

BA History and Italian

UCAS Code: RV31

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2003
Programme Director:
Programme Adviser:

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Language and History
Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: July 2003
Mr Roy Wolfe
Dr Frank Tallett and Dr Francesca
Medioli
History and Italian
Not Applicable

Board of Studies:

Accreditation:

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written Italian, have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, and are able to place Italy in the context of broader global and European patterns of historical development. Through the History element, students will engage with a broad chronological range but, also, are able to specialise in particular periods and topics of British, European and American history which provide both points of comparison and contrast with their studies of Italian history and culture.

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, numeracy, problem-solving, team working, and use of information technology.

Students of Italian 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. In the course of such activities, they will gain experience of using information technology, working in groups, and organising their own time. The period spent at an Italian university in their third year makes a significant contribution both to their personal and intellectual development. History is a discipline which lends itself to critical judgement and problem-solving, both through personal engagement with issues and through dialogue and group discussion. Also integral is the collection, collation and analysis of substantial quantities of material and its communication and presentation. History also prompts an awareness of numeracy through chronology, periodisation, and basic quantification. In addition, students utilise the powerful tools of research, analysis, and presentation associated with information technology through the location and retrieval of bibliographic and source material, the production and presentation of student work and, where appropriate, the use of more sophisticated databases and exploitation of the internet.

Programme content

Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 introduces the disciplines. The History modules focus on historical causation and contextualisation and the use of sources in the discipline. The Italian modules explore Italian history and culture and develop students' language skills according to their level of ability on entry. In Part 2 History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills, while in Italian, students' language abilities are developed and they explore thematic aspects of Italian history and culture. The third year is spent in an Italian university, where students will experience Italian culture at first hand. During this period they will prepare for their dissertations in Part 3. In Part 3 students pursue specifically defined modules in depth in historical studies, translation, and Italian culture. At this stage, they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation involves a substantial research effort.

Students must take 40 credits worth of Modules in History in Part 1 and 40 credits of Modules in Italian. Further Modules in both History and Italian may be taken if desired. Additional Modules, to a total of 120, should be chosen from those offered in the Faculty Part 1 Handbook. In Parts 2 and 3 they must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both History and Italian in each Part.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level		Credits	Level
<i>Compulsory modules for History</i>			
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	C
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	C
<i>Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied</i>			
HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	C
<i>Compulsory modules for Italian</i>			
For advanced students:			
IT1001	Advanced Italian Language I	20	C
IT1/002	Twentieth-Century Italian Culture	20	C
For beginners:			
IT1003	Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture	40	C
<i>Optional module (open to all students):</i>			
IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	C

Students must make up the remaining number of credits from modules chosen from the Faculty Part 1 handbook.

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate Level *Credits Level*

Compulsory Modules for History

Two modules from different Periods and their corequisite skills modules, totalling 60 credits in all, must be taken from the following:

Period and Skill in Medieval History from:

HS2PO1	Byzantine Empire 324-1453	20	I
HS2K01	Skills in Byzantine Empire 324-143	10	I
HS2P02	Britain and Europe, c.550-c.750	20	I
HS2K02	Skills in Britain and Europe, c.550-750	10	I
HS2P03	The Medieval West 1050-1200	20	I
HS2K03	Skills in The Medieval West 1050-1200	10	I
HS2P04	England 1272-1485	20	I
HS2K04	Skills in England 1272-1485	10	I
HS2P05	Women in the Medieval and Renaissance Worlds: England and Europe, c.1100-c.1650	20	I
HS2K05	Skills in Women in the Medieval and Renaissance Worlds: England and Europe, c.1100-c.1650	10	I
HS2P06	End of the Middle Ages? England in the mid-fourteenth to mid-sixteenth centuries	20	I
HS2K06	Skills in End of the Middle Ages? England in the mid-fourteenth to mid-sixteenth centuries	10	I

Period and Skills in Early Modern History:

HS2P31	Europe 1450-1600: Government, Culture and Society	20	I
HS2K31	Skills in Europe 1450-1600: Government, Culture and Society	10	I
HS2P32	Britain in Europe, 1500-1707	20	I
HS2K32	Skills in Britain in Europe, 1500-1707	10	I
HS2P33	First Industrial Nation: Industrial Growth in Britain, 1560-1880	20	I
HS2K33	Skills in First Industrial Nation: Industrial Growth in Britain, 1560-1880	10	I
HS3P34	Change and Stability in Europe of the Old Regime, 1500-1800	20	I
HS2K34	Skills in Change and Stability in Europe of the Old Regime,, 1500-1800	10	I
HS2P35	British History 1640-c.1800	20	I
HS2K35	Skills in British History 1640-c.1800	10	I
HS2P36	The Making of Early Modern Britain, 1450-1640	20	I
HS2K36	Skills in The Making of Early Modern Britain, 1450-1640	10	I

Period and Skill in Modern History:

HS2P61	Central Europe, 1740-1919	20	I
HS2K61	Skills in Central Europe, 1740-1919	10	I
HS2P62	Union and Disunion: The United States from Revolution to Reconstruction, 1763-187	20	I
HS2K62	Skills in Union and Disunion: The United States from Revolution to Reconstruction, 1763-1877	10	I
HS2P63	Themes in the Social History of Europe 1789-1914	20	I
HS2K63	Skills in Themes in the Social History of Europe 1789-1914	10	I
HS2P64	Questions of Labour History, 1800-1939	20	I
HS2K64	Skills in Questions of Labour History, 1800-1939	10	I
HS2P65	Region, Nation and and Global Power. The United states, 1865 to the Present Day	20	I
HS2K65	Skills in Region, Nation and Global Power. The United States, 1865 to the present day	10	I
HS2P66	Imperial Britain, 1815-1982	20	I
HS2K66	Skills in Imperial Britain, 1815-1982	10	I
HS2P67	A People and a Nation: A Social History of the United States, 1815-1945	20	I
HS2K67	Skills in A People and a Nation: A Social History of the United States, 1815-1945	10	I
HS2P68	Europe since 1870, The Fortunes of the Nation State	20	I
HS2K68	Skills in Europe since 1870, The Fortunes of the Nation State	10	I
HS2P69	Modern British History: The Changing Role of the State since 1870	20	I
HS2K69	Skills in Modern British History: The Changing Role of the State since 1870	10	I
HS2P70	American State and Society and the Wider World, 1890-1990	20	I
HS2K70	Skills in American State and Society and the Wider World, 1890-1990	10	I
HS2P71	Women in Society: a comparison of Britain and America from 1850	20	I
HS2K71	Skills in Women in Society: a comparison of Britain and America from 1850	10	I
HS2P72	The Development of Modern Britain: Town and Country since 1800	20	I
HS2K72	Skills in The Development of Modern Britain: Town and Country since 1800	10	I
HS2P73	The Poor and the Masses in Britain and France, 1789-1914	20	I
HS2K73	Skills in The Poor and the Masses in Britain and France, 1789-1914	10	I
HS2P74	Changing Perspectives in Irish History, 1801-1973	20	I
HS2K74	Skills in Changing Perspectives in Irish History, 1801-1973	10	I
HS2P75	An Historical Approach to British Rural Sociology	20	I
HS2K75	Skills in An Historical Approach to British Rural Sociology	10	I

Compulsory modules for Italian (to total of 20 credits)

Either:

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	I
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Or:

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	I
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Two of the following optional modules (to total of 40 credits):

IT203	History of the Italian Language	20	I
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IT204	Introduction to the Renaissance: Boccaccio, Humanism and Machiavelli	20	I
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Either	Italian Cinema I: Introduction to Film Study, Neorealism, War and Resistance	20	I
IT205			

Or		20	I
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IT206	Italian Cinema II: Popular Genre Cinema	20	I
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IT207	Italian History and Society since 1945	20	I
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IT208	Italian Modernism	20	I
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IT209	Narrative and Poetry in the Nineteenth Century	20	I
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IT210	Women's Everyday Life In Italy from the Middle Ages to the French Revolution	20	I
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IT211	Women's Writing and Writing about Women from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment	20	I
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	<i>Up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.</i>	20	I
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Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills.

Year Abroad (three terms)

Credits Level

Compulsory modules for Italian (to total of 100 credits)

IT331	Italian Oral	20	H
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IT332	Italian Written and Oral Presentation	20	H
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IT231	Credits from Italian University course	20	I
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IT232	Credits from Italian University course	20	I
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IT234H	Credits from additional course in Italy	20	I
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Compulsory module for History

HS3HLD	Dissertation: Research and Development	20	H
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Part 3 (three terms)

Credits Level

Compulsory Modules for History

Students choose either two optional 20 credit modules to make a total of 40 credits or, a Special Subject consisting of two corequisite modules of 20 credits each, totalling 40 credits. All students take the dissertation module.

Topics

HS3T01	The Vikings	20	H
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HS3T02	The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon England	20	H
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HS3T03	Art and Society in France and Italy in the High Middle Ages	20	H
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HS3T04	German Imperial Age	20	H
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HS3T05	The Medieval Town	20	H
HS3T06	Hundred Years War	20	H
HS3T07	The Church in England in the Middle Ages	20	H
HS3T08	The Reformation in Europe	20	H
HS3T09	The Republic of Venice from the Peace of Lodi to the Battle of Lepanto	20	H
HS3T10	London, 1500-1700	20	H
HS3T11	Culture and Politics in the Age of Walpole	20	H
HS3T12	English Rural Society, 1793-1914	20	H
HS3T13	The French Revolution	20	H
HS3T14	'Integrating America?': Immigrants in American Society, c.1815-1945	20	H
HS3T15	Britain and the American Colonies, 1607-1763	20	H
HS3T16	Green and Pleasant Land: The English Countryside, Culture and Environment since the Industrial Revolution	20	H
HS3T17	Ideas and Society in Europe 1870-1945	20	H
HS3T18	The 'New South': 1895-1940	20	H
HS3T19	Women in Britain, 1919-1939	20	H
HS3T20	Vichy France: Occupation, Collaboration and Resistance	20	H
HS3T21	The Nuremberg Trial and the Third Reich	20	H
HS3T22	Hidden History: The Intelligence Service and British Politics, 1911-1985	20	H
HS3T23	Popular Protest and Political Change in America, 1930-1980	20	H
HS3T24	Modern American Utopias	20	H
HS3R25	Medieval Magic and the Origins of the Witch-craze	20	H
HS3T26	The English Nobility 1500-1642	20	H
HS3T27	Women and Politics in England, 1485-1660	20	H
HS3T28	De Gaulle's France, 1890-1970	20	H
HS3T29	Labouring Women in the English Countryside, 1800-1870	20	H
HS3T30	Ireland and the English in the Middle Ages	20	H
HS3T31	From Darwin to Death Camps? Evolution and eugenics in European Society, 1859-1945	20	H
HS3T33	The Weaker Sex? Women in Britain, 1850-1914	20	H
HS3T34	An Historical Approach to British Rural Sociology	20	H
HS3T35	Religion, Society and Politics in France, 1789-1914	20	H
TY2BH	Book History: from clay tablets to computer screens	20	I
FR207	France in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1870	20	I
FR209	Five Wars and Three Republics: France 1870-1962	20	I
FR316	The French Right since 1940	20	H
FR319	Political Leaders and Groups in the French Revolution	20	H
CL3RM	Renaissance Medicine	20	H

Special Subject (A & B):

A and B papers are co-requisites in all cases

HS3S01	Gregory of Tours and his World, A	20	H
HS3S51	Gregory of Tours and his World, B	20	H
HS3S02	The Crusader States in the Twelfth Century, A	20	H
HS3S52	The Crusader States in the Twelfth Century, B	20	H
HS3S03	The Reign of Richard II	20	H
HSE53	The Reign of Richard II, A & B	20	H
HS3S04	The English Peasantry, 1350-1450, A	20	H
HS3S54	The English Peasantry, 1350-1450, B	20	H

HS3S05	Rituals, Myths and Magic in Early Modern Europe, A	20	H
HSES55	Rituals, Myths and Magic in Early Modern Europe, B	20	H
HS3S06	Elizabeth's War with Spain, 1585-1604, A	20	H
HS3S56	Elizabeth's War with Spain, 1585-1604, B	20	H
HS3S07	Agriculture and Society in Early Modern England, A	20	H
HS3S57	Agriculture and Society in Early Modern England, B	20	H
HS3S08	1688: Monarchy and Revolution in Britain, A	20	H
HS3S58	1688: Monarchy and Revolution in Britain, B	20	H
HS3S09	The American Revolution, A	20	H
HS3S59	The American Revolution, B	20	H
HS3S10	The Unification of Italy, A	20	H
HS3S60	The Unification of Italy, B	20	H
HS3S11	Priests, Prelates and People: Religious Life in Nineteenth, Century France, A	20	H
HS3S61	Priests, Prelates and People: Religious Life in Nineteenth Century France, B	20	H
HS3S12	Intellectual and Cultural Revolution in Europe, 1880-1930, A	20	H
HS3S62	Intellectual and Cultural Revolution in Europe, 1880-1930, B	20	H
HS3S13	Slavery and Slave Culture in the Antebellum USA, A	20	H
HS3S63	Slavery and Slave Culture in the Antebellum USA, B	20	H
HS2S14	Britain at War, 1939-1945, A	20	H
HS3S64	Britain at War, 1939-1945, B	20	H
HS3S15	End of Empire: A Comparative Study of British Colonization, 1945-64, A	20	H
HS3S65	End of Empire: A Comparative Study of British Colonization, 1945-64, B	20	H
HS3S16	The New Deal: The USA and the Legacy of the Great Depression, 1933-1946, A	20	H
HS3S66	The New Deal: The USA and the Legacy of the Great Depression, 1933-1946, B	20	H
HS3S17	From Theory to Practice: International Communism 1902-43, A	20	H
HS3S67	From Theory to Practice: International Communism 1902-43, B	20	H
HS3S18	Sex and Society in Victorian Britain, A	20	H
HS3S65	Sex and Society in Victorian Britain, B	20	H
HS3S19	The Countryside in English Culture, c.1750-1939, A	20	H
HS3S69	The Countryside in English Culture, c.1750-1939, B	20	H
HS3HLD	Dissertation	20	H

Compulsory module for Italian (20 credits)

IT301	<i>Advanced Italian Language III</i>	20	H
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Two of the following optional modules (to total of 40 credits).

IT303	Aspects of the Renaissance in France and Italy	20	H
IT304	Contemporary Italian Literature	20	H
IT305	Dante	20	H
IT307	Italian Cinema III: The Cinema of Fellini, Antonioni and Bertolucci	20	H
IT308	Italian Cinema IV: Social Comedy	20	H
IT310	Italian Renaissance Poetry: The Inner Self, the Outer World, and their Representation	20	H
IT311	Italian Women's Studies	20	H
IT312	Modern Movements in Poetry 1900-1920	20	H
IT314	The South since 1860: Images and Reality	20	H
IT315	Umberto Eco: Fiction, Cultural Criticism and the Theory of Signs	20	H

Progression requirements

- To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students should obtain a mark of 40% in one of their compulsory History modules and in two modules in Italian, and must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole and have no module mark under 30%. *Nb, candidates who only take 20 credits in History may progress to a joint History degree so long as they achieve 40% in their History module.*
- To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of 40% in the compulsory modules in History and in either Advanced Italian Language II or Intermediate Italian Language.
- 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 Italy.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In History, at Part 1, teaching is by lectures and seminars. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. The Dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor. Part 1 modules are assessed by examinations while modules in Parts 2 and 3 are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The Part 2 Skills modules are assessed through portfolios of skills while the Dissertation is assessed both as coursework and through oral presentation.

In Italian, teaching and learning is by lectures, seminars and workshops while language modules are always taught in small groups. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. In the Year Abroad, the Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university. The Oral in Italian and the Written and Oral Presentation will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook 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 this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: Either: 280 points over 4 subjects, including at least 2 A2, or: 260 points over 3 subjects, including at least 2 A2. There is no requirement that History should have been studied at A2; or,

International Baccalaureat: 30 points; or,

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC.

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A-Level

All applicants are considered on their individual merits although these requirements may be varied, if appropriate.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. 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. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Applicants wishing to make any inquiries should contact the Admissions Secretary who will pass your query to an appropriate Admissions Tutor. The current Admissions Secretary is Mrs Elizabeth Berry who can be contacted by:

Telephone – 0118 931 8148

Email – e.l.berry@reading.ac.uk

Fax – 0118 931 6440

As well as by post.

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 the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. 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.

The 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 Italian television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and Italian culture, and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Libraries contain a range of reference works which can be used by students and offer congenial study spaces. In the History School, students are supported and advised by the Director of Teaching and Learning. There is also 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. Liaison Officers for both History and Italian coordinate the programme.

Career prospects

Graduates in History and Italian are trained in clear thinking, language skills, diligence, independence, adaptability and the ability to understand people and situations in the world at large. Past graduates have used their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment both in Britain and abroad. Jobs have included accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. Many also enter the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing while others go into the civil service and local government. Some use their specialist linguistic skills to teach English as a Foreign Language abroad, work as translators, or in the travel industry. Several graduates also go on to postgraduate study in either History or Italian, both at MA and PhD level, at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Italian Studies participates in SOCRATES exchanges with the Universities of Padova, Roma III, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Pavia, Genova, Trieste, Napoli (Federico II), Bologna, Bergamo, Salerno and Venezia. Students spend the whole of the third year studying at one of these Universities. Further information on these Universities is available on the Internet at <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/AcaDepts/li/Italian/abroad.html>.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in Italian, have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, and a broader appreciation of historical events, structures, forces and agents, causation and interpretation.

The programme therefore aims to equip students with:

- A competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated Italian person in the reception and production of spoken and written Italian;
- An understanding of the complex interplay of the historical process through study of Periods, Topics or Special Subjects;
- A sound body of knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian Studies chosen in accordance with their academic interests;
- Familiarity with the theories and methods of the various disciplines covered and the ability to develop their own expertise and present their own arguments in these areas.

The programme also 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 communications; appreciate the mentality and outlook of people from another culture or age; articulate in rational discourse the expression of emotion; and develop sound work discipline, including commitment to deadlines and time management.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the programme it is expected that students will be able to

- show a good understanding of educated native-spoken and written Italian and express themselves clearly, fluently and accurately in spoken Italian and in a variety of registers of written Italian;
- read and understand a variety of historical and literary texts from different periods and discuss their significance in their cultural contexts;
- have a good understanding of a range of topics relating to the histories and cultures of Italy and other countries or regions;
- express clearly-constructed, soundly based arguments about the works and topics studied, making effective use both of published studies and of their own independent judgement.

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Italian language (spoken and written);2. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture;3. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered.4. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions5. A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues6. The contextualisation of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process7. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture8. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>1. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but after the year in Italy all students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow University courses.</p> <p>2,3, 4, 7 and 8 are introduced during Part 1. Teaching and learning is through a combination of lectures and seminars. They are reinforced during later stages of the degree, and supplemented by 5 and 6. Teaching and learning occurs through workshops and smaller group classes as the programme progresses. However, throughout, students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University courses are assessed by oral examinations. Modules on literature and culture are assessed by a combination of coursework essays and examination or, in one case, by an independent dissertation.</p> <p>In History, students' knowledge and understanding are tested through a combination of seen and unseen examination, and a variety of coursework assignments, including portfolios of skills.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. analyse and interpret historical, literary or cinematic works in their cultural, socio-economic and political contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. Identify problems and issues and to conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions;
5. Accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

Assessment

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework essays and examination. The dissertation is a key element, and there are opportunities for writing extended essays.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. speak, write, read and understand Italian at high or near-native levels of proficiency;
2. develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it creatively and critically;
4. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations and to engage in critical argument using relevant evidence or theoretical approaches;
5. Acquire bibliographical and research skills;

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular unassessed coursework. The Year Abroad provides a range of experiences in the use of everyday and academic Italian. Primary source material and much secondary literature is in Italian. Bibliographies are provided for all modules, students are trained in library use, and many modules provide experience searching for information via the Internet. Handbooks provide guidance in preparing coursework essays and dissertations. Students regularly give oral presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme the dissertation and, in some cases, extended essays provided experience of researching topics independently.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-5 are assessed by a combination of coursework essays, portfolios of skills, examinations and dissertation.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;
2. think critically and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
3. locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. participate effectively in group activities and have good interpersonal skills;
5. be self-reliant, organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
6. show sensitivity to cultural differences;
7. make informed career plans.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-6 are developed progressively throughout the programme. Participation in seminars and oral classes develops skills in self-expression and teamwork. Critical thought, the construction of arguments, and information skills are all developed through essay writing and the dissertation, and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills are enhanced by the regular production of language work and the meeting of strict essay deadlines. Sensitivity to cultural difference informs the whole programme and, together with the development of self-motivation and self-reliance, is greatly encouraged by the Year Abroad. Career management is taught through a distinct module linked with preparation for the Year Abroad.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of students' work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency – clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, including the examinations in Italy. The location of information forms part of the activity involved in the dissertation, but word-processing skills are not formally assessed. Skill 4 is not directly assessed. There are strict, clearly defined penalties for lateness in handing in assessed work and for plagiarism.

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.