“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”

Nelson Mandela
In a world facing social, political and economic change, language and cultural skills have never been more important.

In the UK, which is facing a concerning languages deficit, and across the world as a whole, it is now increasingly vital for people to have the skills to connect beyond one language and one culture.

At the University of Reading we enable our language students to become bilingual and multicultural. We inspire our graduates with the confidence, skills and life experiences to make a difference globally.

Come and join us.

And help connect the world.

Dr Daniela La Penna
Head of the Department of Languages and Cultures

www.reading.ac.uk/languages
The University of Reading enjoys a world-class reputation for teaching, research and enterprise in French, German, Italian and Spanish. Our Department’s thriving research culture has earned it 4th place in the latest UK ranking for Research Impact in Modern Languages, and 5th place for Research Intensity. As a student with us, your classes will be enriched by the current research findings of expert staff who are passionate about their subjects and whose work has gained an international reputation.
Professor Par Kumaraswami is a Cubanist specialising in Cuban cultural policy and practice from 1959 to the present day – especially in relation to literature. Par is driven by a desire to understand, in an ethical and inclusive way, how cultural participation continues to play a huge role in the survival of the Cuban Revolution and, more broadly, in all our lives.

In February 2018, as part of her research work, Par organised an Impact event in Havana where cultural actors from the Granma province in Cuba were invited to the capital to participate in a series of events about identity, culture, history and development in the province.

The event galvanised Granma colleagues to unite and work together, along with Par and the project team, to try to put their needs and aspirations on the national agenda.

“As foreign researchers, we perhaps have the power to draw attention to some of these issues in the UK. The event in Havana underlined the importance of my role as a facilitator in a Cuban conversation. We are planning a host of publications and follow-up events to keep the momentum going, all of which is incredibly exciting for me.”

Par teaches a second-year undergraduate module on Culture and Revolution in Modern and Contemporary Latin America, which serves to ask some important questions not only about Latin America and its cultural development, but also about how policy initiatives can affect all of our lives.

“I think it’s vital for our students to make connections between their own reality and those of other countries which are less familiar to them or which are frequently measured by First World/Western concepts and thus imagined as underdeveloped. This is, indeed, the process of self-reflection and change that underpins our Year Abroad programme.”

The event in Havana underlined the importance of my role as a facilitator in Cuban conversation.

If you would like to learn more about Par and her research, visit www.reading.ac.uk/languages

GRASSROOTS IN CUBA
An integral part of your Modern Languages degree is spending a year abroad. During your third year you get the opportunity to immerse yourself in the language and culture of your chosen destination. This is a chance to apply the extensive knowledge and skills you have gained during your first two years either on a work placement, as a student, or as an English language assistant. You can choose to study in a diverse range of locations; in big culturally diverse cities or in more rural locations, depending on your own personal interests and the type of experience you are looking for.

All of our students describe their year abroad as life changing and talk about personal and academic growth that sets them up for the future. Here, two such students, James Dowds, who studied French and Italian, and Caitlin McClinchy, a German and Economics student, discuss their experiences.

Where did you go?

JD: “I went to Poitiers and then on to Rome. I chose Poitiers because it looked really lovely and when I was there I enjoyed the small town feel to it. In the town square you would bump into somebody that you knew, be it a student or someone from the community which made you feel really at home. I chose Rome because it sounded amazing with loads to see and do. It had a tourist feel to it but you could really experience life in a city.”

CM: “I went to Graz in Austria, it was a small city and not touristy. The accent was slightly regional but I enjoyed the challenge. I studied for the first semester and then worked in the Environmental Office of the local Government, where I produced a brochure, leaflets and presentations. It was a fantastic experience. I could have got halls but I found a flat through Facebook. It was nice living with Austrians and experiencing living independently.”

How did the University prepare you and then support you during your time abroad?

CM: “The staff worked with us to prepare us for our time away and were always available via email for any questions we had. We could contact staff at any time with any questions and my tutor would email regularly to check that we were fine. Lecturers would ask how things were going so I still felt very connected to the University.”

JD: “It was the next best thing to just having their office to walk into…they were so responsive… they were brilliant.”

While you were away, how did you get to build on your learning, your language and cultural skills? And did it help you personally?

JD: “Time abroad opens your eyes to different cultures and ways of life. It improves your language and your confidence with the language. While you’re there you think ‘I’m just going to go for this’ – you force yourselves into situations with the confidence to do things you wouldn’t ordinarily do.”

CM: “The travelling was amazing. Everywhere was accessible by train. While I was away I even travelled to Venice. I noticed big improvements to my German. I was so glad that I did it. After doing that, I think you can do anything.”

Will your time abroad stay with you and help open doors to your future career?

CM: “It opened my eyes completely, I was confident before I left but I’m even more confident now. I feel more politically and culturally aware. Even my lecturers noticed a difference; not just with my language skills but with everything really – job interviews are so much easier having lived abroad.”

JD: “After doing a language and a year abroad, I became so much more confident and independent. Having a language means that there are at least three job markets available to me – the UK, Italy and France plus all the countries in the world that speak those languages. And, as a proven independent learner, companies will know that they can train you and, if necessary, confidently send you to work overseas.”

CM: “My year abroad opened my eyes to the world.”

JD: “My year abroad got the inner me out of me. Inspiring.”

For details of Year Abroad options for each programme please check our website at: www.reading.ac.uk/languages
Studying at Reading means becoming part of a culturally diverse community delivering an outstanding student experience. Academic staff provide a highly supportive environment for you to develop and they work to ensure that you become fluent in your chosen language(s).

Staff get to know you, enabling you to excel in your areas of interest. The student community is a highly collaborative one, which provides opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, friendship and support.

Depending on your chosen degree and previous level of study, you can start your language studies at different levels: beginner’s, intermediate or advanced, picking up a new language or advancing an existing GCSE language.

One of our students, Beatrice, decided to study at Reading because she wanted the combination of International Relations and Spanish and a great Year Abroad Programme. Although not studying a language at A Level, Beatrice decided to take advantage of the University of Reading Beginner’s and Intermediate entry to their Modern Languages degrees.

Please see entry requirements for all our programmes: www.reading.ac.uk/languagesdegrees

“I'd studied GCSE Spanish but I didn't take it up in the 6th Form, and then I decided to take it back up at University. You become a massive family. I've made so many new friends and you meet different people. The staff are absolutely lovely. They make sure that you know what you are doing every step of the way and they are so helpful – they are more than happy to give their own time.”

¿UN POCO, BIEN O MUY BIEN?

Learn at your own level
CORE LANGUAGE:
FRENCH

A truly global language, French is spoken across five continents and in countries famous for their rich histories and vibrant cultures. Develop an in-depth knowledge of the language, explore the eventful past and deepen your understanding of the fast-moving contemporary cultures of the francophone world. You can choose to focus on developing your knowledge and understanding of French and the francophone world, or combine French with one or two other languages. See our website for a full list of languages available: www.reading.ac.uk/languages

Joint degrees are also available across a range of subjects, including Economics, International Development, Management and Literature.

YEAR ONE

Compulsory modules include:
• French language (beginner’s, intermediate or advanced level)

Optional modules include:
• The making of modern France
• Introduction to French culture
• What is comparative literature?
• Introduction to linguistics
• Greats of European Cinema

YEAR TWO

Compulsory modules include:
• French language (intermediate or advanced level)

Optional modules include:
• How to think in French
• The First World War: then and now
• Introduction to French Children’s Literature
• Society, thought, and art in modern Europe
• Unity, nationalism and regionalism in Europe
• Science, perversion, and dream in global fantastic literature

YEAR ABROAD (YEAR THREE)

Depending on your degree, you can spend your Year Abroad studying at a university, as a School Assistant or in a Work Placement.

You can study with our partner universities in:
• Paris
• Rennes
• Poitiers
• Toulouse
• Grenoble
• Lyon
• La Réunion

You can also study in prestigious business schools such as Paris-Dauphine and Montpellier.

YEAR FOUR

Compulsory modules include:
• French language

Optional modules include:
• Philanthropy à la française
• Chanson
• May ’68
• EU case studies
• Cinemas of the world
• 19th century European novel
• Language and power

Core languages
You will be able to study one, two or three core languages choosing from French, German, Italian or Spanish, and enter these languages as a complete beginner1 or at intermediate2 or advanced level3.

You will reach near-native proficiency by the time you graduate and you will also be able to explore the culture of the countries where the language is spoken through the study of cultural modules and the Year Abroad.

Additional languages
You can also opt to combine one or two core languages with one of our wide range of additional languages, starting it as a beginner and carrying it forward throughout your degree. Additional languages include Arabic, British Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. Please see the full list of additional languages options on our website: www.reading.ac.uk/languages

Studying a language and another subject
You can choose to combine one of the core languages (French, German, Italian or Spanish) with another subject, broadening your skills further. For instance, you could hone your business skills and combine German with Management, or expand your horizons through studying French and International Development.

1 If studying 2 or 3 core languages only one can be entered at beginner level.
2 Please consult for core core combinations involving a language module.
3 Changes in the range of languages will be dependent upon availability.

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CORE LANGUAGE:

GERMAN

Germany is a leading economic and political force internationally, and has historically played a central role in shaping European culture. Our students develop a high level of expertise in the German language, together with an in-depth knowledge of social, cultural and political issues relating to the German-speaking world. Through the study of a wide range of topics in history, film, literature and linguistics, you will gain a deep understanding of the cultural developments that shape contemporary German society and culture.

You can choose to focus on developing your knowledge and understanding of the German language and the German-speaking world, or combine German with one or two other languages. See our website for a full list of languages available: www.reading.ac.uk/languages.

Joint degrees are also available across a range of subjects, including Economics, History, Management and Literature.

YEAR ONE

Compulsory modules include:
- German language (beginner’s, intermediate or advanced level)
- Icons of modern Germany
- Love in Medieval and Renaissance Literature

Optional modules include:
- German texts and genres
- The making of modern Europe: 1789 to the present
- What is comparative literature?
- Greats of European cinema
- Introduction to linguistics

YEAR TWO

Compulsory modules include:
- German language advanced level
- Journalism

Optional modules include:
- Cinema of Germany
- The world of words – German lexicology and word formation
- Glorification, denial, and contempt – reconstructing Austria’s past
- Society, thought, and art in modern Europe
- Unity, nationalism and regionalism in Europe
- Science, perversion, and dream in global fantastic literature
- Love in Medieval and Renaissance Literature

YEAR ABROAD (YEAR THREE)

Our students spend their Year Abroad in Germany or Austria, either on a work placement, or studying at university, or working as a British Council Teaching Assistant. It is also possible to undertake a combination of work and study during your Year Abroad for half a year each.

You can study with our partner universities in Germany:
- Augsburg
- Regensburg
- Potsdam
- Tübingen

Austria:
- Graz
- Vienna

YEAR FOUR

Compulsory modules include:
- Language and power
- Cinemas of the world
- EU Case studies

Optional modules include:
- Making Italians: a journey in the history and culture of modern Italy
- The genius of Italy: Renaissance culture
- What is comparative literature?
- Greats of European cinema
- Introduction to linguistics

CORE LANGUAGE:

ITALIAN

In literature and film, history and politics, business and the arts, Italy has long been among the most important and influential countries in Europe.

A degree in Italian Studies will allow you to learn more about this country by studying its language in the context of its fascinating culture and history, and will allow you to study or work in Italy. At Reading, we provide a focused and intensive approach to language learning and the opportunity to study a wide range of optional culture topics with experts from different disciplines, including literature, film and linguistics, within a friendly, professional environment.

You can choose to focus on developing your knowledge and understanding of Italy, or combine Italian with one or two other languages. See our website for a full list of languages available: www.reading.ac.uk/languages.

Joint degrees are also available across a range of subjects, including Economics, History, Management and Classics.

YEAR ONE

Compulsory modules include:
- Italian language (beginner’s, intermediate or advanced level)

Optional modules include:
- Making Italians: a journey in the history and culture of modern Italy
- The genius of Italy: Renaissance culture
- What is comparative literature?
- Greats of European cinema
- Introduction to linguistics

YEAR TWO

Compulsory modules include:
- Italian language (intermediate or advanced level)
- Making Italians: a journey in the history and culture of modern Italy
- The genius of Italy: Renaissance culture
- What is comparative literature?
- Greats of European cinema
- Introduction to linguistics

Optional modules include:
- Dante
- History of the Italian language
- After the flood: post-war Italy
- EU Case studies
- Cinemas of the world
- 19th Century European novel
- Language and power

YEAR ABROAD (YEAR THREE)

The majority of students spend their Year Abroad studying at a university. However, depending on which programme you do, there may also be the opportunity to work as a School Assistant or in a Work Placement.

You can study with our partner universities in:
- Bergamo
- Bologna
- Florence
- Genoa
- Naples
- Padua
- Pavia
- Pisa
- Rome
- Siena
- Venice

YEAR FOUR

Compulsory modules include:
- Italian language (intermediate or advanced level)

Optional modules include:
- Dante
- History of the Italian language
- After the flood: post-war Italy
- EU Case studies
- Cinemas of the world
- 19th Century European novel
- Language and power
CORE LANGUAGE: SPANISH

Spain and the countries of Latin America together form a key economic and political presence on the international scene and are known for their extraordinary cultural diversity and fascinating history. Studying Spanish at Reading is a life-changing experience that gives you an in-depth knowledge of the Spanish language and more broadly of Hispanic culture in the many countries around the globe where Spanish is spoken.

You can choose to focus on developing your knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language and the Spanish-speaking world, or combine Spanish with one or two other languages. See our website for a full list of languages available: www.reading.ac.uk/languages

Joint degrees are also available across a range of subjects, including Economics, History, Management and Literature.

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**Compulsory modules include:**
- Spanish language (beginner’s, intermediate or advanced level)

**Optional modules include:**
- Icons of Spain and Latin America: from revolution to globalisation
- Introduction to Spanish and Latin American culture
- What is comparative literature?
- Greats of European Cinema

**Compulsory modules include:**
- Spanish language (intermediate or advanced level)

**Optional modules include:**
- Literature and society in the Modern Hispanic world
- Transatlantic exchanges: Latin America in the Global nineteenth century
- Modern and contemporary Spanish narratives

The majority of students spend their Year Abroad studying at a university. However, depending on which programme you do, there may also be the opportunity to work as a School Assistant or in a Work Placement.

You can study with our partner universities in Spain:
- Alcalá de Henares
- Salamanca
- Valladolid
- Bilbao (Deusto)
- Madrid (Autónoma)
- Seville
- Oviedo

**Latin America:**
- Havana (Cuba)
- Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- UDLAP (Puebla, Mexico)

**Compulsory modules include:**
- Spanish language

**Optional modules include:**
- Narrating the Colombian Conflict
- Memory, dictatorship, and cultural resistance in the Southern Cone
- The testimonial mode in modern and contemporary Latin America

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**ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES**

In addition to one or two ‘core’ languages (French, German, Italian or Spanish), students on our BA Modern Languages can choose to study one additional language from beginner’s level. This language will be studied up to independent-user proficiency level (B1 level) and there will be no requirement to spend time in a country where this additional language is spoken during the year abroad. The study of this additional language will focus on developing students’ linguistic abilities.

The additional languages on offer may include Arabic, British Sign Language, Chinese (Mandarin), Modern Greek, Japanese and Russian (subject to availability).

If you have studied one of these languages before and wish to continue developing your linguistic abilities, please contact us as we may be able to offer your language level.
It is well documented that there is a great shortage of well-qualified linguists in the UK. People fluent in French, German, Italian and Spanish are especially highly sought-after. Our graduates are qualified to work in areas where the ability to communicate effectively – using both the spoken and the written word – is a top priority. They find careers in many different sectors, including education, publishing, translation, EU institutions, finance, fashion, entertainment, the film business and tourism, both in the UK and abroad. They have found employment with companies and organisations such as the Ministry of Defence, Energis Communication, BNP Paribas, the Taylorian Institution Library and Riso Scotti SRL, Christie’s, Prada, Dolce and Gabbana, PGL Travel Ltd, Sony Europe, the Civil Service, Dow Jones and Price Waterhouse Cooper, all of whom clearly value the technical and intellectual training of a degree in modern languages.

For more information on our Careers Advisory Service, visit www.reading.ac.uk/careers

As firms look to markets around the world, languages are becoming increasingly valuable. Employers are showing a growing interest in those skills.

Dr Adam Marshall
Director General,
British Chambers of Commerce

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Modules disclaimer
Sample modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on this course. The sample module list may be compulsory (core) or optional modules. Information is correct at the time of going to press (Oct 2019) but the University cannot guarantee that the modules appearing in this list will definitely run.

For optional modules, the University cannot guarantee that all optional modules will be available to all students who may wish to take them, although this University will try to ensure that students are able to take optional modules in which they have expressed interest at the appropriate time during their course. Optional modules vary from year to year and entry to them will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Some modules are available on more than one course. If you see a sample module under one course and want to know if it is available on another course, contact the relevant department.

Disclaimer
This brochure was issued in 2019 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in autumn 2020. The brochure describes in outline the courses and services offered by the Department of Languages and Cultures at the University. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in this brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (Oct 2019). However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in this brochure following publication—for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain core content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check www.reading.ac.uk/Ready-to-Study.aspx for up-to-date information.

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services. Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to minimize any disruption to the services.

Year abroad and placement fees
Some courses include an optional or compulsory year abroad or placement year. During this year you will only pay a partial fee which is currently set at 15% of the normal tuition fee. Check the website for the latest information: www.reading.ac.uk/fee-discount-18
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www.reading.ac.uk/fee-discount-18

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Ask us a question
www.reading.ac.uk/question