

## Programme Specification

**BA Modern Languages**

**For students entering Part 1 in September 2023**

**UCAS Code: R900**

**UFMODLANG**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	N/A

### **Programme information and content**

The Programme aims to provide you with the ability to understand native-spoken language within an educated language environment and to communicate orally with fluency and accuracy, to read with understanding, critical judgement and evaluation a range of specialist and non-specialist cultural, factual and other texts and to write accurately in your chosen language(s) with an appropriate understanding of register and style. The programme emphasises student-centred learning, intensifying the learning experience through small group teaching and a range of opportunities to engage in projects and workshops. The culture studies modules are informed by staff research specialisms and designed to develop your intellectual skills and to critically apply literary and historical concepts, analyse and interpret a range of cultural texts, develop and demonstrate independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference.

This Programme is highly flexible and provides you with the option of choosing among studying one, two or three languages. You will be able to choose among a range of core languages, which will allow you to progress in your language competence and achieve level C1/C2 (proficient user) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), whilst also studying language-specific culture modules. When studying one or two core languages, you can opt to add one additional language from a wide range of languages on offer. You will be able to access this language at beginner level and reach level B1 (independent user) in the CEFR by the end of your degree course. You may also be able to cover cultural aspects relevant to the additional language through optional cross-languages modules. Your degree transcript will specify which languages you have studied and which levels you have achieved in each of them.

On occasion, the individual personal and academic circumstances of 3 year BA students taking certain Modern Languages pathways (e.g., two core languages) within this programme may require some minor modifications to the Part 2 and Part 3 module choices specified in this programme: the Department Director of Teaching and Learning, and then if necessary the appropriate Programme Director will consult with and advise such students on their module selection options.

Studying a modern language opens a variety of career paths. These include careers in business and marketing, publishing, international organisations, teaching and translation.

The degree will equip you with a range of transferable skills, including structuring ideas and communicating them effectively, participating effectively in groups and team work, working independently, retrieving, structuring and presenting information, time management, responsibility as well as adaptability and self-reliance.

Part 1:	Develops your practical language skills in your core language modules in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening). You will also have the opportunity to understand and apply key terms in the structural analysis of language. The culture studies modules provide you with a sound understanding of key issues and developments in language and relevant history and culture.
Part 2:	Further develops your practical language skills in your core language modules in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening), building on the work done in Part 1. The cultural studies modules provide you with an opportunity to encounter and critically engage with a range of material in the target language, such as films, literature, essays and historical documents, enhancing your ability to apply a range of analytical concepts as well as approaches to the critical analysis of this material.
Placement/Study abroad year:	The Placement or Study Abroad will give you the opportunity to apply and enhance your practical language skills in either a work or study environment, or a combination of both. You will further develop your adaptability and self-reliance as well as your sensitivity to cultural difference.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to build on your existing language skills. In your core language modules you will refine your use of more complicated structures as well as variations in register and style. The cultural studies modules will give you an opportunity to engage deeply and critically with topics based on staff research specialisms and to apply concepts and approaches for critical analysis to an increased amount of material in the target language.

### **Module information**

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### **Part 1 Modules:**

#### **For students taking one core language:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language, the module taken will be dependent upon the language level at entry.

Students must take at least two 20-credit culture modules in the chosen language.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures. Of these, 20 credits can be from modules available elsewhere in the university.

Alongside their core language, students can also opt to take one 20-credit module in an additional language.

**For students taking two core languages:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, the modules taken will be dependent upon the language levels at entry.

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures.

Alongside their two core languages, students can also opt to take one 20-credit module in an additional language.

*Students may replace 20 credits of optional modules with modules available across the University, with the permission of the Programme Director.*

**For students taking three core languages:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, the modules taken will be dependent upon the language levels at entry.

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

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**Part 2 Modules:**

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**For students taking one core language:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language, the module taken will be dependent upon the language level studied at Part 1.

Students must take at least two 20-credit culture modules in the chosen language.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures. Of these, 20 credits can be from modules available elsewhere in the university.

Alongside their core language, students can also opt to take one 20-credit module to continue the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1.

**For students taking two core languages:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, the modules taken will be dependent upon the language level studied at Part 1.

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures.

Alongside their two core languages, students can also opt to take one 20-credit module to continue the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1.

*Students may replace 20 credits of optional modules with modules available across the University, with the permission of the Programme Director.*

**For students taking three core languages:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, the modules taken will be dependent upon the language levels at entry.

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

**Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ML2YL5	Year Abroad Language	40	5
ML2YS1	Semester 1 Study or Work Placement Abroad	40	5
ML2YS2	Semester 2 Study or Work Placement Abroad	40	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

**For students taking one core language:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language, to reach level C1/C2 of the CEFR.

Students must take at least two 20-credit culture modules in the chosen language.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures. Of these, 20 credits can be from modules available elsewhere in the university.

Alongside their core language, students can also opt to take one 20-credit module to complete the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1, to reach level B1 in the CEFR.

**For students taking two core languages:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, to reach level C1/C2 of the CEFR.

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Languages and Cultures. Alongside their two core languages, students can also opt to take one 20-credit module to complete the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1, to reach level B1 in the CEFR.

*Students may replace 20 credits of optional modules with modules available across the University, with the permission of the Programme Director.*

**For students taking three core languages:**

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, to reach level C1/C2 of the CEFR.

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

**Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £100-£150 a year. The core textbook(s), which most students normally purchase, cost(s) £25 new, and there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page. Costs will be, on average, £50 per year.

For students studying on a year abroad, a discounted fee of 15% of the normal Tuition Fee is payable to the University for the year abroad, as detailed in the Fees Policy. No Tuition Fee is paid to the host institution abroad for which there is a valid exchange agreement in place.

**Year Abroad:** You may incur additional costs, in addition to those which you would normally expect to pay at the University, during your year abroad, in accordance with clause 6.4 of the Terms and Conditions for Undergraduate Students. These additional costs will depend on your host institution and destination, but may include the purchase of a visa, and mandatory medical insurance. Students will be briefed on these issues prior to them submitting the form detailing the institutions to which they would like to be allocated, and general information on additional costs is discussed in the Year Abroad preparatory meetings. *Further indicative details on costs and funding are available on the UoR Erasmus & Study Abroad webpages and the webpages of the host institution.*

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

### **Placement opportunities**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught through seminars, language classes and lectures. Some modules involve a combination of lectures and seminars.

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.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical

set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 216 hours, Part 2 - 216 hours, Part 3 - 216 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

### **Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

#### **Part 1**

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in the 20-credit core language module and one 20-credit language-specific culture module, at Part 1.

For students wishing to continue studying more than one core language the following will apply:

For students taking two core languages:

- (iii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in the two 20-credit core language modules and in a 20-credit core language culture module for each of the core languages studied, at Part 1.

For students taking three core languages:

- (iii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in the three 20-credit core language modules and in a 20-credit language-specific culture module for each of the core languages studied, at Part 1.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

*Students wishing to transfer into the programme at Part 2 must have taken a minimum of 40 credits of modules at level 4 from the Department of Languages and Cultures, comprising one language module and one language-specific culture module. For students who wish to transfer into BA Modern Languages at Part 2 and study one core language only there is no requirement to have taken 80 credits of modules at Part 1 from the Department of Languages and Cultures.*

## Part 2

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

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the Year Abroad:

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

## Classification

### Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

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

Four-year programmes with a year abroad (MFL)

Part 2: one-third

Year abroad: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds



**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BA Modern Languages for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

15 August 2024

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