

BA English Literature and German
For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2

UCAS code: QR32

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	English and Modern Languages
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	09/May/2013
Programme Director:	Dr Stephen Thomson
Programme Advisor:	Dr Melani Schroeter
Board of Studies:	English
Accreditation:	

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, as well as perspectives on different methods of critical analysis, and a high level of competence in the reception and production of spoken and written German. 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

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

In addition, students on this joint degree programme are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: the ability to formulate and evaluate arguments, use of library and relevant information resources, self-reliance, effective time management, and cultural awareness.

Programme content

In Part 1 students take 60 credits in English Literature and at least 40 credits in German. In Parts 2 and 3 they must normally take 60 credits in both English Literature and German in each Part, but may, in consultation with their programme adviser, choose to take up to 20 credits from modules available elsewhere in the university. The Year Abroad takes place in the third year of the degree programme.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EN1WKT	What Kind of Text is This?	20	4
EN1REE	Researching the English Essay	20	4
EN1LL	Languages of Literature	20	4

In German

Compulsory modules

Either	for students entering with A- or AS-level German or equivalent)		
GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4
GM1IMG	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4
Or	(for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)		
LA1PG4	IWLP German Level 4	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners)	20	4
Or	(for students entering with no knowledge of German)		
GM1IG1	Intensive German 1	20	4
GM1IG2	Intensive German 2	20	4
GM1ICI	Icons of Modern Germany	20	4

Optional modules

Students may take modules up to the value of 20 credits from the list below:

GM1ILG	The Inner Life of the German Language	10	4
GM1NPP	The German Nazi-Past and the Present	10	4
GM1LRH	Literary Reflection of Historical Events	10	4
GM1IHD	Interpreting Historical Documents	10	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

In English Literature (60 credits):

Students choose three optional modules of 20 credits each. At least one option must be drawn from a list of pre-1800 options. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director and in the Part 2 Module Supplement.

In German

Compulsory language module in German

Either

GM2L2	German Language II	20	5
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Or (only for students who took Intensive German 1 and 2 at Part I)

GM1AGL	Advanced German Language	20	4
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Optional modules

Students take a further 40 credits (20 in each of the two terms) from a list of optional modules on German culture and language available in the Department.

Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)

Compulsory modules

GM3YOR	Oral Examination in German	20	6
GM3YEUR	Aural Examination in German	20	6
GM2YLP	German language project	20	5
EN3DYG	Dissertation Preparation in English and German	20	6

In German

Either

GM2YS40	German <i>Scheine</i> (full year)	40	5
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or

GM2YASR	Assistant's Report	40	5
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or

GM2YWPL	Work Placement report	40	5
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GM2YASR and GM2YWPL both include 20 non-assessed credits for work experience.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EN3DCG	Dissertation Completion in English and German	20	6

In English Literature

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 Part 3 Module Supplement. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

In German

Compulsory language module:

Either

GM3GPT	Translation into German and English	20	6
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International Baccalaureate: 31 points with at least 6 for Higher level English Literature

Scottish Highers: ABBBB

Irish Highers: ABBBB

GCSE/O: At least Grade C in GCSE German

All applications are considered on their individual merits. Mature candidates will be usually be expected to have a B (100 points) at A level English, or equivalent qualifications, but consideration is also given to applicants with other qualifications and experience.

Admissions Tutor: Mrs Carolyn Lyle

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

The Department of English Language & 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 the School of English students receive a Handbook which gives details of the programme, 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 Literature programme is designed to give students extensive teaching support in Part 1 leading to more independent work in Part 4. 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 Personal Development Planning (PDP) Scheme. The Geoffrey Matthews Collection, housed in the Department of English Language & Literature, provides books, xeroxed materials, cassettes and an expanding collection of videos for loan to students. In the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies additional support is provided through a programme adviser for each part of the programme. A series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. The Library is well-stocked with printed materials as well as essential electronic databases on-line and on CD ROM, such as the OED, the MLA Bibliography, and JSTOR. Specialist subject librarians are available to give students advice and guidance to library resources.

Career prospects

In recent years students who have gained a degree on this programme have gone into a wide variety of jobs, including teaching, publishing, journalism, the media, management, administration, and public relations. Joint degrees involving a language (like degrees in other arts subjects) can also lead to careers in such areas as marketing and computing, or may be a prelude to study in law or accountancy. Increasing numbers of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of German can be an important asset. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad. A Reading degree in English Literature and German provides graduates with a range of communication and analytical skills that will serve them in good stead in the marketplace. A number of graduates each year go on to further academic study and research.

During their time at Reading students have the opportunity to develop non-vocational skills, gain new work experiences, and further boost their employability through a diverse range of other placement opportunities. Careers Learning is embedded in compulsory modules throughout the programme. Students also have the opportunity to partake in an academic placement as part of the overall assessment of any Part 2 or Part 3 English Literature module, which encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

The University's Careers Advisory Service (CAS) provides all Reading students with information about a wide range of placement opportunities (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/>), including the Summer Enterprise Experience & Discovery internship scheme (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/careers/placements/seed/>), the Community Service Volunteering scheme (tutoring in local schools; <http://www.reading.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/StudentTutoring/sr-studenttutoringinschools.aspx>), the Student Associates Scheme (work experience in local schools; http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx), and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP; http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/urop/urop_home.aspx). The Department of English Language and Literature also has a Careers Tutor available to advise students in English Literature on researching and planning their career choices.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad either at a German or Austrian university with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter, or as an assistant teacher, or on a work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on the Erasmus & Study Abroad website. Students have the opportunity to partake in an academic placement as part of the overall assessment of any Part 2 or Part 3 English Literature module, which encourages engagement with forward-thinking career planning.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

In English Literature

1. Literary texts in English Literature 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 Literature
- In German
7. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom
 8. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
 9. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
 10. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
 11. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-1900
 12. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and 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 4 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.

Small-group teaching on language and options (7-8, 10-12)

Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (9)

Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (3, 10-12)

Feedback on language work and essay assignments (7-12)

Dissertation (any of 1-12 depending on chosen topic)

Study or other residence abroad (7-8; also 9).

Assessment

[in English Literature] In Parts 1 and 2, knowledge and understanding of 1 - 5 are tested through a combination of essays and unseen written examinations. In Part 4, assessment is through a mixture of methods, such as extended essays, essays plus unseen exams, and the dissertation.

[in German; all parts]

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (3, 7-12)
Oral examination (7-8)
Dissertation (3, 12, also 10-11)
Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (7-8).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

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 understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
6. Ability to transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
7. Ability to analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
8. Ability to plan and conduct an extended analysis of a chosen topic.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

In English Literature

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

In German, the ability to:

7. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
8. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
9. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
10. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
11. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
12. Organize and negotiate a period of residence abroad.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. Fluency in written and oral communication
2. The ability to formulate and present arguments

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 language classes (7) and the completion of the dissertation (8)

Assessment

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 is assessed in certain language examinations, 8 by means of the dissertation.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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.

In German, skills 7-8 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 9 and also 10 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 10 and 11 in the preparation for and presentation of the dissertation; skill 12 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

All the subject specific practical skills are assessed through formative and summative essays. 1 - 3 and 6 are also tested in unseen examinations.

In German, skills 7-10 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 10 and 11 are assessed through the dissertation; 12 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are developed through seminar discussions(1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9), through seminar

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
11. Ability to take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
12. Plan and evaluate career possibilities.

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 analysing 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. Time-management skills (6) are 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, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 11. We require that all summatively assessed essays (in German all assessed essays) are word-processed (10). Career management (12) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.

Assessment

1 - 7 and 9 are formatively assessed through coursework essays and seminar presentations, and summatively assessed through essays, unseen examinations, and the dissertation. 9 is encouraged through essay feedback and essay tutorials. 8 is encouraged through seminars and in tutorials. 11 is not directly assessed but informs a student's work throughout the programme, especially in the third and final years.

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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.