

Programme Specification

BA Modern Languages and International Relations

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: R9L2

UFMLXIRSY

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/Politics and International Relations

Programme information and content

Studying Modern Languages and International Relations will allow you to develop a high level of proficiency in your core language of choice alongside deepening your knowledge of its related culture(s) and society(-ies), as well as provide you with the tools to understand and assess how global political processes shape our lives.

In **Modern Languages**, you can start the study of your core language at beginner, intermediate or advanced level (post-A level or equivalent), and achieve, by the end of this programme, 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 will be accompanied throughout your course 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 and student-centred learning is at the heart of our teaching.

In **International Relations** you will study the dynamics of international politics, exploring the major threats to global order and the institutions that seek to address these challenges. Throughout the programme you will connect the academic study of international relations to contemporary issues, such as climate change and war. You will learn to think critically and independently about a wide range of political ideas, organisations, and events: from the role of NATO, to terrorism and nuclear weapons. Through discussion and debate, you will deepen your understanding of international politics and gain an appreciation of the complex and contested nature of global political problems. As you move through the programme you will become an increasingly independent learner, acquiring the tools you need to analyse how global society is and should be organised.

The Modern Languages and International Relations programme will equip you with a extensive set of transferable skills. You will learn to interpret data and evidence from

diverse sources, broaden your intercultural competence, develop persuasive arguments, structure ideas and communicate them effectively. The knowledge and skills you gain will prepare you for careers within the commercial and charitable sectors, as well as roles in international organisations, government and the civil service, teaching and translating.

Part 1:	<p>At Part 1, in Modern Languages you will develop your practical language skills in your core language modules in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening) and apply key terms in the structural analysis of language. The culture modules will provide you with a sound understanding of key issues and developments in language and relevant history and culture.</p> <p>Your International Relations modules will enable you to study central concepts and theories in international relations. You will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge to major global issues, such as climate change and war.</p>
Part 2:	<p>In Modern Languages Part 2 further develops your practical language skills in your core language module, building on the work done in Part 1. The culture modules provide you with an opportunity to encounter and engage with a range of material in the target language. This will enhance your ability to apply a variety of concepts and approaches to the critical analysis of this material.</p> <p>In International Relations you will build on the foundations established at Part 1, extending and deepening your understanding of global order. You will receive skills-based training to enable you to evaluate existing research in international relations, and to conduct original research. You will also have the opportunity to select a specialist optional module offered by the Politics and International Relations Department.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	<p>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.</p>
Part 3:	<p>Our final year allows you to specialise further. Part 3 modules will enable you to contribute to debates that shape the cultures and societies related to your core language as well as deepen and apply your knowledge in the field of international relations. You will be able to choose from a range of modules built around the research specialisms of our staff. You will also develop your existing skills in your core language, refining your use of more complicated structures as well as variation in register and style. You will have the option to complete an independent research project in International Relations working under the guidance of a dedicated individual supervisor.</p>

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Modern Languages and International Relations

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	Apply relevant disciplinary concepts and methods for the analysis of cultural materials and social/cultural issues
5	Analyse sources in the target language
6	Describe and analyse global political processes and institutions
7	Think critically and independently about historical and contemporary challenges in international relations and identify potential solutions
8	Understand and apply qualitative and quantitative data relating to international politics
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
PO1IRE	International Relations	20	4

PO1PCC	Politics of Climate Change	20	4
PO1WAR	War and Warfare	20	4

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

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ML2PYA	Preparing for the Year Abroad Part 2	0	5
PO2GLO	Global Order	20	5
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	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 International Relations

You will select one additional 20-credit optional module offered by the Politics and International Relations Department.

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.

Your remaining 20 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:

In International Relations

Students must select 60 credits from the Department of Politics and International Relations.

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 modules in the chosen language.

Your remaining 20 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:

In Modern Languages your learning experience will involve a mix of language classes, lectures, asynchronous recorded content and seminar discussion, as well as workshops and tutorials. Some modules may include group work.

In International Relations, you will be taught primarily through a combination of lectures and seminars. Small-group teaching is central to each stage of the programme, and all modules will include some seminar sessions in which you develop your knowledge through discussion and group exercises. At Part 1, this small-group teaching is supported by larger lectures. Lectures will introduce you to a topic and provide a framework to enable you to engage successfully with seminar activities. At Parts 2 and 3, there is less reliance on large lectures, with modules typically including more and longer seminars. Students are also introduced to other forms of teaching such as PC labs, simulation exercises and practical activities.

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 will be assessed by coursework essays, written examinations/tests and oral examinations, but you will also be asked to do assessed presentations, 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 weighted 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. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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 are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and

- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

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. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

For textbooks and similar resources:

In Modern Languages: we recommend that you budget between £50 to £75 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 International Relations: For some modules, we will recommend that you purchase a copy of the textbook, and there may be other books/resources which it would be convenient for you to buy. We recommend that you budget £300 per year for purchasing books. Some optional modules may involve additional costs for field trips or travel to work placements. You will be advised of these costs before you enrol on the module.

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.

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 2025.

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 International Relations for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27

4 July 2025

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