



## Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Programme title	BA (Hons) Language and Politics
Awarding Institution//Body	University of Bath
Teaching Institution	University of Bath
Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)	n/a
Subject Benchmark Statement* Subject Benchmark Statement:	Languages and Related Studies (2007) Area Studies (2008) Politics and International Relations (2007)
Date of Specification preparation/revision	
Applicable to cohorts	
Programme Approved by	

### Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

Programmes in A European Language and Politics offer students the opportunity to combine the study of a European language with the study of politics, and in particular the politics of the societies in which their chosen language is spoken, in a friendly and dynamic Department.

The languages offered to students with A2 or equivalent qualifications are French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Italian is also offered to beginners.

The programmes are fully integrated, both language and politics being taught in the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies. Our aim is to produce graduates who are proficient in a foreign language and in political analysis, who possess detailed knowledge and understanding of a particular society, but who also possess skills which they can apply to the study of other societies and which will serve them well in the workplace after they graduate. We believe that the study of the politics of particular societies should have a strong cultural dimension, and that command of the relevant language is essential to cultural understanding; we seek to link language and area studies closely. However, we also attach importance to other dimensions of, and approaches to, the study of politics. To ensure that students attain a high level of linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding, a Year Abroad is compulsory, but the programmes are designed to allow students to set their own priorities within a broad framework and permit some degree of specialisation to those who wish it.

Study of language is continuous throughout the programmes. In the first two years, students also take units in area studies, ie the culture and politics of the countries in which their target languages are spoken. At the same time they take core units in political theory (key concepts, ideologies, political ideas), political analysis (comparative politics, contemporary history) and international relations. The third year is spent abroad, on an approved study or work placement. In the final year, students take an option relating to their chosen country, further units in international relations, and write a politics dissertation. A feature of the programme is the free choice of one option each semester. Options available include other languages, further aspects of politics or area studies, and units taught in related disciplines in other Departments.

Teaching in these programmes draws upon the research expertise and scholarship of a highly-regarded group of academic staff, working closely with a dedicated and enthusiastic group of professional language teachers. Most of the academic staff involved speak foreign languages and have expertise in one or more cultures; they include specialists in History, Sociology, and Anthropology, as well as in Politics.

There are currently three core clusters of research within the Department. Many units draw directly upon staff research interests, particularly final-year options.

- Conflict, Security and International Order
- Governance, Citizenship and Policy
- Memory, History and Identity

The University of Bath is committed to high quality in teaching. Its programmes are characterised by a high practical content, relevant to the needs of employers, and a strong tradition of innovation. It is committed to the Europeanisation and internationalisation of its activities. Programmes in A European Language and Politics are designed to further these aims.

Units are worth 6 or 12 credits unless otherwise indicated. Students take four or five units each semester. The third year is spent abroad. Programmes involving Russian vary slightly in Years 1 and 2. Full details of units required or offered as options are listed in the relevant Programme Catalogue, which can be found at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/>.

All students at the University of Bath are entitled to take extra units to the value of 6 credits in any year, which do not count towards their degree classification. These include units in foreign languages, making it possible to keep up a third language or start a new one.

### Educational aims of the programme

The aim of programmes in A European Language and Politics is to produce graduates who can read, write and speak a European foreign language with proficiency; who understand political ideas, institutions and relationships and who have a critical appreciation of debates relating to key political concepts and processes; who have a particular understanding of the politics of the principal countries in which their chosen language is spoken; who are intellectually curious and think critically; who have skills in research, analysis, communication and argument; and who have experience of direct exposure to the culture they have studies.

Language skills and specialist knowledge of major European countries are an extremely important national resource in an interdependent world. Our graduates will have transferable skills which enable them to apply these special qualities in a wide variety of careers.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge &amp; Understanding:</li> </ul>	<p>Graduates of these programmes will possess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>linguistic knowledge:</b> a detailed grasp of the structures and registers of a European foreign language</li> <li>• <b>knowledge of politics as a discipline:</b> a broad conceptual understanding of politics, encompassing political theory, political analysis, contemporary history and international relations, which is sufficient to permit postgraduate training in politics if desired</li> <li>• <b>understanding of the scope of political analysis:</b> an appreciation of the relevance and applicability of political analysis to processes of politics and international relations</li> <li>• <b>regional knowledge:</b> a detailed understanding of the politics of the principal country or countries in which the relevant language is spoken</li> <li>• <b>cultural awareness:</b> an appreciation of diversity and of the function of language as a gateway to understanding another culture</li> </ul> <p>Linguistic knowledge is acquired through small group classes and private study, supported by computer-assisted language learning software and self-access facilities. Knowledge and understanding of politics as a discipline, and of the scope of political analysis, is acquired through core units in political theory and political analysis, including contemporary history and international relations. These units are taught through lectures and seminars, for some of which students prepare presentations, backed by independent study and research. Regional knowledge is acquired in the "area studies" and "national option" units which form part of the programme at every stage; these are taught through lectures and seminars, for which students prepare essays and presentations. Where appropriate, extensive use of foreign-language materials is made in these units and many are conducted in the target language, further advancing linguistic knowledge; cultural awareness underlies all teaching in these units.</p> <p>The Year Abroad provides total immersion in the language and culture studied, further encouraged by the opportunity either to study at a university centre or to undertake an independent research project. In the final year, students write a dissertation in politics under supervision (usually but not necessarily involving a country in which the student's specialist language is spoken)</p> <p>Linguistic knowledge is assessed by coursework and written and oral examinations. Regional knowledge and knowledge of politics as a discipline is assessed by a mixture of essays, seminar presentations and written examinations, together with the dissertation. Regional knowledge is also assessed by the Year Abroad assignment or ERASMUS marks. Some assignments will be in the target language, in which case linguistic knowledge is also assessed. Cultural awareness is not directly assessed but students will not be able to demonstrate proper linguistic or regional knowledge without it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intellectual Skills:</li> </ul>	<p>Graduates of these programmes will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>conduct a critical analysis of sources and problems</b>, identifying key issues and controversies</li> <li>• <b>think conceptually</b>, grasping abstract concepts, synthesizing them where appropriate, and applying them to the resolution of problems</li> <li>• <b>use language with precision</b> and in a creative manner</li> <li>• <b>exercise independent judgement</b> and construct a reasoned argument supported by evidence in support of conclusions reached</li> </ul> <p>These skills are developed throughout the programme, mainly in the politics and regional studies units, culminating in the final-year dissertation. The discussion of key issues and concepts and their application is central to lectures, seminars and private study assignments; linguistic concepts and use of language are of course also discussed in language classes. Students are encouraged to formulate their own conclusions and are given feedback to help them construct reasoned argument.</p> <p>Analytical skills, conceptual thinking, use of language and exercise of judgement are key criteria for assessment, as indicated on the cover sheet attached to all essays for feedback.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Practical Skills:</li> </ul>	<p>Graduates of these programmes will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>communicate effectively in the language they study</b> with native speakers in a variety of contexts</li> <li>• <b>translate</b> between the language they study and English</li> <li>• <b>plan, undertake and report research</b> of a non-quantitative character, making use of sources in the language they study and in English</li> <li>• <b>easily adapt to life in the country they study</b> if they wish or are required to move there</li> </ul> <p>These skills are developed throughout the programme, in units in language, politics and regional studies, and during the Year Abroad.</p> <p>Communication, translation and research skills are directly assessed in these units and during the Year Abroad, as described above. Adaptation is not formally assessed, but is an outcome inherent in a Year Abroad completed successfully.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transferable/Key Skills:</li> </ul>	<p>Graduates of these programmes will have skills as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>researchers and analysts</b> of non-quantitative data, able to locate information in a variety of media and to identify and solve problems; some will also have skills in quantitative data handling, depending upon the options chosen</li> <li>• <b>communicators</b> in speech and in writing, including in electronic media, able to present information clearly and argue a position effectively, and also to understand the positions of others</li> <li>• <b>workers</b>, able to manage their time, work independently to deadlines and to participate effectively in teams</li> <li>• <b>learners</b>, able to manage their own learning and adapt to new situations and demands</li> </ul> <p>These skills are developed throughout the programme. All units require written work to be produced to deadlines; most also require oral presentations. All units involve small-group teaching in which discussion and interaction is encouraged; all have a coursework element on which feedback is given. IT skills are largely developed through individual learning, supported by special courses where necessary. Learning skills are developed by being given special focus in the first year; through students regularly reviewing their progress with their personal tutor; and during the Year Abroad, in which the Log is an important tool.</p> <p>Effective research and analysis is an important criterion in assessment in all units, except those devoted purely to language learning. Effective communication is a central criterion in all units. Presentations by individuals or groups of students are assessed in many units. Learning skills and time management are not formally assessed but are essential to success.</p>
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#### Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

#### Progression Regulations and Awards

BA (Hons) A European Language and Politics:

French and Politics UHPL-AYB13, German and Politics UHPL-AYB12, Italian and Politics UHPL-AYB14, Italian (ab initio) and Politics UHPL-AYB16, Russian (ab initio) and Politics UHPL-AYB15, Spanish and Politics UHPL-AYB17

This programme is fully compliant with the University's New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations (NFAAR). The NFAAR describes the rules for progression from one stage of the programme to the next (including supplementary assessment, and the extent of failure that can be condoned) as well as for the award of degrees. Students taking the programme will be assessed according to these rules; further information about the NFAAR is available at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm>.

Information about Designated Essential Units (DEUs) and Designated Alternative Programmes (DAPs), and the definitions for parts and stages of programmes, are also available in the NFAAR (see Appendix 2: Definitions).

Year 1 (Stage 1) constitutes Part One of the programme. The all-year Written and Spoken Language unit is a Designated Essential Unit which must be passed if a student is to proceed.

Years 2 (Stage 2) and 3 (Stage 3) constitute Part Two of the programme. The all-year Written and Spoken Language unit in Year 2 is a Designated Essential Unit which must be passed if a student is to proceed. The Year Abroad in Year 3 constitutes an enhanced placement and does not replace a normal period of study at Bath. A student who is required to repeat Year 2 may not proceed to the Year Abroad before doing so.

Year 4 constitutes Part Three of the programme. The all-year Written and Spoken Language unit is a Designated Essential Unit which must be passed if a student is to graduate.

Year 1 does not contribute towards final degree marks. Year 2 contributes 24%, Year 3 (Year Abroad) 8%, Year 4 68%.

#### Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

#### Details of Study Abroad Requirements

The third year of the programme is spent abroad on an approved study or work placement. The programme allows considerable flexibility to students to set their own priorities. Students of French, for example, may go to Belgium or Québec, or to French overseas territories, as well as to mainland France; students of Spanish may go to Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America. They are also able to choose whether to study or undertake a work placement abroad, and are often able to combine the two.

The Year Abroad is an extremely important part of the programme, in which students make rapid progress in their languages, broaden their cultural understanding significantly, and develop important skills which will be useful in their future careers. Most students find it one of the most exciting and rewarding part of their studies – and indeed their whole lives.

To ensure that students get the most out of their Year Abroad, the Department provides preparation from the end of the first year. The Department has Year Abroad Officers for each language, an ERASMUS Officer in charge of student exchanges and a Work Placements Officer, who brief interested groups and counsel individual students. Students receive linguistic and practical preparation during their second year, culminating in a Year Abroad Information Day. Returning students write reports on their experiences for subsequent

generations to consult and are encouraged to make presentations at briefings. The Careers Advisory Service is also involved in the Information Day, to encourage students to maximize the skills development and career opportunities presented by the Year Abroad.

Many students choose to spend their Year Abroad as teachers of English, allowing them to develop valuable personal skills and to try out a profession chosen by a number of our graduates. The Department has an excellent record in getting students accepted onto competitive schemes run by the British Council and offers training in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language.

Some students seek work placements abroad, giving them experience of the culture of the workplace in their chosen country, as well as useful career-related skills. The Department has helped students win posts with a range of companies and organisations including the CBI in Brussels, BNP Paribas in France, Bosch in Germany, Ducatti in Italy. It is also possible to do voluntary work abroad, through the European Voluntary Service network for example.

Other students choose to study abroad, allowing them to concentrate on academic skills and experience student life in their chosen country. Our ERASMUS partners are the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and the Universities of Aix, Lyon, Paris III Sorbonne nouvelle, Montpellier III, Strasbourg, and Toulouse (France); the Free University of Berlin and the Universities of Konstanz and Leipzig (Germany); the Universities of Naples, Parma, Rome La Sapienza, Siena, and Trento (Italy); and the Universities of Alicante, Madrid Alcalá, Madrid Complutense, Malaga and Zaragoza (Spain). For students of Russian we have an exchange with Voronezh State University, and for students of Spanish we also have exchanges with the Pontificia Catholic University in Santiago (Chile) and the University of Guadalajara (Mexico). Most of these institutions permit students to attend for one semester, enabling them to split the year.

During the Year Abroad, students are asked to keep a Log in which they record and reflect upon their experiences, which will serve as a basis for their Year Abroad Reports (using Personal Objectives and Learning Outcomes forms). The Log has headings and suggestions to help students to set learning objectives for themselves and to record their progress and experiences on which they might be able to draw in further study.

Students on an ERASMUS exchange are assessed by their host institution. All other students write a Year Abroad Essay (one semester) or Special Study (two semesters), which is a short dissertation in their target language. This gives them an opportunity to deepen their cultural understanding in an academically focused manner, as well as providing useful practice in independent research.

#### **Details of Professional Accreditation**



#### **Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements**

Good passes in three A levels, or two A levels and two AS levels, or a similar standard in the Scottish Highers, European or International Baccalaureates, or equivalent qualifications from other countries. French, German and Spanish are only open to students with an A2 (or equivalent) in the language. Ab initio students of Italian and Russian must have demonstrated some capacity to learn a foreign language. A good pass in GCSE English Language is required; international students may be asked to provide evidence that they meet the University's minimum standard of proficiency in English. Applicants with Access or BTEC qualifications, as well as combinations of A levels with GNVQ and successor qualifications, will also be considered. Mature applicants without formal qualifications will be considered on an individual basis but may in some cases be requested to complete an Access course or a Foundation Year. Credit can be given for up to two years of study on a similar programme at another university at the discretion of the Faculty Board of Studies. Details of current offers, in terms of grades or points required, can be found in the prospectus or at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/ug/prospectus/subject/language-politics>: they are likely to be in the range AAA-AAB at A2 or 36-38 points in the International Baccalaureate.

#### **Details of Support Available to Students**

University of Bath students attending programmes of study at the Claverton Campus are usually encouraged to stay in University halls of residence during their first year and will be supported in their transition into University life and study by Resident Tutors. These are postgraduate students or staff who live in the halls of residence and are responsible for the general welfare, health and safety and discipline of student residents.

Undergraduate students will be allocated a Personal Tutor, postgraduate taught students a course manager and postgraduate research students a supervisor who are responsible for monitoring and supporting the academic progress and general welfare of their students.

Staff in these roles will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students. However, there is also a range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with the students. Students can also self-refer to these services.

These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to accommodation, emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/>.

There are also Medical and Dental Centres, and a Chaplaincy on campus that are very experienced in meeting the needs of a student population, as well as a University nursery and vacation play scheme to provide childcare for older children during the school holidays. There are good Arts facilities and exceptional Sports facilities on campus.

#### **Department and Programme Specific Support Information**

The Department offers an induction week at the start of the first year, complementing a more general induction programme offered by the University. During this week students are issued with the *Programme Handbook* which gives further advice and full details of their programme of study. They are introduced to their first-year subjects and teachers and given advice on studying and skills development. All teaching staff are available to see students in regular office hours or by appointment; students are always encouraged to seek advice from teachers. The Department prides itself on its commitment to its undergraduates and aims to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Students writing a Special Study during their Year Abroad are assigned a supervisor with relevant expertise, whom they consult before departure and at regular intervals during the year. Personal tutors and Year Abroad officers also support students on placement.

The Department has two language-teaching laboratories and a conference interpreting suite. The University's Library and Learning Centre is open round the clock in teaching periods and has excellent facilities, including a large number of computer workstations and docking points. It has extensive holdings of books and periodicals. It also contains a well-equipped Self-Access Language Centre which has live TV, newspapers, magazines, and an extensive film library on VHS tape and DVDs, in all the languages taught. Computer-assisted learning software is networked and can be accessed in the Learning Centre or from student residences.

Further information about the programme family can be found on the web pages of the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/polis/>.