-4) Oral examination (1-2) <i>Also</i> regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2) Assessment of 7-9 is by written assignments, by the dissertation, and by examinations at the conclusion of each part of the programme.</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 critically2. Identify and analyse problems and issues3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments4. Evaluate alternative critical views5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena7. 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>Assessment</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 writing2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad	→	<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 seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>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.</p>

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

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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 year abroad.

Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. 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 be expected 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 module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.