Aston University

SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

2013-14

Subject Title	GERMAN Half Programme (Joint Honours)
UCAS/JACS Code	German and English Language QR32 German and Spanish RR2K French and German RR12
School/Subject Area	Languages & Social Sciences
Mode(s) of Study	Full Time and Part Time
Total Credits	300 (including 120 credits for Stage 3)
Programme Accredited By	N/A
Dates Subject Specification Written and Revised	04.02.2004; January 2006; April 2008; September 2009; February 2012 February 2013, format change August 2013

Educational Aims of the Subject	A degree in German provides graduates with an ideal basis for a career in business, public services, education or media. The programme focuses on achieving the following aims: • sophisticated command of written German language • fluency in all aspects of oral communication in German • knowledge of the culture, history, society, economy and contemporary affairs in the German-speaking countries. Students will be able to compare this knowledge with their own language and culture • a concept of research methodology • knowledge of key methods and concepts of literary, historical, social-science and linguistic analysis • ability to apply these key methods and concepts in independent research • ability to conduct independent research in English and German • academic writing skills in both English and German To ensure these aims the German section within the School of Languages and Social Sciences applies the following principles: • through **teaching in the target language** for all German modules, the programme follows an integrated approach where language- and subject-teaching/learning are inter-linked and reinforce one another. • at every level modules in German language, literature, history, linguistics and contemporary affairs ensure a broad repertoire of knowledge • through the **year abroad** (work placement, teaching assistantship or exchange university) participants in the programme will gain first-hand experience by living in a German-speaking country. • **transferable skills** are practised in every module at all levels.
Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform subject outcomes	• QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Area Studies (2008) ISBN 978 1 84482 795 4 • QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Languages and related studies (2007) ISBN 978 1 84482 774 9 • QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 • European Framework of Reference for Languages • University Learning and Teaching Strategy • Staff Expertise • External examiners

STAGE I

Subject Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
German Language Skills I	20	4	LG1001	CORE	N	N
German History and Society	20	4	LG1050	CORE	Y	N
German Language Past and Present	10	4	LG1011	CORE	Y	N
German Current Affairs	10	4	LG1023	CORE	Y	N
TOTAL	60					

STAGE 2

Subject Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
German Language Skills II	20	5	LG2002	CORE	N	N
Austrian Cultural History	10	5	LG2014	CORE	Y	N
Politics and Society in Contemporary Germany	10	5	LG2017	CORE	Y	N
Metropolis Berlin	10	5	LG2018	CORE	Y	N
Post-war Germany	10	5	LG2016	CORE	Y	N
	60					

STAGE 3

Subject Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
German Year Abroad — Work Placement, Assistantship (full year)	120	P	LGP001	CORE	Y	N
OR						
German Year Abroad – 2 Exchange Universities (split, each half year)	120	P	LGP002	CORE	Y	N

OR						
German Year Abroad — Work Placement & Exchange University	120	P	LGP003	CORE	Y	N
OR						
German Year Abroad — Exchange University Placement (full year)	120	P	LGP004	CORE	Y	N
OR						
2 German Work Placements (split, each half year)	120	P	LGP005	CORE	Y	N
	120					

STAGE F

Subject Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
German Language Skills III	20	5	LG3003	CORE	Y	N
German Research Dissertation	20	5	LG3204	CORE	Y	N
German Popular Culture Or German -Jewish Biographies	10	5	LG3006 LG3013	OPTION	Y	N
German Contemporary Culture or East Germany on Film	10	5	LG3007 LG3015	OPTION	Y	N
	60					

Subject Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. <u>Knowledge and Understanding</u>			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	written German language in a range of contexts and text types (Level C2 according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages)	• small group interactive • seminars • pair and group work • presentations • guided study • individual topic selection and research	• end of year examination • oral examination / viva • extended research project • essay • annotated bibliography
2	all aspects of oral communication in German (Level C2 according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages)		
3	the contemporary situation in German-speaking countries (linguistics, economy, culture, politics) on a high level		
4	modern history of the German-speaking countries		

B. <u>Intellectual Skills</u>			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	analyse features of a sophisticated use of formal language in a range of situations	• seminars • guided study • individual research • lectures • group work	• end of the year examination • essay • in-class test • extended research dissertation • oral examination /viva
2	apply systematic methodologies to research and project design		
3	analyse contemporary political and cultural affairs in the German-speaking countries		
4	gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources		
5	identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems		
6	construct reasoned argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement		
7	apply academic writing skills in both English and German		

C. Professional Skills			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	demonstrate a specialized aspect (in-depth knowledge) of the contemporary situation in the German-speaking countries (linguistics, economy, culture, politics)	• seminars • guided study • individual research • lectures • group work • tutorial work	• end of the year examination • essay • in-class test • extended research dissertation • oral examination /viva
2	demonstrate all aspects of oral communication in German (Level C2-C1 according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages)		

D. Transferable Skills			
	Subject Outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
	On successful completion of the subject component of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	team working skills	• seminars • guided study • individual research • lectures • group work • tutorial work	• continuous assessment • oral examination / viva • extended research dissertation
2	independent application of research skills		
3	ability to engage in informed discussion, to accept constructive criticism and to criticise constructively		
4	ability to use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information		
5	ability to work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organization and time management		

Entry Requirements	In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must satisfy any specific entry requirements for each programme as approved by the School Board. These may include an interview and a diagnostic test.
Programme Regulations	Please see the LSS Joint Honours Programme Specification

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.