

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

**UCAS code: LR23**

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:	09/May/2012
Programme Director:	Miss Paola Nasti
Programme Advisor:	Oisin Tansey
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The Italian programme aims to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to progress to a wide range of careers or to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong love of learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in spoken and written Italian and have a sound knowledge of a range of aspects of Italian culture, history and society, selected in accordance with individual academic interests. The programme also aims to offer opportunities of work-related learning. The Politics 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 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.

**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, 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.

**Programme content**

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the 'compulsory' modules) together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the 'optional' modules). Not all options will necessarily be available every year. Admission to options will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title, and the credit requirement for progression in Italian and Politics is indicated for each Part.

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. In Part 3, up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 in Italian includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of Italian culture. Students with A level (or equivalent qualifications) in Italian must take a compulsory 20-credit language module and a compulsory 20-credit module on cultural themes. Students without an A level in Italian (including complete beginners) take a compulsory 40-credit module which includes both language and cultural studies. All students, if they wish, may also take a further module in Italian culture.

In Part 2 students take one compulsory 20-credit Italian language module (the level at this stage depends on their previous experience), and two optional modules from a range of broadly-based culture modules (up to 20 credits may derive from modules taken elsewhere in the University).

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 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).

In Politics and International Relations, Part 1 requires the modules in Modern Politics (20 credits) and International Relations and Strategic Studies (20 credits). In Part 2 students take certain compulsory modules (to the total of 40 credits), and one option. In Part 3 students take options in Politics.

### Part 1 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	4

#### Compulsory modules in Italian

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 Politics** Optional module:

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4
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### Part 2 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5

#### **In Italian:**

*Compulsory modules (to total of 20 credits)*

Either:

IT201	Advanced Italian Language II	20	5
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Or:

IT202	Intermediate Italian Language	20	5
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#### *Optional modules (40 credits)*

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

#### **In Politics**

##### *Optional modules*

*One of the following (20 credits)*

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5

PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5
PO2RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	5
PO2MUN	Modern United Nations	20	5
PO2WPP	Work Placement and Project	20	5

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

#### Compulsory modules

PO3LDS	Politics (Joint Language) Dissertation	40	6
IT2Y31	Credits from Italian University Course (1)	20	5
IT3Y31	Italian Oral and Textual Skills	20	6
IT3Y32	Written Italian	20	6

#### Optional modules (20 credits)

Either			
IT2Y32	Credits from Italian University Course (2)	20	5
Or			
IT2YIP	International Placement	20	5

### Part 3 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
IT301	Advanced Italian Language III	20	6

#### Optional modules in Italian (40 credits)

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

#### In Politics

Students must 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
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3PES	(The) Politics of Electoral Systems	20	6
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	6

#### List B

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3EUS	European Security	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	6
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars	20	6
PO3UNI	The UN and International Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6
PO3GST	Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China	20	6

(NB: 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 credit by any Language finalist)

### **Progression requirements**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and qualify for the CertHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, and to have obtained at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules taken for Italian and Politics.

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 to Part 3 students must satisfy the examiners that they have successfully completed an approved programme of studies at a University in Italy and have 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 Part 1 in Italian language modules are always taught in small groups and the other modules are taught by a mixture of lectures and seminars. In Parts 2 and 3 students are normally taught in small groups for all modules, and when lectures are used they are informal. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination.

The Credits from Italian University courses will derive from marks obtained in oral examinations set by the Italian university. The Italian oral, written and textual skills will be examined during Part 3.

The dissertation comprises a piece of work based on supervised independent study.

In Politics, Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars, Parts 2 and 3 optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. All modules other than the Study of Politics and the Dissertation are assessed by a mixture of coursework(25%) and examination (75%).

### **Admission requirements**

No previous qualifications in Italian are required.

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.

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 (SEEC), 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. 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)

The Departmental Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on resources and study skills. The University Language Centre (ULC) 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 Italian culture and the Faculty possesses a video suite to support cinema studies. The Departmental Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space.

In Politics, 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 a departmental Library, and a photocopier.

Both Departments provide written feedback on essay work.

### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in Italian work in many different fields. Some 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. A degree involving Italian can also, like degrees in other arts subjects, lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, 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 Italian can be a distinct asset.

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 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 of Italian 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

### Knowledge and Understanding

#### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The Italian language
2. Selected aspects of Italian literature, history and culture.
3. Methods of approach, analysis and interpretation associated with the various disciplines covered.
4. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics
5. The various approaches and the study of Politics
6. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. At Part 1, Italian is taught at three distinct levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Separate teaching is maintained throughout Part 2, but after the year in Italy 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. Regular non-assessed coursework is set, and considerable emphasis is based on individual study. The Year Abroad provides experience in the use of everyday Italian and the opportunity to follow University courses.

2,3. These areas are taught through a combination of usually informal lectures and seminars. Students are expected to undertake independent reading on the basis of bibliographies issued for each module, and prepare seminar papers and essays. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the further development of independent research.

5,6. These are taught through a combination of lectures and seminars. In Parts 1 and 2 the emphasis is on lectures in core modules supplemented by seminars; in Part 3 the emphasis is on seminars for all modules.

#### *Assessment*

Language work is assessed by oral and written examinations. The Italian University courses are assessed by oral examinations. Modules on Italian literature and culture are assessed by a combination of coursework and examination. Assessment of Politics modules is by written assignments; and examinations at the conclusion of each part of the programme. There is also an independent dissertation.

B Intellectual skills - able to:

1. analyse and interpret literary or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. think critically and independently.

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by

students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

*Assessment*

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

**Skills and other attributes**

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

1. analyse and interpret literary or cinematic works in their cultural contexts;
2. apply literary and historical concepts;
3. conduct lucid arguments in support of a case, using evidence appropriately;
4. think critically and independently.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

These skills are developed throughout the programme. Classes in literary, historical, cinematic and other cultural modules involve analysis and discussion, often based on papers presented by students; and set essays involve analysis and debate on intellectual problems. Awareness of new approaches is encouraged as options are often linked to teachers' research interests. Individual feedback is provided on content and organisation of essays. Independent thinking is developed especially through the dissertation module for which initial preparation and regular support are provided.

*Assessment*

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

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

1. speak, write, read and understand Italian at a high or near-native level of proficiency;
2. seek out and select information from published and Internet sources and use it critically;
3. make clearly-constructed written and oral presentations;
4. plan and carry out limited research projects.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Language classes are compulsory throughout the programme and there is regular unassessed coursework. The Year Abroad provides a range of experiences in the use of everyday and academic Italian. Primary source material and much secondary literature is in Italian. Bibliographies are provided for all modules, students are trained in library use, and many modules provide experience searching for information via the Internet. Students regularly give oral presentations and write essays and are given feedback on them. In the latter half of the programme the dissertation and, in some cases, extended essays provided experience of researching topics independently.

#### *Assessment*

Skill 1 is assessed at different stages by oral examinations and unseen written papers. Skills 2-4 are assessed by a combination of coursework, 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;
3. locate information and use information technology (especially word-processing and web-based resources);
4. participate effectively in group activities;
5. 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 and, together with the development of self-motivation and self-reliance, is greatly encouraged by the Year Abroad. Career management is taught through a distinct module linked with preparation for the Year Abroad.

#### *Assessment*

Skills 1-2 are assessed through coursework and examinations, including the examinations in Italy. The location of information forms part of the activity involved in the dissertation, but word-processing skills are not formally assessed. 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.**