

BA Italian and History
For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2

UCAS code: RV31

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Languages and History
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	09/May/2012
Programme Director:	Miss Paola Nasti
Programme Advisor:	Dr Emily West
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The degree in Italian and History offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience. Throughout this process of discovery, students encounter a wide range of subjects and approaches, while having the opportunity to pursue their own enthusiasms and to benefit from the research expertise and activities of staff. Within History, we aim to familiarise students with a broad chronological range, whilst providing them with the opportunity of specialisation in particular periods and topics of British, European and American history. The degree also aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written Italian and who are informed about Italian history and culture. Students are able to pursue their own interests through a dissertation. Subject-based and transferable skills are developed in a programme which encourages a scholarly, committed and enthusiastic engagement with the study of the past in association with a language programme.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, 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 of Italian will develop their abilities to communicate in the Italian language and 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 programme also aims to offer opportunities of work-related learning.

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. The Italian modules explore Italian history and culture and develop students' language skills according to their level of ability on entry. In Part 2 History students focus upon periodisation and the development of their disciplinary skills. In Italian, students' language abilities are developed and thematic aspects of Italian history and culture are explored.

During the Year Abroad the experience of living in Italy enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills, particularly their oral and aural ones: by the end of this period the differences between former beginners and other students will have been eliminated. Students further broaden their knowledge of Italian culture by pursuing courses of their own choice at an Italian University and by working on a placement; and they engage in independent study for their dissertation and they can choose a placement option (4 months placements) in combination with their studies (4 months).

Part 3 comprises one module of further language study, two compulsory modules on key literary topics, and three optional modules chosen from a range of specialised topics relating to many different aspects of Italian culture. Some of these modules might offer opportunities for work-related learning (up to 20 credits may derive from modules available elsewhere in the University).

At this stage, they are expected to work more independently and the dissertation involves a substantial research effort.

Part 1 (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HS1APH	Approaches to History	20	4
HS1LMH	Landmarks in History	20	4

In Italian

Compulsory Modules

For advanced students:

For students with A Level or equivalent:

IT1001	Advanced Italian Language I	20	4
IT1002	Twentieth-Century Italian Culture	20	4

Non-advanced students (including complete beginners) take ONE of the following, depending on experience:

IT1003	Italian Language (Elementary) and Culture	40	4
IT1005	Italian Language (Lower Intermediate) and Culture	40	4

Optional module (open to all students):

IT1004	Italian Mediaeval and Renaissance Culture (in translation)	20	4
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In History

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

HS1DSH	Directed Study in History	20	4
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Part 2 (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

Either

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
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Or

IT202	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
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In Italian

Optional modules

In addition, students choose two optional modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Advisor, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Departmental Handbook.

In History

Students should take THREE 20 credit Period modules (one 'Early', one 'Modern' and one other), totalling 60 credits in all. Normally students should take two of these modules in the Autumn and one in the Spring. A complete list of modules is available from the Department of History, and not all modules will necessarily be available on any one year.

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

HS3YDPI	Dissertation Preparation (History and Italian)	20	6
IT2Y31	Credits from Italian University Course (1)	20	5
IT2Y32	Credits from Italian University Course (2)	20	5
IT3Y31	Italian Oral and Textual Skills	20	6
IT3Y32	Written Italian	20	6

Optional modules (20 credits)

Either				
IT2Y33	Italian University Course (3)	20	5	
Or				
IT2YIP	International Placement	20	5	

20 level 6(H) credits of the 40 credit joint dissertation are placed in the year abroad (Dissertation Preparation Module) with a further 20 in the final year (Dissertation Completion Module). When the module mark for the Dissertation Completion module is known that mark is entered for both dissertation modules. The 20 credits taken during the year abroad (Dissertation Preparation) therefore has no result until it is assessed alongside the Part 3 Dissertation Completion Module. The mark for the Dissertation Preparation Module does not affect progression from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students may therefore progress to part 3 with no mark for the Dissertation Preparation Module.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6
HS3DCI	Dissertation Completion in History and Italian	20	6

In Italian:

Students choose two 20-credit modules from a list of optional modules available from the Department.

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

In History:

Students choose two Topic modules of 20 credits each, one in the Autumn and one in the Spring. A complete list of modules is available from the Department of History and not all modules will necessarily be available in any one year.

In those programmes where the taking of 20 credits outside the main programme is permitted, no IWLP level 1 Romance language or a beginners' Latin module can be taken for credits by any language finalists).

Progression requirements

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students must: achieve an overall average of 40% over the 120 credits taken in Part 1, and obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module, and achieve a mark of at least 30% in modules representing a total of at least 100 credits.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must

1. achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2;
2. and achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

To proceed from the year abroad, students must satisfy the examiners they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in Italy and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

Assessment and classification

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/classificationpost2007.pdf>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Four year programmes with a year abroad (MFL)

Year 2 two-ninths

Year Abroad three-ninths

Year 4 four ninths

In History at Part 1, teaching is by large group lectures reinforced by seminars of c.15 students, and for those taking the Directed Study, individual supervision is provided. At Parts 2 and 3, it is principally by seminars. At all levels, independent research is expected and encouraged. It is most apparent and significant in the Dissertation, although individual supervisory support is also provided. All Parts are assessed by a mixture of coursework and timed examination, while the Dissertation includes an element of oral presentation.

Italian language modules are taught in small groups; other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures, small-group seminars and essay tutorials. Over the programme as a whole, most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. The 60 credits gained in the third year from 'Courses taken abroad' will derive from marks obtained in examinations set by the host university in Italy. The Italian oral written and textual skills will be examined in Part 3.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbooks.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained either

320 points from 4 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels

or

300 points from 3 subjects ('A' or A/S levels) including 2 full A-levels.

- No previous qualifications in Italian are required
- B at A level in History is required.
- Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies.
- IB:6,6,5, one of which must be History.
- Scottish Highers: 340/360 UCAS points in Scottish Framework Qualifications, either 3 Advanced Highers or a combination of Advanced Highers and Highers.
- This must include B at Advanced Higher History in all cases.
- Those not offering A level or IB qualifications are advised to contact the international admissions tutor as to the acceptability of their qualifications.
- For those whose education has not been undertaken in English, the IELTS requirement is 7.0, with no language component under 6.5.
- Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted,
- Mature applicants: Applications from mature candidates are welcomed, and many have done notably well in the past. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A Levels or an Access course (70% or more usually required) but each case is assessed on its merits. Potential applicants should contact the Admissions Tutor well in advance to discuss individual circumstances.
- International applicants: Applications from international candidates are also particularly welcomed. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the Admissions Tutor.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Lisa Sampson

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 Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SECC), 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. 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

In History, students are provided with handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and sources of specialised help within the University. There is 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. There is also a History Resource Room which provides quiet study space and a photocopier.

The Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. 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 Italian television by satellite. The University Library is particularly well stocked with works relating to many different aspects of European History and Italian 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. Liaison Officers for both History and Italian coordinate the programme.

Career prospects

Graduates in Italian and History are trained in clear thinking, language skills, diligence, independence, and adaptability. Graduates may use their degree as a springboard for various areas of employment both in Britain and abroad. Employment opportunities exist in accountancy, banking and commerce, law, publishing, museum work, teaching and social work. They are also available in the business world through management training schemes operated by national companies in retailing, marketing, sales, computing, and in the civil service and local government. The specialist linguistic skills equip students to teach English as a Foreign Language abroad, work as translators, or in the travel industry. They also enable graduates to go on to postgraduate study in either History or Italian, both at MA and PhD level.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional circumstances only, all students on this programme spend a year abroad at an institute of higher education with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter; they can also choose to combine a period of study (minimum 4 months) with one spent on an international work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and Erasmus & Study Abroad websites.

Students on this programme spend their third year at one of these Universities or they may request a work placement in Italy. Students who wish to take advantage of this opportunity must obtain authorisation from the Department in the second year of study. Applications should be handed in to the Programme Director of Italian Studies. Students may also decide to take up a shorter work placement during their year abroad which will form part of their assessment for IT3Y31 (Italian Oral and Textual Skills). In either of the above cases it is for the student to seek out an appropriate placement, but the Programme Director of Italian Studies might also offer some established placement opportunities to selected students. Further help may be provided by the Job Shop, located in the Student Advisory Service.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the programme it is expected that students will be able to
read and understand a variety of historical and literary texts from different periods and discuss their significance in their cultural contexts;
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;
understand native-spoken Italian within an educated environment in practical and/or predictable situations and communicate orally in non-specialised contexts;
write competently in Italian in non-specialised contexts with an appropriate understanding of the implications of register and style.

The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions

Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis

A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues

The contextualization of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process

The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture

The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.

A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)

Core aspects of Italian history, society, literature and culture, together with a selection of additional topics in Italian history, society, literature and culture

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

In History, Part 1 formal lectures impart crucial information and perspective which is reinforced and deepened by regular seminars. As the degree progresses, less use is made of the lecture form and students engage with historical problems and texts through the structured exploratory contexts of the seminar and the workshop. Class sizes become progressively smaller as greater emphasis is placed on student-centred learning.

The importance of both primary and secondary texts is registered throughout the degree, and is established at the outset particularly in the Approaches module, being reinforced not only in the Directed Historiographical Essay but in the Dissertation.

At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, in Part 3, all students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged.

Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study.

Throughout the programme, students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The Dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The broad sweep of post-classical history and its principal divisions
2. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis
3. A range of eras and cultures and more focussed historical themes and issues
4. The contextualization of forces, events, and individual experiences in the historical process
5. The nature and variety of historical sources as defined by period and culture
6. The nature of debate and dispute in historical writing and critical analysis.
7. A wide range of Italian vocabulary and idiom, and also the fundamental aspects and concepts of Italian grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English)
8. Core aspects of Italian history, society, literature and culture, together with a selection of additional topics in Italian history, society, literature and culture

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. In History, Part 1 formal lectures impart crucial information and perspective which is reinforced and deepened by regular seminars. As the degree progresses, less use is made of the lecture form and students engage with historical problems and texts through the structured exploratory contexts of the seminar and the workshop. Class sizes become progressively smaller as greater emphasis is placed on student-centred learning.
2. The importance of both primary and secondary texts is registered throughout the degree, and is established at the outset particularly in the Approaches module, being reinforced in the Dissertation.
3. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, in Part 3, all students follow the same courses. Teaching is always in small groups, with different classes being devoted to grammar, oral and aural skills, reading and writing skills and translation. Audio-visual resources are used as appropriate and the use of self-access facilities is encouraged. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study.
4. Throughout the programme, students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and assessed essays. The Dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.

Assessment

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination

over the whole degree of seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, skills exercises, and dissertation. Knowledge and Understanding are also tested by an oral exam attached to the Dissertation. Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations.

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. Identify problems and issues and to conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. Think critically and independently and be able to reflect on one's own positions and to challenge received conclusions;
5. Accumulate and apply information in a structured manner and to be able to demonstrate the interrelationships between primary and secondary sources.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking Italian is by small-group learning and regular non-assessed coursework. The Year Abroad in an Italian-speaking country offers immersion in Italian language and culture.

Acquisition of aspects 2 - 8 is by lecture, workshop, seminar, tutorial and/or uninterrupted 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.

Assessment

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of seen and unseen examination, coursework essays, oral examination, skills exercises, and dissertation. Knowledge and understanding are also tested by an oral exam attached to the Dissertation.

Assessment

These skills are assessed in all Parts of the programme by a combination of coursework essays and examination. The Dissertation is a key element, and there are opportunities for writing extended essays.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Read and understand Italian in practical and/or predictable situations and speak and write it competently in non-specialised contexts;
2. Develop and carry out individual research programmes and strategies;
3. Seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it creatively and critically;
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.

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 Italian. Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular unassessed coursework. Students regularly give oral presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme the Dissertation provides experience of researching topics independently.

Assessment

Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral

examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-5 are assessed by a combination of coursework essays, skills exercises, examinations and dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. Construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, and support arguments with evidence;
2. Think critically and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
3. Locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. Participate effectively in group activities and have good interpersonal skills;
5. Be self-reliant, organise their own time purposefully and work independently;
6. Show sensitivity to cultural differences;
7. Make informed career plans.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-6 are developed progressively throughout the programme. Participation in seminars and oral classes develops skills in self-expression and teamwork. Critical thought, the construction of arguments, and information skills are all developed through essay writing and the dissertation, and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills are enhanced by the regular production of language work and the meeting of strict essay deadlines. Sensitivity to cultural difference informs the whole programme.

Assessment

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of students' work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency - clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, and the oral assessment element of the Dissertation. The location of information especially forms part of the activity involved in the Dissertation. Skill 4 is not directly assessed. There are strict, clearly defined penalties for lateness in handing in assessed work and for plagiarism.

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.