

**BA German and International Relations**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2**

**UCAS code: RL22**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Awarding Institution:                       | University of Reading  |
| Teaching Institution:                       | University of Reading  |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | Languages and Related Studies, Politics and International Relations. |
| Faculty:                                    | Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty                          |
| Programme length:                           | 4 years  |
| Date of specification:                      | 31/Jul/2014  |
| Programme Director:                         | Dr Melani Schroeter  |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Dr Emma Mayhew   |
| Board of Studies:                           | Modern Languages and European Studies                                |
| Accreditation:                              |  |

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme in German Studies seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to postgraduate study or a wide range of careers, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use to them outside the confines of the discipline.

The International Relations curriculum gives students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main sub fields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and politics, and international relations. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of domestic and international politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. They progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support.

**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 communication (both written and oral), information-handling, team working, career management, interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Students on this programme are also expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills in addition to those prescribed by the university: use of library resources, self-reliance, cultural awareness.

Students of German and International Relations 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.

Careers management skills will be taught in both Parts 2 and 3.

**Programme content**

The profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part, and also the Year Abroad, comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

In German Part 1 includes the study of both language (with an intensive language course for students with no German) and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take modules based on a variety of short options on German culture 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, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

In the School of Politics and International Relations, students must take three compulsory Part I modules totalling 60 credits. In Part 2 students continue with further compulsory modules in Modern International Relations as well as an option. In the Year Abroad students write a dissertation on a topic related to the international relations of Germany to be submitted by the second day of the eighth week of the Autumn term of Year 4. In Part 3 students take options in International Relations.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

|        |   |    |   |
|--------|---|----|---|
| PO1IRS | Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies | 20 | 4 |
| PO1IPI | Introduction to Political Ideas                         | 20 | 4 |
| PO1MOG | Modern Government                                       | 20 | 4 |

**In German students are required to take the following compulsory modules:  
Either (for students entering with A-level German or equivalent):**

| Code   | Title                    | Credits | Level |
|--------|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| GM1AGL | Advanced German Language | 20      | 4     |
| GM1IMG | Icons of Modern Germany  | 20      | 4     |

**Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent):**

| Code   | Title  | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| 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):**

| Code   | Title  | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| GM1IG1 | Intensive German 1                               | 20      | 4     |
| GM1IG2 | Intensive German 2                               | 20      | 4     |
| GM1ICI | Icons of Modern Germany (Intermediate/Beginners) | 20      | 4     |

**Optional modules**

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

| Code   | Title                                    | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| 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     |

Optional module:

|        |                 |    |   |
|--------|-----------------|----|---|
| PO1BRI | British Society | 20 | 4 |
|--------|-----------------|----|---|

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>            | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| PO2MIR          | Modern International Relations | 20             | 5            |
| PO2SOP          | The Study of Politics          | 20             | 5            |

In German students take a compulsory language module:

**Either**

|       |                    |    |   |
|-------|--------------------|----|---|
| GM2L2 | German Language II | 20 | 5 |
|-------|--------------------|----|---|

**Or** (only for

students who

took Intensive

German 1 and 2

at Part 1)

|        |                          |    |   |
|--------|--------------------------|----|---|
| GM1AGL | Advanced German Language | 20 | 4 |
|--------|--------------------------|----|---|

**Optional modules in German**

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.

*Optional module*

Students must choose one option module to the value of 20 credits:

|        |                                  |    |   |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|---|
| PO2AMG | American Government and Politics | 20 | 5 |
| PO2BGP | British Government and Politics  | 20 | 5 |
| PO2EPI | European Political Integration   | 20 | 5 |
| PO2RGP | Russian Government and Politics  | 20 | 5 |
| PO2THI | Political Thinking               | 20 | 5 |
| PO2MUN | Model United Nations             | 20 | 5 |
| PO2WPP | Work Placement and Project       | 20 | 5 |

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

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>                                  | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| PO3LDS          | Politics (Joint Language) Dissertation               | 40             | 6            |
| GM3YL5A         | German Language (one year in a Germanophone country) | 40             | 6            |
| Either          |  |                |              |
| GM2YS40         | German Scheine (full year)                           | 40             | 5            |
| or              |  |                |              |
| GM2YASR         | Assistant's Report                                   | 40             | 5            |
| or              |  |                |              |
| GM2YWPL         | Work Placement Report                                | 40             | 5            |

GM2YASR and GM2YWPL include 20 credits for work experience which do not contribute to the final assessment.

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in German and 60 credits in International Relations.

**In German**

One of:

|        |  |    |   |
|--------|--|----|---|
| GM3L6A | Advanced German Language III (Translation)             | 20 | 6 |
| GM3L6B | Advanced German Language III (Structure & Composition) | 20 | 6 |

Two further 20-credit modules to be chosen from a list available in the department.

All optional modules are offered subject to availability of staff and require a minimum and maximum number of participants.

In International Relations (60 credits):

Students choose three 20-credit modules, at least one from each of the following two lists.

List A

|         |   |    |   |
|---------|---|----|---|
| PO3BFD  | British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945           | 20 | 6 |
| PO3CAP  | Crime and Punishment: Theoretical Approaches            | 20 | 6 |
| PO3DDP  | Democracy and Democracy Promotion                       | 20 | 6 |
| PO3 MEA | Politics and International Relations of the Middle East | 20 | 6 |
| PO3NAT  | Nationalism   | 20 | 6 |
| PO3TOL  | Toleration : Theory and Practise                        | 20 | 6 |
| PO3 UKP | United Kingdom Politics since 1960                      | 20 | 6 |
| PO3 USF | United States Foreign Policy since 1950                 | 20 | 6 |
| PO3WEP  | War, Peace and International Relations                  | 20 | 6 |

List B

|        |   |    |   |
|--------|---|----|---|
| PO3CPP | Contemporary Power Politics               | 20 | 6 |
| PO3CSS | Introduction to Critical Security Studies | 20 | 6 |
| PO3DPP | Democracy and Democracy Promotion         | 20 | 6 |



(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 modules will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

(In International Relations) Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 2 and Part 3 optional modules place more emphasis on seminars. Assessment for Part 1 is a combination of coursework (40%) and examinations (60%), and for Parts 2 and 3 is a combination of coursework (25%) and examinations (75%).

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three A-level subjects or 320 points from three A-Levels and one AS Level. Candidates must have either A-level German or A\* at GCSE, or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German. Students admitted with no knowledge of German must normally have an A-level or equivalent in a European foreign language.

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the departmental Admissions Tutors, who may be contacted via [german@reading.ac.uk](mailto:german@reading.ac.uk) (for International Relations: [j.s.golub@reading.ac.uk](mailto:j.s.golub@reading.ac.uk))

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Sophie Heywood

### **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-session 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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

In addition the Department of Modern Languages & European Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills. The Departmental Resource Room contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad. In International Relations, students are provided with Departmental Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay work, a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in German work in many different fields. A degree involving a language, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; and 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; others proceed to post-graduate courses in various areas, including translating.

Over the years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, jobs include academic and academic related jobs (e.g. lectureships, administrative posts on research boards), the civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, and in the social services, such as child care, youth employment, probation and so on. In the private sector, recent jobs

include working for advertising, journalism, radio and television, computer firms and large finance and insurance companies.

### **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.

Further opportunities in the Politics department:

The Part 2 optional module British Government and Politics includes an academic placement, taking place over two weeks during the Easter vacation, through which students will be able to explore some aspect of British government and politics in detail. In addition to this, there is an optional module for work placement and project work (PO2WPP) which allows students to do a longer placement and obtain the full 20 credits for this. Students may choose to spend part of their second year studying at a University in another European country, via the Erasmus programme, or in the United States, via the American Studies exchange programme, or in Australia. While such exchanges may involve some additional financial expenditure and some adjustments to coursework at Reading, the University believes these exchanges offer an excellent opportunity to broaden educational and life experience. In the first instance interested students should see their personal tutor.

### **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. A wide range of German vocabulary and idiom
2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900
4. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture
5. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues
6. Methods of critical textual analysis
7. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics
8. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations
9. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-6)  
Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3)  
Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-6)  
Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-6)  
Dissertation (any of 1-6 depending on chosen topic)  
Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3)

##### *Assessment*

Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-6)  
Oral examination (1-2)  
Dissertation (5-6, also 4)  
Also regular non-assessed work for language classes (1-2)

#### **Skills and other attributes**

##### **B. Intellectual skills -able to:**

1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically
2. Identify and analyse problems and issues
3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments
4. Evaluate alternative critical views
5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another
6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena
7. Plan and conduct an extended analysis of a

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).

##### *Assessment*

Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in

chosen topic

certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.

### **C. Practical skills -able to:**

1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; skill 6 through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

#### *Assessment*

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

### **D. Transferable skills -able to:**

1. formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. give oral presentations
3. use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. manage time and work to deadlines
6. work independently and be self-reliant
7. take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. plan and evaluate career possibilities

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Skill 8 is taught via careers management.

#### *Assessment*

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in careers management. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

**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.**