

BA History and German **For students entering Part 1 in 2006**

UCAS code: RV21

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Date of specification: May 2007
Programme Director:
Programme Adviser:
Board of Studies:
Accreditation:

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
History, Modern languages
Programme length: 4 years

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History and German
Not Applicable

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. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and are able to place Germany 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 German 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 enhance 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 German 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 in Germany or Austria in their third year makes a significant contribution both to their personal and intellectual development. History is a discipline that 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. Part I in German includes both the study of language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. In Part 2 History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills. In German, students continue with the study of the German language, and take two optional modules, each involving a choice of short 'mini-options' on historical, cultural and literary topics from 1750 to the present. 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. 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. At this stage,

they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation involves a substantial research effort. In German, students must take one module of further German language study and are free to pursue their interests within German studies by selecting from a range of specialised options.

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):

Combined History and German students must acquire a minimum of 40 credits in History and 40 credits in German. Other credits to be acquired from modules listed below or in the Faculty Part 1 Handbook.

In History

Compulsory modules

HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	C
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	C

Optional module which may only be taken if the compulsory modules are also studied

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	C
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In German Studies

Compulsory modules

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

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	C
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	C

Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

LA1PG4	IWLP German Level 4	20	C
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate)	20	C

Part 2 (three terms)

Credits Level

In History (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Two modules from different Periods (one Early and one Modern) and their co-requisite Skills modules must be taken, totalling 60 credits.

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

In German Studies (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

GM2L2	German Language II	20	I
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And the following two modules

GM2OP1	<i>German Option Module 1</i>	20	I
GM2OP2	<i>German Option Module 2</i>	20	I

German Option Modules 1 & 2 will each be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided.)

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills.

Year Abroad (three terms in a German-speaking country)

Credits Level

HS3GMA	Dissertation: Commencement	20	H
GM3O40	Oral and Aural German	40	H

GM2LP	German Language project	20	I
Either:			
GM2S40	Scheine (full year)	40	I
or:			
GM2ASR or GM2WPL	Assistant's report Placement report.	40	I
Both GM2ASR and GM2WPL include within the 40 credits 20 credits for Work experience that do not contribute to the final assessment.			

Part 3 (three terms)

Credits Level

In History (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Students choose either two optional 20 credit Topic modules to make a total of 40 credits or a Special Subject consisting of two co-requisite modules of 20 credits each. All students take the Dissertation module.

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

HS3GMB	Dissertation	20	H
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In German Studies (60 credits)

One of

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

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

GM3GAR	<i>Germany in the Age of Revolution</i>	20	H
GM3V19	<i>Nineteenth-Century Vienna</i>	20	H
GM3CWR	<i>Cinema of the Weimar Republic</i>	20	H
GM3MGN	<i>Writing the East: Literature of the GDR</i>	20	H
GM3MIG	<i>Migration in Germany</i>	20	H
GM3LM	<i>Language in the Media</i>	20	H
GM3LPL	<i>The Language of Politics</i>	20	H

(All optional modules, including additions to the above list, are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants.)

Progression requirements

- (a) To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students should obtain a mark of 40% in one of their compulsory History modules and in the two compulsory modules in German, and must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole. *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;*
 - (b) To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of 40% in the compulsory modules in History and in German Language II and must obtain an overall average of 40% in the 120 credits at Part 2;
 - (c) In both cases, students should achieve not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned.
 - (d) To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.
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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 Part 3 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 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.

To be eligible for Honours, students must normally have obtained an overall average of 40%.

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.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

A level: 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 but entrants should normally have a B in German. (Two AS grades are accepted in place one A level); or

International Baccalaureat: 31 points preferably with History Grade 5 or 6; or

Advanced GNVQ: 2 units at Distinction and Grade C or higher at A level or 18 units at Distinction; or

Scottish Highers: 4 Bs or equivalent thereof.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School/Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

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.

Handbooks are provided to students in the first year. They are also available on the internet: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/german>, and <http://www.reading.ac.uk:80/AcaDepts/lh/History/history.htm>. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and German 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. The Department of German Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme and provides detailed course handbooks for each section of the programme; a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. In the History School, students are supported and advised by the Degree Course Tutor. 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 German coordinate the programme.

Career prospects

Graduates in History and German 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. Several graduates also go on to postgraduate study in either History or German, both at MA and PhD level, at Reading and elsewhere.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad, as an assistant teacher, or on a work placement, or at a university with which the University of Reading has a Socrates exchange agreement: (in Germany) Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Regensburg, Potsdam, Trier, Tübingen, and (in Austria) Graz, Linz, Vienna.

Educational aims of the programme

Through studying History and German students will develop their communication skills in order to express themselves, both orally and on paper, in a clear fashion. More specifically, they should have acquired 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. They will develop a capacity to interact with their peers; will be trained to seek out and assess the importance of relevant documentary information; and will be adept at applying their knowledge to the formulation and resolution of problems. Students will also cultivate general intellectual skills: clear and well-structured prose; logical reasoning and argument; the meeting of deadlines; the organisation of time; knowledge of bibliographic and annotation systems; data handling; and a broad understanding of the human experience. Particular parts of the programme will also have enabled students to develop relevant IT and Career Management skills.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students are expected to be able to

1. understand native-spoken German within an educated environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy;
2. write accurately in German with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style;
3. read and understand a variety of historical and literary texts from different periods and discuss their significance in their cultural contexts;
4. 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. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)2. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900, together with a selection of additional topics in German history, society, literature and culture4. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis5. A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues6. The contextualization of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process7. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture <p>The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking German is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The Year Abroad in a German-speaking country offers immersion in German language and culture.2. Acquisition of aspects 2 – 8 is by lecture, workshop, seminar, 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 seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, portfolios of skills, and dissertation. Knowledge and Understanding are also tested by a viva voce examination attached to the Dissertation.</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. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
4. Identify problems and issues and conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately
5. Think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions
6. Accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources
7. Demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each module involves discussion of the key issues, practise in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced. Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in seminars, workshops and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. Through essay, project, and dissertation preparation, the research and analytical skills are reinforced which are necessary to form and to validate arguments and judgements. The Dissertation requires students to engage creatively and critically with primary sources and/or historical interpretative works.

Assessment

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set. Throughout the programme skills are assessed through a combination of coursework essays and examinations and all of the skills are relevant to the production of the dissertation.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. speak, write, read and understand German at high or a near-native level of proficiency;
2. develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
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 through the retrieval and selection of information from a variety of sources.
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the university and departmental libraries and elsewhere. Detailed bibliographies are provided at the outset of each course. 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 German. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of German to a high level.

Assessment

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, a portfolio of skills, and examinations. Skill 5 is developed throughout the programme but is particularly relevant to the dissertation. Skill 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

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. Show sensitivity to cultural differences;
9. Make informed career plans.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All modules require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different modules within the programme and is a focus of initial one-to-one session under the PARS student development scheme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skills 6 and 8 are especially developed during the year abroad, its importance being established during the preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Vocational awareness is promoted by the Careers Management Skills module.

Assessment

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 – clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. Written skills are examined at every stage both under timed conditions and in course work. Oral skills are examined in the viva voce associated with the Long Dissertation. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.

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.