

**BA French and International Relations**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5**

**UCAS code: RL12**

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/Apr/2015
Programme Director:	Prof Françoise Le Saux
Programme Advisor:	Prof Andrew Knapp Dr Emma Mayhew
Board of Studies:	Modern Languages and European Studies
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The French part of the programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or postgraduate studies. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in French, who have a sound critical understanding of French and francophone culture, history and politics, and who have acquired a range of skills to underpin their life-long development. 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.

**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, interpersonal skills, learning skills, self-management, numeracy, 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 programme which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with information about the number and availability of modules from which the student must make a selection ( the optional modules). Students must choose such optional modules as they wish, in consultation with their Personal Tutor if wished, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of credits in each module is shown after its title.

**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
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20	4

**Students must take at least 40 credits in French and 60 credits in Politics:**

**Either:**

Advanced French

Compulsory modules

FR1L3	Advanced French Language I <i>and either</i>	20	4
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature <i>or</i>	20	4
FR104	French Cinema	20	4

Optional Module				
	<i>either</i>			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	4	
	<i>or</i>			
FR104	French Cinema	20	4	

**Or:**

Intermediate French  
Compulsory modules

FR1L2	Intermediate French Language	20	4	
	<i>and either</i>			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	4	
	<i>or</i>			
FR104	French Cinema	20	4	

Optional Module

	<i>and either</i>			
FR103	Contemporary France: History, Politics, Literature	20	4	
	<i>or</i>			
FR104	French Cinema	20	4	

On successful completion of Part 1 Intermediate French, students will be eligible to proceed to any appropriate degree course involving French.

Optional module:

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4	
PO1FRE	Freedom	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
FR2L4	Advanced French Language II	20	5

Students will take modules amounting to 60 credits in French and 60 credits in Politics.

In French, students must choose optional modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies.

Optional module (choose one from)

PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5	
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics (numbers are capped at 40-selection based on Part 1 results)	20	5	
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5	
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5	
PO2MUN	Model United Nations (numbers capped at 18-students selected by Politics Dept)	20	5	
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5	
PO2PWS	Politics of the Welfare State	20	5	
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5	
PO2TMP	The Media and Politics	20	5	
PO2WPP	Work Project and Placement. Student has to do placement in the vacation before October of Part 2. Contact Vicki Wiles to register your interest v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk.*	20	5	

\*This module requires at least 120 hours (3+ weeks) of placement learning. Students are encouraged to do this in the summer preceding the module, so that they can write the academic project in relation to their placement learning during the Autumn and Spring terms.

University checks also have to be made in order for a placement to be approved, which takes time and approval needs to be given prior to the placement beginning if it is to be recognised as part of this module.

Students can choose to take a module outside their programme. One of the above optional modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department or with a work placement.

**PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.**

A 20 credit module in 20  
another Department 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>
ML3YSWA	University study/Work placement/Assistantship abroad	80	6
ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5

### Part 3 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FR3L6	Advanced French Language III	20	6

#### Optional modules

In French, students must choose two option modules, one of which must be a content module, to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies.

### International Relations (60 credits)

Students choose three 20-credit modules, at least one from each of the following lists A and B, or if choosing the optional dissertation (40 credits) then one extra module from either list A and B.

PO3LDS	International Relation dissertation	40	6
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#### List A

PO3CPP	Contemporary Power Politics	20	6
PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations (Autumn term only)	20	6
PO3IPE	International Political Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars (Autumn term only)	20	6
PO3UNI	The UN and International Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6

#### List B

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3CAP	Crime and Punishment: Theoretical Approaches	20	6
PO3CPE	Comparative Political Economy	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and IR of the Middle East	20	6
PO3NAT	Nationalism	20	6
PO3PAR	Parliamentary Studies (PO2CGP is a prerequisite for this module)	20	6
PO3TOL	Toleration: Theory and Practice (Spring term)	20	6
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3USF	United States Foreign and Defence Policy since 1950	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Relations	20	6

Students can choose to take a module outside their programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department or with a work placement.

**PLEASE NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.**

A 20 credit module in another Department

20 5

(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 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1 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 French and International Relations.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3 students must also have successfully completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French-speaking country, and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must normally satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in a French-speaking country.

In the final assessment, the weighting ratio between modules taken during Year 2, modules taken during the Year Abroad, and modules taken during Part 3 is 2: 3: 4. Thus modules taken during Year 2 count for 22.2% of the total credit weighting, modules taken during the Year Abroad count for 33.3% of the total credit weighting, and modules taken during Part 3 count for 44.4% of the total credit weighting.

### **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/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

In French, in Part 1, FR103 is taught by lecture to the entire year group accompanied by small-group teaching in seminars. FR104 is taught by lecture with integrated group and pair work. The structure of the content modules in Parts 2 allows for classes normally of no more than 25 students, and at Part 3 of no more than 15 students. These classes will normally be conducted through a combination of lecture and seminar discussions. All language teaching is based on work in groups of no more than 15 students except for the grammar component of FR1L3 which is taught by a mix of lecture to the entire year group and supplementary internet material for student self-access.

Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 modules are assessed by coursework, timed tests and/or formal examination. To be eligible for Honours, students must normally have obtained an overall average of 40%.

In International Relations, Part 1 and Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 3 optional modules are usually taught by seminars. All modules at Parts 2 and 3 other than the Study of Politics module are assessed by a mixture of course work (25%) and examination (75%). Modules at Part 1 are assessed at 40% coursework and 60% examination.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained 300 points from three 'A' level subjects or 320 from four, to include 2 full 'A' levels. Candidates must normally have 100 points (Grade B) from GCE 'A' level French (and a minimum of a Grade B) to take FR1L3 (Advanced French Language I) OR 50 points at 'A/S' French or an A\* at GCSE French to take FR1L2 (Intermediate French Language) in Part 1. Equivalent international qualifications will be accepted.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example two or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend that you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International candidates are advised to contact either the International Students office first, to discuss the suitability of their qualifications.

**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)

The Department of Modern Languages and European Studies has a resource room containing a wide range of essential and secondary texts, as well as daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines. DVDs are also available for loan from the departmental office. There is also a satellite TV in the Language Resource Centre enabling students to watch French programmes. The grammar course at Part 2 has all the PowerPoint information and supplementary grammar exercises available online in pdf format.

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. Feedback is given on essay work. There is also a departmental Library and a photocopier available for students' use.

### **Career learning**

#### **Career prospects**

Students graduating in this programme work in many different fields.

A degree in French and International Relations, like degrees in other Humanities subjects, leads to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, or be a prelude to the study of law and accountancy; and a large number of students find positions in the business world, including the travel industry, where their knowledge of French can be a distinct asset.

It can also lead to a career in education, in schools, colleges, extra-mural departments or the WEA, or to teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad; or it can be the basis for post-graduate courses in various areas, including translation.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad in a French-speaking country, mainly in France. Students either study at a university with which the University of Reading has an agreement under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and Erasmus University Charter or go on a placement which may be either a teaching placement or a work placement. Full details of potential destinations can be found on both the departmental and the Erasmus & Study Abroad websites. Within the Politics department and subject to degree programme restrictions, 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 expenditures 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 tutors.

### **Placement opportunities**

Students may choose to do a work placement during their Year Abroad.

The Part 2 International Relations 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 aspects 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 the placement.

### **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:**

In French

1. The French language
  2. French and francophone history, politics and/or literature and culture
  3. Key approaches and methods of historical and political and/or literary and cultural analysis
- In International Relations
4. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics;
  5. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations;
  6. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

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

1. Development of the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking French is by small group learning and regular assessed coursework. In Part 1, grammar is learnt in small groups with regular non-assessed coursework. The acquisition of French grammar is by PowerPoint lectures at Part 2, supplemented by access on the internet to the lectures and other self-access material. The Year Abroad in a francophone country offers immersion in French language and culture.
- 2,3. Acquisition of aspects 2 - 6 is by lecture and seminar or tutorial and/or interrupted lecture. Students are expected to undertake independent reading and research from sources indicated in module bibliographies (library, internet), in order to gain fuller understanding of the topic and its context.

##### *Assessment*

The assessment of knowledge is by a combination over the whole degree of unseen examination (1-3), coursework essays (2-3) and an oral examination (1). The assessment (5-8) is by coursework and written unseen examinations. Also presentations and discussion in supervisor-led seminars.

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

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

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

In French

1. critically apply literary and historical concepts
2. identify and solve problems
3. analyse and interpret
4. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference

In International Relations

5. think logically on Political matters;
6. analyse issues in political life;
7. understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics;
8. transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the disciplines to another.

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

In French

1. speak, write, read and understand French at a high level of proficiency;
2. apply key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary and/or historical analysis;
3. retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources;
4. plan and undertake different forms of research based on bibliographies and/or evidence.

In International Relations

5. critically discuss particular issues and arguments, and to engage in discussion of each other's responses as well as articulate their own;
6. utilise problem-solving skills;
7. manage their own learning self-critically, reflect upon it, and seek and make use of feedback.

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

1. structure ideas and communicate them effectively orally and in writing;
2. manage time and work to deadlines;
3. participate effectively in groups;
4. work independently;
5. find information and use information technology;
6. be responsible and self-reliant;
7. assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others.
8. Careers Management

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course involves discussion of the key issues, practice in applying key concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material and, where appropriate, individual feedback sessions on work produced.

#### *Assessment*

The variety of assessment methods employed places great emphasis on the learner's ability to demonstrate skills 1 - 8 through the production of coherent written and oral responses to the tasks set.

### **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. Comprehensive 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 French. The year abroad further promotes the active learning of French to a high level.

#### *Assessment*

Skill 1 is assessed by orals and unseen written examinations. There is regular unassessed coursework. Skills 2 - 8 are assessed through a pattern of coursework essays and unseen written examination.

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

All courses require regular written and oral work, enabling the student to develop understanding and the need for effective and coherent expression (skill 1). Skill 2 is learnt through the management of different deadlines for different courses within the programme. Skills 3 to 7 are developed from the outset in seminars or interrupted lecture. Skill 6 is a particular focus of the year abroad, its importance being taught during preparatory session in year 2. IT skills are encouraged and developed by being an integral part of much teaching from year 1 onwards. Careers Management Skill development is an integral part of Part 2 and the year abroad with students undertaking appropriate activities.

#### *Assessment*

Effective communication of ideas is a major criterion for the assessment of student's work, including organisation of material, problem-solving skills, justified reasoning and logical arguments and fluency - clear introduction, clear presentation of argument and full conclusions. It will be assessed by essay. Clearly notified penalties are imposed on

students not adhering to deadlines or who plagiarise. Students are encouraged to use word-processing, but this skill is not formally assessed. Students are encouraged to use technology-enhanced language learning, but this skill is not formally assessed.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**