

Programme Specification

BA Modern Languages and English Language
For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: RQ93
UFMLXENLGSY

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
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Languages, Cultures and Societies/Linguistics

Programme information and content

Our BA Modern Languages and English Language allows you to develop a global understanding and perspective of how language works; an understanding of different cultures; and an awareness of how language impacts social issues and culture.

In **Modern Languages**, you will develop a high level of proficiency in your core language alongside deepening your knowledge of related cultures and societies. You can start the study of your core language at beginner, intermediate or advanced level (post-A level or equivalent). This programme will allow you to achieve level C1 (or above) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Your degree transcript will specify which language you have studied and which level you have achieved. Your language study is accompanied by the study of culture modules, which are informed by staff research specialisms and allow you to analyse and interpret a range of cultural material; understand and critically apply key concepts; and develop and demonstrate independence of thought and sensitivity to cultural difference. Interactive, student-centred learning is at the heart of our teaching.

Our teaching in **English Language** places a strong emphasis on applying theory to real-life situations, and on transferable skills such as problem-solving, team-working, and data-analysis. You will learn about how to research issues in the social sciences and how to conduct fieldwork. You will enhance your knowledge of grammar and phonetics as well as learning about how language is used in different social settings, how language is acquired by children and adults, and how our uses of English are being re-shaped by the media.

This programme will prepare you for a wide range of careers, including publishing, international organisations and charities, teaching and translation, marketing, the public sector and the media. You will enter the job market with important skills such as

understanding and evaluating evidence, the effective structuring and communication of ideas, and intercultural competence.	
Part 1:	In Part 1 we develop essential skills for the study of English Language; explore key issues and developments in language, history and culture relevant to your core language; and introduce key disciplinary debates. You will also develop your practical language skills in your core language in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening) and apply key terms in the structural analysis of language.
Part 2:	In Part 2 you will build your skills in the grammar, phonology and sociolinguistics of English Language. You will develop greater breadth and depth of understanding by studying texts and other cultural works related to your core language from different historical periods and from different perspectives. You will further expand your practical language skills in your core language module, building on the work done in Part 1.
Placement/Study abroad year:	The Year 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:	Our final year allows you to specialise further; these modules also enable you to contribute to debates that shape our subjects by choosing from a range of modules built around the research specialisms of our staff. Part 3 develops your existing skills in your core language, refining your use of more complicated structures as well as variation in register and style.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Modern Languages and English Language	
During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:	
	Learning outcomes
1	Identify the structures, registers and varieties of the target language
2	Use the target language for purposes of understanding, expression and communication, achieving C1 level proficiency (or above) in the CEFR
3	Interpret key aspects of the history, literature, culture and societies of the areas where the target language is used
4	Analyse sources in the target language
5	Explain the principles of phonological contrast, the organisation of the sound system of English, and the principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse

6	Examine the main areas of applied linguistic enquiry, the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making, and a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied
7	Critically assess a) theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts, b) contrasting arguments and claims, and c) primary and secondary applied linguistic sources, in addition to challenging received conclusions.
8	Apply knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate and develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues.
9	Construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, using supporting evidence appropriately
10	Find, select and evaluate information from a variety of scholarly sources
11	Define complex problems and identify appropriate strategies to solve them
12	Demonstrate intercultural awareness, understanding and competence

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

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:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
LS1ELS	English Language and Society	20	4
LS1SG	Sounds, Grammar and Meaning	20	4

In English Language

You must take 20 credits of optional modules available in the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics.

In Modern Languages

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 one 20-credit culture module in the chosen language.

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

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LS2EGP	English Grammar and Phonology	20	5
LS2SLG	Sociolinguistics	20	5
ML2PYA	Preparing for the Year Abroad Part 2	0	5

The module ML2PYA Preparing for the Year Abroad Part 2 is compulsory for all students on the 4 year programme with a Year Abroad.

In English Language

Students must take 20 credits of optional modules from the Department of English Language

In Modern Languages

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

Students must select at least 20 credits of optional culture modules in the chosen language.

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

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:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LS3LPC	Language in Professional Communication	20	6

In English Language

Students must select optional modules totalling 40 credits from those available from within the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics.

In Modern Languages

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language to reach C1 level (or above) in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Students must take at least one 20-credit culture module in the chosen language.

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

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

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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through a mix of seminars, language classes and lectures. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

Across your four years of study, you may be assessed by a combination of written examinations or tests, coursework and oral examinations. You will also be asked to do assessed presentations, learning journals and/or undertake research projects. Detailed guidance will be given for assessment methods that are unfamiliar. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

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

- (iv) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in their 20-credit core language module.

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 on Joint Honours programmes who achieve the University threshold standard for progression at Part 1 may transfer to a Single Honours degree in one of their joint subject areas if they have achieved at least 40% in 40 or more credits (i.e. 2 x 20 credit modules) of modules in the programme they wish to transfer. In addition, students must also have met any programme specific requirements on the Single Honours programme to which they may wish to transfer. Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; 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

(iv) 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

Four year programmes with a year abroad (MFL)

Part 2: one-third

Year abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/cqsd/-/media/project/functions/cqsd/documents/qap/17-awards-bachelors-degrees-withannex-22-23-entrants-onwards.pdf?la=en&hash=2F9B8E53B57FF100297F9DD810C64BFE>

Additional costs of the programme

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

In Modern Languages we recommend that you budget between £50 and 370 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.

In English Language: you will need to budget approximately £60 for core textbooks.

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. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

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 and English Language for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

7 April 2025

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