

BA French and English
For students entering Part 1 in 2006

UCAS code: RQ13

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Languages and Related Studies, English
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 4 years
Date of specification: Aug 2007	
Programme Director: Professor Joël Félix	
Programme Adviser: Dr W. Gibson and Dr A. Nash	
Board of Studies: French and English	
Accreditation: not applicable	

Summary of programme aims

This is a multi-disciplinary programme which aims to provide students with subject-specific knowledge, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, cultural and historical texts from a range of periods, together with perspectives on different methods of critical analysis and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written French. More generally, the course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to both disciplines.

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) and career management.

Students will develop their abilities to deal with intellectual problems effectively by locating information, assessing it critically, communicating independent points of view logically and clearly (both orally and in writing), and substantiating opinions with evidence; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part, plus 120 credits assigned to the Year Abroad to make a total of 480 credits for the whole degree. The number of credits in each module is shown in the column after its title.

Each Part of the degree programme comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students take a minimum of 40 credits in the French Department, involving both language study and an introduction to aspects of French culture. They also take 60 credits in the School of English, where they are introduced to fundamental debates about the study of literature through close analysis of selected texts from different periods. In Part 2 students must normally take a minimum of 60 credits in both French and English. In the French strand students continue their language studies and choose options

from a range of broadly-based culture modules; while in English the programme provides increased breadth of coverage, focusing on texts within a variety of historical periods and generic traditions.

The experience of living in France during the Year Abroad enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral ones, and allows them to extend their knowledge of the host culture by pursuing 40 credits either as a student in a French-speaking University, as an assistant in a French School or on a working placement. They also engage in independent study in preparation for the English Dissertation. In Part 3 students embark on more specialized work in both French and English, taking one further French language module, choosing two modules in each of French and English from a wide range of advanced options, and completing their Dissertation.

Part 1 (three terms) Certificate level

In French

Students must take a minimum of 40 credits to progress onto Part 2 of the Joint Degree, but they may also take an optional module for an additional 20 credits if they wish.

Either:

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR101	<i>Advanced French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

Optional Module

Either FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

Or:

Intermediate French

Compulsory modules

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR102	<i>Intermediate French Language</i>	20	C
and either			
FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

Optional Module

Either FR103	<i>Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature</i>	20	C
or FR104	<i>French Cinema: Society, Culture and History</i>	20	C

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

In English

Compulsory modules

EN1LL	<i>Languages of Literature</i>	20	C
EN1RS	<i>Revisioning Shakespeare</i>	20	C
EN1WKT	<i>What Kind of Text is This?</i>	20	C

Part 2 (three terms) Intermediate level

Students must take 60 credits in French and 60 credits in English. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Careers Management Skills (level I) and will be delivered in the Department of French Studies.

In French:

Compulsory module

FR201	French Language 2	20	I
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Optional modules

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

In English (60 Credits)

Students choose three modules in Part 2, at least one in the Autumn and one in the Spring terms. At least one of the chosen modules must be an asterisked module. Not more than one module may be chosen from each group.

Autumn Term

Group A

EN2RTC	<i>*Renaissance Texts & Cultures</i>	20	I
EN2MC1	<i>Modernism and Modern Poetry</i>	20	I
EN2RR	<i>The Eighteenth-Century: Restoration to Romantics</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2CMN	<i>*Chaucer and Medieval Narrative</i>	20	I
EN2NCN	<i>Nineteenth-Century Novel</i>	20	I
EN2WAR	<i>Writing America: Romances of Nationhood</i>	20	I

Group C

EN2RDR	<i>*Renaissance Drama</i>	20	I
EN2LCT	<i>Literary Criticism & Theory</i>	20	I
EN2WF1	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 1</i>	20	I
EN2OEL	<i>*Introduction to Old English</i>	20	I

Spring Term

Group A

EN2ERE	<i>*English Renaissance Epic</i>	20	I
EN2MC2	<i>Modernity, Crisis and Narrative Fiction</i>	20	I
EN2RD	<i>Romantics to Decadents</i>	20	I

Group B

EN2LV	<i>*Lyric Voices 1340 – 1650</i>	20	I
EN2MDR	<i>Modern Drama</i>	20	I
EN2WAS	<i>Writing America: Self, Race, Region</i>	20	I
EN2CAW	<i>Communications at Work</i>	20	I

<i>Group C</i>				
EN2SH	<i>*Shakespeare</i>		20	I
EN2WF2	<i>Women's Writing and Feminist Theory 2</i>		20	I
EN2FN	<i>Film Narrative</i>		20	I

Special Module:

Students may, with the permission of the Programme Director, replace one of their English modules with the following special module:

EN2CW	<i>Creative Writing and Critical Practice</i>		20	I
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Students may choose to replace one non-asterisked English module with a module or modules totalling 20 credits from outside the programme.

Year Abroad (three terms in a French speaking country)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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In French

Compulsory modules:

FR302	<i>Oral</i>		40	H
FR234	<i>French Year Abroad: Book Reviews</i>		20	H
FR3ENG	<i>Joint Dissertation (to be commenced)</i>		20	H

Students must choose **ONE** of the following options

Either

FR231	<i>University study abroad</i>		40	I
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Or

FR232	<i>Assistantship abroad</i>		40	I
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Or

FR233	<i>Work placement abroad</i>		40	I
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Part 3 (three terms) Honours level	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
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In French

Compulsory module

FR303	<i>Advanced Language Skills</i>		20	H
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Optional modules

Students must choose two option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

In English

Compulsory module

FR3DEN	<i>Joint Dissertation (to be completed)</i>		20	H
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In addition, students choose two optional 20-credit modules, one in each term, to make a total of 40 credits.

Optional modules: A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the English Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, a Joint Honours student must obtain (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above; (ii) a minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in French and English; (iii) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad, students must obtain (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; (ii) a minimum of 40% in each of the compulsory modules in French; (iii) an average of 40% across English Part 2 modules; (iv) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In French, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. Classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students except for the grammar component of FR201 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access. Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework and/or formal examination. The Year Abroad French Oral is examined in the Autumn Term of Part 3.

In English at Part 1, lectures to the entire year group are accompanied by small-group work in seminars. The English programme also includes individual essay tutorials. In Parts 2 and 3, the modular structure of the programme allows for continued work in small groups, usually involving a combination of lectures and seminar discussion. Preparation for the Dissertation begins in the Spring Term of Part 2. After consultation with the liaison officers, students submit a form with a proposed title by the end of that term. Students will be assigned a supervisor both in French and in SEAL at the beginning of the Summer term. Students should meet with both of their supervisors to receive preliminary guidance and bibliographical advice during the Summer term. Thereafter, during the year abroad, students work on the French part of their dissertation and maintain email contact with the French supervisor. On their return, students meet their SEAL supervisor early in the Autumn term and again in the Spring term. Supervisors in SEAL will read and comment on one draft only of the Dissertation, provided that it is submitted by a date specified by SEAL. Over the programme as a whole, assessment is conducted through a mixture of coursework essays and formal examinations.

Weighting

In order to be eligible for a four-year Bachelor's degree in the School of Modern Languages, which incorporates a language year abroad, a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which not less than 180 shall normally be at H level or above, except in the case where a candidate is deemed to have achieved a Pass). The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbook.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 280 points from 4 subjects ('A' or 'A/S' levels), including 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, and 100 points (grade B) in either English Literature or English Language and Literature. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. While such candidates will normally be expected to have either 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French to take FR101 (Advanced French Language) in Part 1, or 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A* at GCSE French to take FR102 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1, and to have a B (100 points) in A-level English, consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience. Mature applicants are more likely to receive an offer of a place if they have undertaken recent study - for example, 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. International candidates are advised to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Study Advice Team, the University's Special Needs Adviser, Hall Wardens, the Students' Union and the Careers Advisory Service. 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 databases, and houses the Learning Resource Centre with some 200 workstations. 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. Transferable skills are supported by the Skills Opportunities At Reading (SOAR) website with links to information about resources and events offered by the Library, IT Services, Study Advisers, RUSU, Mathematics Support Centre and the University Language Centre.

The School of English and American Literature also offers students specific help to improve and develop their essay writing skills through the Royal Literary Fund Fellowship scheme, which provides a resident professional writer whose role is to advise students individually, from first-year to postgraduate level, on raising the level of their academic writing.

Within both departments students receive a Handbook which gives details of module content, guidance on study skills such as note-taking and essay writing, and information about staff, facilities, and sources of specialized help within the University. The English programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1, developing towards more independent work in Part 3. Academic feedback and guidance is given through one-to-one essay tutorials, and academic and personal support is provided through the tutor system and the University's Personal and Academic Record (PAR) Scheme. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the School of English, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and an expanding collection of videos for loan to students. The Access Point for Individual Language Learning (APILL) contains a range of audio and audio-visual materials to promote self-study in languages, together with facilities for watching French television by satellite. A video-viewing suite is available within the Faculty to support cinema studies.

The French Departmental Handbook issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The Department of French Studies has a departmental library containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, and videos of French films and documentaries. The departmental newspaper room contains daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. There is also a satellite TV enabling students to watch French programmes. The Department has a comprehensive website at: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/french> containing information and learning material. The website is regularly updated. The grammar strand at Part 2 has all the PowerPoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format. French Career Management Skills at Part 2 has its own Blackboard site, containing computer-assessed learning activities.

Career prospects

In recent years students who have gained an English degree from Reading have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, and increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad. A Reading degree in French and English provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. Graduates may also go on to further academic study and research. In addition to the help provided by the University Careers Advisory Service, SEAL has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English on researching and planning their career choices.

Opportunities for study abroad

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend the Year Abroad as an assistant teacher, on a work placement or at one of the Higher Education Institutions with which the Department of French Studies has a Socrates agreement.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme seeks to develop a sophisticated knowledge and understanding of both French and English culture, and to promote an informed and self-reflective awareness of the procedures of critical and cultural analysis. The overall aims are to provide students with a variety of learning experiences, to enable them to achieve their full intellectual potential, and to equip them with a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p>In French:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The French language;2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture;3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis. <p>In English:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Literary texts in English from selected periods between the Middle Ages and the present day;2. A range of kinds of texts including fiction, poetry and drama;3. Methods of critical textual analysis;4. Ways in which social, cultural and historical issues relate to texts;5. A range of approaches in English studies;6. Selected special fields of English;	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <p>In French:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. At Part 2, grammar is taught by PowerPoint lectures, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 and 3 is by lecture and seminar or tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context. <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3), an oral examination (1) and dissertation (1-3).</p> <p>In English:</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1-5. In Part 2 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed with particular emphasis on 1, 2 and 4 through seminars, lectures and individual feedback. Part 3 introduces more specialized study, particularly in relation to 3, 5 and 6, through a choice of seminar-based modules together with supervised, independent study leading to a dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 – 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 3, assessment is based on a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills : In French: 1. critically apply literary and historical concepts; 2. identify and solve problems; 3. analyse and interpret; 4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference; In English: 1. Capacity for independent analysis and research; 2. Identification of problems and issues; 3. The ability to read closely and critically; 4. An ability to reflect on one's own positions; 5. Ability to transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another; 6. Ability to analyse linguistic performance and phenomena; 7. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.</p>		<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies In French: Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced. <i>Assessment</i> The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1-4 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. In English: Intellectual skills are acquired through independent reading (1), through close guided study of texts (3), seminar preparation and discussion (1-3, 5-6), and essay writing and feedback through tutorials (1-6); through completion of the dissertation (7) <i>Assessment</i> 1 – 3 and 5 are assessed both formatively in coursework essays, and summatively in essays and unseen exams, 6 is assessed specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme. 1- 5 are assessed formatively through seminar discussion and essay feedback and tutorials. 7 by means of the dissertation and the extended essays which form part of some modules.</p>
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<p>C. Practical skills:</p> <p>In French:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. speak, write, read and understand French at high or a near-native level of proficiency; 2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis; 3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources; 4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence. <p>In English:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to criticize and formulate interpretations of texts; 2. An ability to engage in critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches; 3. An awareness of the rhetorical resources of the English language; 4. Bibliographical and research skills; 5. A knowledge of appropriate conventions in the presentation of written work; 6. An ability to relate the study of English to cultural and social issues. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>In French:</p> <p>All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies are provided at the outset of each module. Classes and tutorials are given to all students on the production of essays and literary, historical or linguistic concepts. Language classes are compulsory in every year, and much primary and secondary reading material is in French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2-4 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays, unseen written examination and dissertation.</p> <p>In English:</p> <p>1 – 3 and 6 are developed in seminars, essays and essay tutorials. 4 and 5 are developed through essays, essay feedback and dissertation guidance and supervision.</p> <p>Skills 5 and 6 are developed through the preparation for and presentation of the dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>All the subject-specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 – 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.</p>
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<p>D. Transferable skills:</p> <p>In French:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing; 2. manage time and work to deadlines; 3. participate effectively in groups; 4. work independently; 5. find information and use information technology; 6. be responsible and self-reliant; 7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others; 8. Careers Management. <p>In English:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fluency in written and oral communication; 2. The ability to formulate and present arguments with appropriate use of evidence; 3. Assessing the merits of competing approaches; 4. The ability to translate subject-specific knowledge and skills into other environments; 5. The ability to find and use relevant information resources; 6. Time-management skills; 7. A creative approach to problem-solving; 8. Group and interpersonal skills; 9. An ability to work independently, to self-evaluate and self-reflect; 10. Use of information technology, especially word-processing. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>In French:</p> <p>(1) All modules require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression. (2) is learnt through the management of different deadlines within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS student development scheme. Skills 3-7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency. It will be assessed by essay and dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing and technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.</p> <p>In English:</p> <p>Skills are developed through seminar discussions (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), seminar presentations, essay writing, tutorial feedback and unseen examinations (1 – 9). 4 and 7 particularly are developed through requiring students to draw on acquired knowledge and skills when analyzing new material in essays and unseen examinations. 5 and 10 are developed through use of the library and other sources of information, for seminar preparation, essay writing and research for the dissertation. (6) is enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (9) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1–7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. 10 is not directly assessed but informs a student's work throughout the programme, especially in the year abroad and final years.</p>
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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.