

Programme Specification

BA Modern Languages (3 years)

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: R901

UFMODLANG3

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	3 years
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Languages, Cultures and Societies

Programme information and content

Our BA Modern Languages (3 years) enables you to develop a high level of proficiency in your core language(s) alongside deepening your knowledge of related cultures and societies. The culture modules are informed by staff research specialisms and will 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. Our teaching places an emphasis on interactive, student-centred learning.

This programme does not require you to spend a year abroad, but you will engage in 8 additional weeks of work and/or study (either abroad or in a language-rich environment in the UK) before the start of your final year to allow you to improve both your language skills and intercultural awareness.

The programme is highly flexible and provides you with the option of choosing among studying one, two or three languages. You will choose among a range of core languages. The study of a core language will allow 3-year students to be working towards or operating at C1 (or above) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) by the end of the degree. When enrolling at Part 1, you will start the study of your core language(s) at intermediate level or above (see below for details of how you can add beginner language study alongside your core language[s]). You will also be taking language-specific culture modules relevant to the core language(s) you will have chosen.

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 also have the option of studying a core language as an additional language, through an intensive pathway and achieve a higher level by the end of your degree, i.e. B1/B2 of the CEFR. You may also be able to cover cultural aspects relevant to the additional language through optional cross-cultural modules. Your degree transcript will specify which languages you have studied and which levels you have achieved in each of them.

Studying a modern language opens a wide variety of career paths. These include careers in business and marketing, publishing and media, international organisations and charities, teaching and translation. The degree will equip you with a range of transferable skills, including understanding and evaluating evidence, structuring ideas and communicating them effectively, and intercultural competence.	
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 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 culture 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.
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 culture 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.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Modern Languages (3 years)

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(s)
2	Use the target language(s) for purposes of understanding, expression and communication, working towards or operating at C1 (or above) in the CEFR in at least one language
3	Interpret key aspects of the history, literature, culture and societies of the areas where the target language(s) is/are used
4	Apply relevant disciplinary concepts and methods for the analysis of cultural materials and social/cultural issues
5	Analyse and interpret cultural works in their specific contexts
6	Analyse sources in the target language(s)

7	Construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, using supporting evidence appropriately
8	Find, select and evaluate information from a variety of scholarly sources
9	Define complex problems and identify appropriate strategies to solve them
10	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:

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.

Alongside their core language, students can also opt to (a) take one 20-credit module in an additional language (EITHER standard pathway to reach B1 in the CEFR by the end of the degree programme OR intensive pathway to reach B1/B2 in the CEFR by the end of the degree programme) or (b) take two 20-credit modules in two additional languages, one through a standard pathway to reach level B1/B2 in the CEFR, AND one through an intensive pathway to reach B1/B2 in the CEFR by the end of the degree programme).

Students taking an intensive-pathway additional language will also normally take a culture module in that language, unless otherwise authorised by the programme director.

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 from an approved list.

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 from an approved list.

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 one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

Part 2 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 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 from an approved list.

Alongside their core language, students can also opt to take (a) one 20-credit module to continue the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1 (EITHER standard pathway

OR intensive pathway) or (b) two 20-credit modules to continue the study of the additional languages chosen at Part 1 (standard pathway module + intensive pathway module).

Students taking an intensive-pathway additional language will also normally take a culture module in that language, unless otherwise authorised by the programme director.

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 from an approved list.

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 one 20-credit culture module in each of the chosen languages.

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 working towards or operating at C1 (or above) 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 from an approved list.

Alongside their core language, students can also opt to take (a) one 20-credit module to complete the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1 (EITHER standard pathway, to achieve B1 in the CEFR OR intensive pathway to achieve level B1/B2 in the CEFR) or (b) two 20-credit modules to complete the study of the additional languages chosen at Part 1 (one standard pathway module to achieve B1 in the CEFR + one intensive pathway module to achieve B1/B2 in the CEFR).

Students taking an intensive-pathway additional language will also normally take a culture module in that language, unless otherwise authorised by the programme director.

For students taking two core languages:

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, to reach working towards or operating at C1 (or above) 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.

Students may replace 20 credits of optional modules with modules available from an approved list.

For students taking three core languages:

Students must take one 20-credit module in each of the chosen languages, to reach working towards or operating at C1 (or above) of the CEFR.

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

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.

Before the start of your final year, you will be required to spend a total of 8 weeks of further study or work either abroad or in the UK for one or more of your core languages. If studying 2 or 3 core languages, you should agree with the programme director how you will divide this time between your languages. The responsibility to find suitable study or work opportunities lies with the student, but the department will provide you with support and guidance throughout this process.

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

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations or tests, coursework and oral examinations. 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

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

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

For students continuing with two core languages:

(iii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in the two 20-credit core language modules.

For students continuing with three core languages:

(iii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in the three 20-credit core language modules.

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.

Students who have taken two or three core languages at Part 1 but wish to continue with only one core language from Part 2 may do so even if they have only taken one language module and one language-specific culture module in that language at Part 1.

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.

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

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

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

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) approximately £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.

Further study or work abroad or in the UK: For the 8 weeks of additional work and/or study you are required to complete for this programme you may incur additional costs to cover any fees (if relevant), and any other related expenses. If going abroad, the additional cost will depend on the kind of course you enrol on (if relevant), and your destination. It also may include the purchase of a visa, and mandatory medical insurance. General information and guidance on additional costs will be available to students from the UoR Erasmus & Study Abroad webpages and from the department. There is generally no funding available for study or work abroad on this programme, but the department will alert students should any funding opportunities arise.

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 (3 years) for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27
4 July 2025

© The University of Reading 2025