BA German and Sociology   UCAS Code: LR32

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):   Modern Languages
Faculty of Arts and Humanites   Length of programme: 4 years
For students entering Part 1 in 2003   Date of profile: October 2003
Programme Director: Dr John Wieczorek
Programme Advisors: Dr John Wieczorek and Dr Athena Leoussi
Board of Studies: German and Sociology
Accreditation: n/a

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 Sociology aims to give a thorough and broadly based training in modern sociology, covering the fundamental concepts, methods, and theories involved in sociological research, as well as introducing students to empirical data about social phenomena and different 'middle-range' theories of more specific sociological topics.

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), numeracy and career management. Students of German and Sociology 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 Sociology component of the programme teaches uses of IT including information search, spreadsheet, database and statistical software; presentation and analysis of quantitative data; 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 the remaining credits

can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

In German Part 1 includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. 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 module in culture and literature 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 Sociology, Part 1 introduces students to the fundamental forms and constitutive elements of human association and the ways in which human groups can be studied scientifically. Students are also introduced to the culture and organisational forms of modern European societies. In Part 2 students pursue the study of human association in greater depth focusing on three main areas: first, the norms of behaviour which arise out of the social conditions of human life; second, the actual design of a research project; and third, the central themes of sociological investigation. Part 3 allows students to choose from a variety of special subjects taught in the department and illustrating the richness, variety, creativity and shortcomings of collective human endeavour.

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

Students must take at least 40 credits each in German and Sociology, and must choose additional modules from this or other programmes to make 120 credits in total.

In German
Compulsory modules
Either (for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	C
GM1AGC	Advanced German History and Culture	20	C

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)
Compulsory modules

GM1IGL	Intermediate German Language	20	C
GM1IGC	Intermediate German History and Culture	20	C

Optional modules

GM1VAG	The Visual Arts in Germany	20	C

In Sociology
Compulsory modules

SO1 INT	Introduction to Sociology	20	C
SO1 MET	Methods 1: Main Methodological Approaches in Sociology	20	C

Optional modules

SO1 CES	Contemporary European Society	10	C
SO1 CSI	Contemporary Social Issues	10	C

Part 2 (three terms)   **Credits**   **Level**
(Students take 60 credits in German and 60 in Sociology)

In German
Compulsory modules

GM2L2	German Language II	20	I
GM2DU	Divisions and Unities	20	I

One of

GM2RRR	Reality, Reason and Revolution	20	I
GM2OP1	German Option Module 1	20	I

(German Option Module 1 will be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided.)

In Sociology
Compulsory modules

SO2THE	Theory 1: The Classical Tradition	20	I
SO2CUL	Sociology of Culture	20	I

Students must also choose one of the following three modules:

SO2POL	Political Sociology	20	I
SO2ECO	Economic Sociology	20	I
SO2STR	Social Stratification	20	I

Year Abroad (three terms)   **Credits**   **Level**

Compulsory modules

GM3O40	Oral and Aural German (full year)	40	H
SO3DIS	Dissertation (on an aspect of German Society)	40	H

Either

GM2S40	German Scheine (full year)	40	I

Or

GM2ASR or	Placement/assistantÕs report	40	I
GM2WPL	(this module includes 20 credits forWork 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)

Part 3 (three terms)   **Credits**   **Level**

In German
One of

GM3GPT	Translation into German and English	20	H
GM3GSC	German Structure and Composition	20	H

Two to be chosen from a list of available options, currently including

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

 (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 Sociology

Modules summing to a total of 60 credits must be taken in the **clusters for which they took the core courses in Part 2.** Four of these modules will consist of regular 10-credit options from a list to be provided by the department; the third will be a 20 credit advanced seminar. The topic of the advanced seminar will be selected from the list as well; taught as a seminar, it will be worth 20 credits instead of 10.

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% in both compulsory modules in German, and in the Sociology modules averaged together; they must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part I 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 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 successfully 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 Sociology) Teaching styles change from large lectures (Part 1) to lectures and/or seminars (Part 2), and predominantly seminars in 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

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 foreign 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 (for Sociology) via Dr Howard Grubb.

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 Programme 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. The Sociology programme lays increasing emphasis on options and course work over the three years. There is full written feedback on essay work. Each module teacher gives personal guidance and feedback and sends termly reports on progress to Personal Tutors for discussion with students.

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.

Graduates whose degree includes Sociology can find employment in the Civil Service, in local government and health authorities, and in commerce, education and industry. Joint degree graduates may proceed to careers in either of their subject areas.

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 agreements: (in Germany) Augsburg, Dusseldorf, Freiburg, Gottingen, Heidelberg, Potsdam, Regensburg, Trier, Tubingen, 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 Sociology component of the degree places equal emphasis on developing the capacity of critical thought, analysis and problem-solving, asking questions and deconstructing others' arguments. Students also learn a variety of explanatory schemata and their application in understanding them in social life.

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:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
• A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom. • The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English) • Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900 • A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture • Methods of analysing social and cultural issues • Methods of critical textual analysis • Certain facts about the nature of social life and their application in understanding particular forms of social life • Certain facts about a variety of human societies, past and present, European and non-European • Core aspects of modern societies • The use of historical and comparative methods in understanding human societies • The use of statistical methods in the study of patterns of human behaviour	German: • 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) • Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3) In Sociology (7-11) students are taught by means of a combination of formal lectures, seminars, group work. *Assessment* German: • Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-6) • Oral examination (1-2) • Dissertation (5-6, also 4) • Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2) Sociology - staff assess students' learning by means of a wide range of methods, including, multiple choice questions, essays, group projects, essay tests, 'memos', individual class presentations, continuous assessment and final examinations.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
• Read a variety of texts closely and critically • Identify and analyse problems and issues • Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments • Evaluate alternative critical views • Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another • Use evidence-based reasoning to argue or evaluate a claim • Apply multiple perspectives and levels of explanation to understand behaviour • Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena • Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic	Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-7), essay assignments and feedback (1-7), language classes (8), and the completion of the dissertation (6-7, 9). *Assessment* Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 6-7 more specifically in Sociology modules, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 8 in language teaching, 6-7 and 9 by means of the dissertation.

C. Practical skills – able to:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
• Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing • Understand a variety of types of textual material in German • Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way • Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources • Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work • Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad • Technical skills: use of Information Technology (IT) and a familiarity with statistical methods of enquiry	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: skill 7 through lectures, practical work and assignments. *Assessment* 1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 7 through practical work, assignments and a variety of tests. Skill 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

D. Transferable skills – able to:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
• formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently • give oral presentations • use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources) • demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills • manage time and work to deadlines • work independently and be self-reliant • take account of different linguistic and cultural environments • plan and evaluate career possibilities	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 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.	