

Programme Specification

BA Modern Languages

For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: R900

UFMODLANG

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

Programme information and content

Our BA Modern Languages 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 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, which will allow you to progress in your language competence and achieve level C1 (or above) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), whilst also studying language-specific culture modules. 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 may also be able to cover cultural aspects relevant to the additional language through optional cross-cultural modules. Only one core language may be taken at beginner level; a second language at beginner level may be taken as an additional language. Your degree transcript will specify which languages you have studied and which levels you have achieved in each of them.

On occasion, the individual personal and academic circumstances of 3 year BA students taking certain Modern Languages pathways (e.g., two core languages) within this programme may require some minor modifications to the Part 2 and Part 3 module choices specified in this programme: the Department Director of Teaching and Learning, and then if necessary the appropriate Programme Director will consult with and advise such students on their module selection options.

Studying a modern language opens a variety of career paths. These include careers in business and marketing, publishing, 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.
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:	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

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, achieving C1 level proficiency (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.

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 one 20-credit module in an additional language.

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 one 20-credit module to continue the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1.

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.

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:

For students taking one core language:

Students must take one 20-credit module in the chosen language, to reach level 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 one 20-credit module to complete the study of the additional language chosen at Part 1, to reach level B1 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 (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, to reach level B1 in the CEFR.

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 level 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.

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 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

- (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.

Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours 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, 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.

Students who have taken three core languages may drop one between Parts 2 and 3 if desired, or continue it as an additional language to reach at least B1 level in the CEFR.

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:

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.

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.

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 for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

15 August 2024

© The University of Reading 2024