

Programme Specification

BA Modern Languages (3 years)

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: ML02 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

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.

The BA Modern Languages (3 years) does not require you to spend a year abroad. Opportunities for short periods of study or work, either abroad or in the UK, which will allow you to improve both your language and intercultural awareness, will be embedded in the programme through module-bound academic placements. Further study or work abroad during vacation time will be required or recommended, depending on your choice of language combinations.

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. The study of a core language will allow you to achieve by the end of your degree course level C1 (proficient user) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), which is the minimum requirement as stipulated by the Languages, Cultures and Societies Subject Benchmark Statement (2015). 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 intensive pathway additional language through optional language-specific or cross-languages modules, where available.

Your degree transcript will specify which languages you have studied and which level you have achieved in each of them.

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 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 language modules in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening), building on the work done in Part 1. The cultural studies module 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 up 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 (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)

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.

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 elsewhere in the university.

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)

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.

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 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 (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)

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.

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 is set out in the Further Programme Information. 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.

Further study or work abroad **or in the UK**: 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.

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. 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.

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 core language 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 language-specific 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 (3 years) 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.

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:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

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 (3 years) for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

15 June 2022

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