

Programme Specification

BA Spanish and International Development

For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: LR09

UFSPXINTD

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/ Geography, Politics and IR, Anthropology, Economics.

Programme information and content

Our BA Spanish and International Development enables you to develop your understanding of complex global issues relating to international development while gaining a high level of proficiency in Spanish as well as deepening your knowledge of related cultures and societies.

In **Spanish** this programme 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 Spanish and Latin-American culture modules. You may also be able to cover aspects of European and world culture through optional cross-cultural modules offered in the Department of Languages and Cultures. 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.

In **International Development** this part of the programme aims to provide you with a degree-level understanding of the complex global dynamics affecting the planet's resources, climate, food systems, and the politics of development and inequality. Through the course of the degree, students are exposed to critical thinking in international development, capturing key ideas in international development policy and practice, illustrated with rich use of case studies from around the world.

Part 1:	In Spanish Part 1 introduces you to the practical language skills in your Spanish language module in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, and 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 the history and culture of the Hispanic world.
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	<p>In International Development Part 1 ID modules introduce you to a broad range of themes within international development across global and local levels; you will learn about the politics of aid and the SDGs, climate and sustainability and introductory economics. You will also learn about the history of development and about alternative voices in this space.</p>
Part 2:	<p>In Spanish Part 2 further develops your practical language skills in your Spanish language module in all four areas (speaking, writing, reading, listening), building on the work done in Part 1. The cultural studies 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 variety of analytical concepts as well as approaches to the critical analysis of this material.</p> <p>In International Development you will have the opportunity to apply and expand on knowledge gained in Part 1 through consolidating understanding of core development theories, introducing research methods for international development that can later be applied to a research project, and permitting students to further specialise in subject areas dependent on their interests and career aspirations through an optional ID module.</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>In Spanish Part 3 gives you the opportunity to build up on your existing language skills, refining your use of more complicated structures as well as variation 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.</p> <p>In International Development you can choose from a range of optional modules, including those exploring role of power in development, the history of development and sustainability and climate or international politics. Alternatively, you could choose to undertake an individual research project on a chosen development topic through a dissertation plus an additional optional module.</p>

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Spanish and International Development

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	Analyse sources in the target language
4	Interpret key aspects of the history, literature, culture and societies of the areas where the target language is used
5	Describe and evaluate historical and contemporary processes of development over space and time
6	Describe and evaluate a range of established development theories and key concepts
7	Demonstrate an awareness of the inter-related character of social, economic, environmental and political processes in shaping international development
8	Demonstrate knowledge of key actors in development across local, national, international and multilateral levels of analysis and show knowledge of the causes and impacts of poverty at these levels of analysis. Demonstrate an awareness that development poses questions in both 'developed' and 'developing' nations
9	Understand the specific characteristics of development research, with a particular emphasis on ethical research and equitable partnerships. Demonstrate an ability to utilise both qualitative and quantitative approaches to data collection, and the ability to analyse both qualitative and quantitative data
10	Construct and communicate arguments clearly and effectively in speech and writing, using supporting evidence appropriately
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
AD1AVP	Alternative Voices: Changing Perspectives of International Development	20	4
AD1GLI	International Development: Global and Local Issues	20	4
SP1MSLA	The Making of Modern Spain and Latin America	20	4

In Spanish:

Students must also take one 20-credit module in Beginners', Intermediate or Advanced Spanish language.

Students will also need to select one 20-credit optional module from those available in the Department of Languages and Cultures.

Your remaining 20 credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development or from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD2AID	Approaches to International Development	20	5
AD2RES	Research Methods for BSc International Development	20	5

In International Development

Students must select 20 credits of optional modules from a list available from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development.

In Spanish

Students must take one 20-credit language module which will be dependent on the level studied at Part 1.

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules from a list provided by the Department of Languages and Cultures of which at least 20 credits will be made up of a culture module in Spanish.

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:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
SP3L6	Advanced Spanish Language III	20	6

In Spanish

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules from a list provided by the Department of Languages and Cultures of which at least 20 credits will be made up of a culture module in Spanish.

In International Development

Your 60 International Development credits will be made up of optional modules from a list provided by the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development. These modules will be drawn from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or a guided selection of topics such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select the 40-credit dissertation module.

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 seminars, language classes and lectures. Some modules involve a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work and/or supervised project 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, coursework (including class tests) 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

- (iv) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in SP1L1 OR SP1L2 OR SP1L3

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 on Joint Honours programmes who achieve the University threshold standard for progression at Part 1 may transfer to a Single Honours degree in one of their joint subject areas if they have achieved at least 40% in 40 or more credits (i.e. 2 x 20 credit modules) of modules in the programme they wish to transfer. In addition, students must also have met any programme specific requirements on the Single Honours programme to which they may wish to transfer. Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

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) achieve 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

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

In Spanish: 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.

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 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 Spanish and International Development for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26
10 July 2024

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