

BA German with Japanese

UCAS Code R2T4

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):

The University of Reading
The University of Reading
Modern Languages

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
For students entering Part 1 in 2002
Programme Director: Miss J A Hunter
Programme Advisors: Ms A Furukawa
Board of Studies: German and Japanese Studies
Accreditation: n/a

Length of programme: 4 years
Date of Profile: July 2002

Summary of programme aims

The programme seeks to develop students' intellectual potential, enabling them to embark on a wide range of careers or progress to postgraduate study, while also promoting a lifelong interest in learning. Its multi-disciplinary approach aims to produce graduates who are competent communicators in German, who are well-informed about German culture, history and current affairs, and who have acquired skills that will be of use outside the confines of the discipline. The Japanese Language programme aims to enable students to achieve well-balanced understanding of both spoken and written Japanese as well as Japanese culture and society.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem-solving, team working, information technology (word-processing and use of web-based material), career management.

Students of German and Japanese will develop their abilities to deal with intellectual problems effectively by locating information, assessing it critically, communicating independent points of view logically and clearly (both orally and in writing), and substantiating opinions with evidence; the year abroad provides particularly good opportunities for developing increased (inter-)cultural awareness and self-reliance.

Programme content

The profile which follows lists modules which must be taken ('compulsory') and those modules from which students must make a selection ('optional modules'). Each part, and also the Year Abroad, comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules in this programme and/or from modules elsewhere in the University; in Part 3 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

In German Part 1 includes the study of both language and an introduction to aspects of modern German culture and history. In Part 2 students continue with the study of the German language, and take a compulsory module on German history and culture from 1945 to the present; a second broadly-based module on culture and literature allows a wide range of

choice. During the Year Abroad, the experience of living in Germany or Austria enables students to make great strides in their linguistic skills and further broaden their knowledge of German culture, and they engage in independent study for their dissertation. In Part 3 students must take one module of further language study and are free to pursue their interests within German Studies by selecting from a range of specialised cultural options.

The Japanese language part of the programme aims to enable students to communicate comfortably in Japanese both orally and in writing. Students are also expected to achieve a good understanding of Japanese culture and society, which should be reflected in their communication skills.

Part 1 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*

In addition to the compulsory modules listed below, students must choose additional modules from this and/or other programmes to make 120 Part 1 credits in total.

Either (for students entering with A-level German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

GM1AGL	<i>Advanced German Language</i>	20	C
GM1AGC	<i>Advanced German History and Culture</i>	20	C
JA1BJ1	<i>Beginners' Japanese I</i>	40	C

Optional module

GM1VAG	<i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
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Or (for students entering with GCSE German or equivalent)

Compulsory modules

GM1IGL	<i>Intermediate German Language</i>	20	C
GM1IGC	<i>Intermediate German History and Culture</i>	20	C
JA1BJ1	<i>Beginners' Japanese I</i>	40	C

Optional module

GM1VAG	<i>The Visual Arts in Germany</i>	20	C
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Part 2 (three terms) *Credits* *Level*
(80 credits in German and 40 credits in Japanese)

Compulsory modules

GM2L2	<i>German Language II</i>	20	I
GM2DU	<i>Divisions and Unities</i>	20	I
JA2BJ2	<i>Beginners' Japanese II</i>	40	I

Two of

GM2LB	<i>German for Business Purposes</i>	20	I
GM2RRR	<i>Reality, Reason and Revolution</i>	20	I
GM2OP1	<i>German Option Module 1</i>	20	I
GM2OP2	<i>German Option Module 2</i>	20	I

(German Option Modules 1 and 2 (if taken) will each be made up of two short options chosen from a list to be provided.)

Year Abroad (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
GM3DS	<i>German Dissertation</i>	40	H
GM3O20	<i>Oral and Aural German (half year)</i>	20	H
GM2S20	<i>German Scheine (half year)</i>	20	I
JA2PAL	<i>Study in Japan</i>	20	I

A further 20 credits, which do not contribute to final assessment, are awarded for study experience in Japan.

Of the 120 credits in the Year abroad, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills (level I)

Part 3 (three terms)		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>(At least 60 credits in German and 40 credits in Japanese)</i>			

<i>Compulsory modules</i>			
GM3GPT	<i>Translation into German and English</i>	20	H
JA3GR	<i>Japanese Grammar and Reading</i>	20	H
JA3OW	<i>Japanese Oral and Writing</i>	20	H

<i>One of</i>			
GM3GSC	<i>German Structure and Composition</i>	20	H
GM4GMB	<i>German for Business and Management</i>	20	H

<i>Two to be chosen from a list of available options, currently including</i>			
GM3GAR	<i>Germany in the Age of Revolution</i>	20	H
GM3V19	<i>Nineteenth-Century Vienna</i>	20	H
GM3WR	<i>Culture and Society of the Weimar Republic</i>	20	H
GM3GDR	<i>The GDR: Politics, Society and Culture</i>	20	H
GM3BU	<i>Beyond Unification: German Novels of the 90s</i>	20	H
GM3PL	<i>German Departmental Play</i>	20	I

(Not all optional modules will be available in any one year; all optional modules, including possible additions to the above list, are offered subject to availability of staff and will require a minimum number of participants)

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must have obtained a mark of 40% in their compulsory modules in German and Japanese and must have achieved an average of 40% in the Part 1 examination as a whole and have no module mark under 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad students must obtain a mark of 40% in *German Language II* and *Divisions and Unities*, and in *Beginners' Japanese II*, and must obtain an

overall average of 40% and have no module mark under 30%, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To proceed from the Year Abroad to Part 3, students must satisfy the examiners that they have completed an approved programme of study or employment in Japan and in a German-speaking country and handed in the work and assignments required by the programme.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Language modules in German and Japanese are taught in small groups (taught in Japanese in Part 3); other modules typically involve a mixture of lectures and small-group seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination; the Year Abroad modules *Scheine* and *Study in Japan* will be assessed on the basis of certificates gained at the Japanese and at the German or Austrian university, and the German Oral/Aural module will be examined at the beginning of Part 3.

The conventions for assessment and classification are included in the Programme Handbooks, but it should be noted that Part 2 modules and Year Abroad I-level modules will count for 33% of final assessment, and Year abroad H-level modules and Part 3 modules will count for 67% of final assessment.

Admissions requirements

Either 260 pts from 3 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,
Or 280 pts from 4 subjects (including at least two full A-levels), plus GCSE German,
Or equivalent foreign qualifications that also demonstrate competence in German.

Applications from mature students and international students are welcomed; all such applicants are judged on their individual merits. Advice on the acceptability of your qualifications may be sought, where necessary, from the German departmental Admissions Tutor, who may be contacted via german@reading.ac.uk

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses 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. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. Guidance and welfare support is also provided by the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

In addition the Department of German Studies has a programme adviser for each part of the programme, and the departmental Course Handbooks issued to Part 1 and to degree course students provide extensive information on the programme, and on resources and study skills.

The German Seminar Library contains a range of reference works which can be used by students and offers a congenial study space. During Part 2 a series of discussions, talks and academic courses is provided to prepare students for the Year Abroad.

A number of books on a variety of Japan-related topics are available in the Library and APILL provides a range of tapes and videos for students' self-study.

Career prospects

Students graduating in German and Japanese work in many different fields. A degree involving languages, like degrees in other arts subjects, can lead to careers in such areas as administration, management or marketing, computing, or be a prelude to study in law or accountancy; and increasing numbers of students find positions in the world of business and commerce, where their knowledge of German and Japanese can be an important asset. Students graduating in Japanese will be equipped to develop their knowledge of the language in order to enhance their prospects of an international career with a Japanese dimension. Some graduates also use their linguistic skills in teaching, including teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad, or in translating; others proceed to postgraduate courses in various areas.

Opportunities for study abroad

Subject to arrangements made in exceptional cases only, all students on this programme spend their third year abroad, half in Germany or Austria, half in Japan. The University of Reading has Socrates exchanges with the following universities: (in Germany) Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Regensburg, Potsdam, Trier, Tübingen, and (in Austria) Graz, Linz, Vienna. In Japan, students will attend courses at one of three universities in Tokyo: Hosei, Jochi (Sophia) and Obirin.

Educational aims of the programme

The German programme aims to equip students with:

- a competence which comes as near as possible to that of an educated German person in the reception and production of standard (non-technical) spoken and written German;
- a sound body of knowledge within the field of German Studies that is suited to their interests;
- familiarity with the theories and methods of the various disciplines covered and the ability to develop their own expertise and develop and present their arguments in these areas.

The Japanese Language programme aims to enable students to achieve a high level of understanding of the language, culture and society that may be applied to their further studies and career.

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: 1. A wide range of German vocabulary	→	<i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i>
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<p>and idiom.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The fundamental aspects and concepts of German grammar and syntax (and important contrasts with English) 3. Core aspects of German history, society, literature and culture post-1900 4. A selection of specialist topics in German history, society, literature and culture post-1900 5. A selection of topics in German history, society, literature and culture pre-1900 6. Methods of analysing social and cultural issues 7. Methods of critical textual analysis 8. Both spoken and written Japanese 9. Japanese culture and society 	<p>Small-group teaching on language and options (1-2, 4-7) Formal lectures on core aspects of non-language curriculum (3) Groupwork in classes, independent work for essays and projects (4-7) Feedback on language work and essay assignments (1-7) Dissertation (any of 1-7 depending on chosen topic) Study or other residence abroad (1-2; also 3) 8 is achieved through all the language-related modules in which both spoken and written Japanese are taught. 9 is achieved through the Japanese Culture component in Part 1 and through the Period Abroad. In Part 2 and Part 3, this is achieved through the language components, in which cultural aspects are emphasised.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Combination of unseen and open-paper examinations and regular assessed work (1-7) Oral examination (1-2) Dissertation (6-7, also 4-5) 8 is assessed by coursework, oral tests and written examinations. 9 is assessed by coursework (an essay) in Part 1. In Part 2 and Part 3, this element is assessed indirectly in the assessment of the language component</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read a variety of texts closely and critically 2. Identify and analyse problems and issues 3. Understand and evaluate different cultural traditions and environments 4. Evaluate alternative critical views 5. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one discipline within the subject to another 6. Analyse linguistic performance and phenomena 7. Plan and conduct an extended 	<p style="text-align: center;">→</p> <p><i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i> Intellectual skills are acquired and developed through (guided) independent reading (1), lectures and seminars (3-5), essay assignments and feedback (1-5), language classes (6), and the completion of the dissertation (7).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Skills 1-4 are assessed in most non-language components of the programme, 5 specifically in certain specialised options and indirectly in most parts of the</p>
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analysis of a chosen topic

programme, 6 in language teaching, 7 by means of the dissertation.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Communicate in German at high levels of proficiency in speech and writing
2. Understand a variety of types of textual material in German
3. Present arguments orally and in writing in a coherent and structured way
4. Locate, sift and select material from a variety of sources
5. Report in writing on the results of an extended piece of independent work
6. communicate comfortably both orally and in writing in a setting that involves Japanese culture.
7. Organise and negotiate a period of residence abroad

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Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-2 are taught and encouraged through language classes and the requirement for independent reading; skills 3 and also 4 through regular seminars and essay assignments and feedback; skills 4 and 5 in (the preparation for) the dissertation; 6 is taught through all the modules, in which both spoken and written Japanese are taught and in which cultural aspects are emphasised.; skill 7 is achieved through the year abroad and the extensive preparation provided in Part 2 of the programme.

Assessment

1-4 are assessed in examinations and in regular coursework; 4 and 5 are assessed through the dissertation; 6 is assessed by coursework, oral tests and written examinations; 7 is a progression requirement, although only the academic components are assessed.

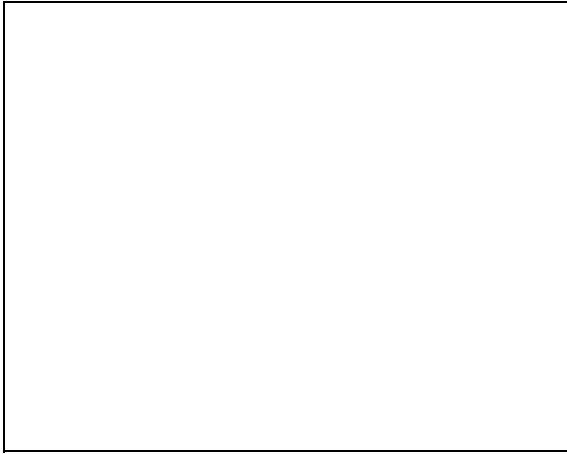
D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. formulate and present arguments clearly and coherently
2. give oral presentations
3. use IT (especially word-processing and web-based resources)
4. demonstrate team-working and interpersonal skills
5. manage time and work to deadlines
6. work independently and be self-reliant
7. take account of different linguistic and cultural environments
8. plan and evaluate career possibilities

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Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Skills 1-4 are emphasised throughout the programme: oral presentations and teamwork are standard features of language classes and all assessed work must be word-processed. Time-management skills (5) are enhanced through regular submission of language exercises and strict deadlines for assessed work. Independent work and self-reliance (6) are particularly important in the year abroad, including the dissertation, and the year abroad makes a vital contribution to 7. Career management (8) is taught in an element incorporated in the preparation for and supervision of the year abroad.



Assessment

Skills 1 and 2 are assessed throughout the programme, 6 in the dissertation, and 8 in the careers management module. Skills 3 and 4 are not usually directly assessed (skill 4 in certain modules) but inform a student's work throughout the programme; similarly skill 7 in a student's final year. A student's lack of skill 5 results in missed deadlines and loss of marks.

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 expect 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 module and programme handbooks.