Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2012-2013

Programme Title	GERMAN Single Honours
UCAS/JACS Code	R220
School/Subject Area	LANGUAGES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Final Award	BSc (Hons)
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education (after 120 credits), Diploma of Higher Education (after 240 credits) Ordinary Degree
Mode(s) of Study	FULL TIME or PART TIME
Normal Length of Programme	3 YEARS (full time, without placement year) or 4 YEARS (full time, with integrated placement year) or 6 YEARS (part time, without placement year) or 7-8 YEARS (part-time, with one year or two half year placements in two separate years)
Total Credits	360 (without placement year) or 480 (with integrated placement year)
Programme Accredited By	
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	Dr G. Reershemius in February 2003 Revised: Dr G. Reershemius in May 2004 Revised: Dr U Schütte September 2006 Revised Dr K Sturge April 2008 Revised Dr S Manz September 2009 Revised: Dr U Schütte June 2011 Revised: Dr U Schütte August 2012

Educational Aims of the Programme	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, near-native command of written German language • near-native fluency in all aspects of oral communication in German • in-depth 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 sound 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 programme outcomes	• QAA Benchmark statement for Languages and related studies (2007) • QAA Benchmark Statement for Area Studies (2002) • European Framework of Reference for Languages • University Learning and Teaching Strategy • Staff expertise

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage I : Foundation**				
Module Title	Credis	Level	Module Code	Core/Elective
(X) German Language Skills I	20	4	LG1001	CORE
German Language Past & Present	10	4	LG1011	CORE
Introduction to Film Studies	10	4	LU1001	CORE
German Current Affairs	10	4	LG1023	CORE
German History and Society	20	4	LG1050	CORE
Introduction to Language & Communication	10	4	LI1201	CORE
Introduction to Translation	10	4	LI1004	CORE
Translation Workshop	10	4	LI1005	CORE
One Elective each in Teaching Period 1 and in Teaching Period 2 from courses available in the University-Wide Language Programmes other than German	20	4		ELECTIVE
X) means that this module cannot be condoned and is a pre-requisite for progression to the next level				
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage II: Application**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Elective
(X) German Language Skills II	20	5	LG2002	CORE
Metropolis Berlin	10	5	LG2018	CORE
Austrian Cultural History	10	5	LG2014	CORE
Current Trends in German Cinema	10	5	LG2009	CORE
Post-War Germany	10	5	LG2016	CORE
Politics & Society in Contemporary Germany	10	5	LG2017	CORE
Communication Across Cultures: German	10	5	LI2008	CORE
Translation & Textual Skills	10	5	LG2015	CORE
Electives: choice of modules (to be specified every year) from Politics & International Relations or Translation Studies programmes. *Teaching Period 1:* *one 10 –credit elective.* *Teaching Period 2:* *either two 10-credit or 1 20-credit elective.* *University-Wide Language Programmes (other than German) may be chosen provided that a minimum grade of B has been attained in LG1001.*	30	5		ELECTIVE
X) means that this module cannot be condoned and is a pre-requisite for progression to the next level				
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Level P YEAR ABROAD: Participation**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Elective
German Year Abroad — Work Placement, Assistantship (full year)	120	P	LUP001	CORE
OR				
German Year Abroad – 2 Exchange Universities (split, each half year)	120	P	LUP002	CORE
OR				
German Year Abroad — Work Placement & Exchange University	120	P	LUP003	CORE
OR				
German Year Abroad — Exchange University Placement (full year)	120	P	LUP004	CORE
OR				
2 German Work Placement (split, each half year)	120	P	LUP005	CORE
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage III: Analysis**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Elective
German Language Skills 3	20	6	LG3003	CORE
History & Society in Film	10	6	LG3004	CORE
German Contemporary Culture	10	6	LG3007	CORE
German Popular Culture	10	6	LG3006	CORE
German Research Dissertation (GRD) – GRD Viva	20	6	LG3204	CORE
German-Jewish Biographies	10	6	LG3013	CORE
Interpreting German	10	6	LI3001	CORE
Advanced Translation – German	10	6	LI3205	CORE
Electives: choice in Teaching Period 1and Teaching Period 2 of 1 each module available from Politics and / or Translation Studies programmes (to be specified every year) which have relevant topics or University-Wide Language Programmes (other than German)	20	6		ELECTIVE
TOTAL	120			

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. Knowledge and Understanding			
	On successful completion of their programme students, are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	written German language in a range of contexts and text types (Level C2-C1 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-C1 according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages)		
3	the contemporary situation in German- speaking countries (linguistics, economy, culture, politics)		
4	modern history of the German-speaking countries (since 1800)		
5	a specialized aspect (in-depth knowledge) of the contemporary situation in the German-speaking countries (linguistics, economy, culture, politics)		
6	key features for each type of communication in the process of understanding and production		

B. **Intellectual Skills**			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		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 • tutorial work	• end of the year examination • essay • in-class test • extended research dissertation • oral examination /viva
2	analyse contemporary political and cultural affairs in the German-speaking countries		
3	apply systematic methodologies to research and project design		
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		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		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	near-native competence in written and oral presentation skills in German and English		

	D. Transferable Skills		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		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 Learning and Teaching Committee. These may include an interview and a diagnostic test. In certain circumstances, relevant prior experience and learning may be taken into account. Documentary evidence of relevant qualifications and experience will be required. Students already registered on another degree programme at Aston University may be allowed to transfer to this programme, subject to agreement of the Director of Undergraduate Programmes in each School concerned.

Programme Regulations	Attendance requirements 1. In order to qualify for the award of the degree a student must have attended the required proportion of tutorials, seminars, practical classes, and lectures specified by the School Executive Dean. The Programme Handbook provides details of procedures for monitoring attendance and dealing with poor attendance. **Specific Assessment Requirements for Modules** 1. Where applicable modules which may not be condoned are indicated by (X) in the programme specification tables of modules per stage. **Placement Year (for 480 credits programme)** 1. Students will be required to follow a course of study abroad for one academic year, on a programme approved by the School Executive Dean; or undertake a work placement approved by the School Executive Dean; or undertake an assistantship teaching English in a school in a French, German or Spanish speaking country (as relevant); or undertake a combination of these options. 2. Students will be required to undertake the following work during their time abroad, as specified by the School Executive Dean, a. EITHER to sit examinations at the approved institution at which the course of study was followed b. OR to submit a project on an approved subject c. AND/OR to sit a viva voce examination on return to the Final Year of the programme d. OR to undertake two or all of the above, depending on the country and subject of study placement e. which will be assessed by the Board of Examiners as one Module, worth 120 credits at Stage P. **Requirements for the Ordinary Degree (100 credits)** 1. <u>Transfer to Ordinary Degree</u> A change to a single-subject programme may be possible as specified in the General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes and the relevant programme or subject specifications. Students may not normally study more than two subjects on an Ordinary Degree programme. *2.* <u>Required Modules</u> The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programmes will determine which 100 credits, out of the 120 credits for the corresponding stage of the Honours programme, should be taken at each stage.

Programme Regulations	3. <u>Stage Two Assessment</u> The Ordinary Degree Stage Two assessment will be held at specified times before the final stage of the programme and will comprise 100 credits from the modules set out in the relevant programme or subject specifications (to be determined by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programmes). 4 <u>Final Assessment</u> The Ordinary Degree final assessment will comprise 100 credits from the modules set out in the relevant programme or subject specifications (to be determined by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programmes). **Failure** In cases of failure at Stage P assessment, the Examination Board may decide to award credits for that stage, depending on overall performance and consideration of factors described in the School's Examination Board Procedures (LES/129/03), in accordance with the condonement procedure specified in the General Regulations. For failed modules at Stage Three, the end of year Examinations Board may decide to award credits for that module, depending on overall performance and consideration of factors described in the School's Examination Board Procedures, in accordance with the condonement procedure specified in the General Regulations.
Further information	

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. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be audited by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.