

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	BA (Hons)
4	Programme Title	French Studies
5	UCAS/Programme Code	R120
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Languages and related studies, area studies
8	FHEQ Level	6
9	Date written/revised	March 2013

10 Programme Aims

- 1 To foster intercultural awareness and understanding, and an attitude of curiosity and openness towards different cultures.
- 2 To provide students with knowledge and skills that prepares them for further intellectual development and further independent study.
- 3 To provide a flexible programme of study through variety of student choice in modules in Modern Languages within an informed advisory framework.
- 4 To give students the opportunity to spend time studying or working in a French speaking country
- 5 To develop proficiency in receptive (reading and listening), productive (writing and speaking), and mediating skills in French

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the relevant benchmark statements.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 the lexis, grammatical structures, registers and usage of French language to BA Honours degree standard
- A2 aspects of the history, society, culture and linguistic development of French speaking countries (see section 12).
- A3 certain areas of specialist study, according to module selection, in cultural studies, film, history, language, linguistics, literary studies and politics.
- A4 the internal diversity and connections between cultures.
- A5 (for students opting to write a dissertation), a topic studied in-depth and independently.

Teaching and Learning Methods
<p>The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding of modern languages (A1) is via a mix of communicative, student-centred language teaching methods and formal linguistic instruction. In the case of A2-A3, knowledge and understanding are generally conveyed through lectures and seminars which guide students towards independent reading and enable students to self-assess and develop their learning through group discussion, take-home tasks; guided self-teaching activities; e-mail discussion and e-mail based group working; the preparation of presentations and/or reports. A4 is developed initially within the communicative language training framework and is further enhanced during the students' year abroad. In A5 (optional dissertation) one-to-one tutorials provide academic guidance, while the opportunity to carry out independent research allows students to apply and practise research skills.</p>
Assessment Strategy
<p>Knowledge and understanding of the modern language (A1) is assessed by written continuous assessment and class tests (evaluating student understanding and progress), and unseen written, aural and oral examinations. Outcomes A2-3 are assessed by essay and/or unseen written examination, oral presentation & video presentation, (requiring independent, critical analysis and application of intellectual models, principles and theories). Outcome A4 is assessed during the year abroad by a personal learning record and in some cases an intercalary project. Outcome A5 is assessed by a 5-6000 word dissertation.</p>
Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to:
<p>B1 gather, synthesise and evaluate information.</p> <p>B2 undertake independent, critical analysis.</p> <p>B3 organise and present ideas within the framework of a structured and reasoned argument, oral or written.</p> <p>B4 apply appropriate methodologies to specialist areas of study.</p> <p>B5 (for those who choose to write a dissertation), design a research project and select and employ appropriate research methodologies</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
<p>B1-4 skills are developed through seminar preparation and presentation, group discussion and written assignments. B5 is developed through one-to-one tutorials to facilitate the development of independent study and research skills through student self-evaluation.</p>
Assessment Strategy
<p>B1-4 are assessed by means of course work (e.g. essays, oral presentations, video presentations) and unseen written examinations. They are also assessed as part of oral examinations. They may also be assessed by dissertation.</p>

Practical Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
C1	show receptive (reading and listening) and productive (writing and speaking) skills in French to BA Honours degree standard.
C2	perform a range of communicative tasks.
C3	translate non-technical texts from and into the target language, develop competent professional liaison interpreting skills.
C4	make effective use of language reference materials, such as grammars, dictionaries and corpora.
C5	practice independent language learning.
Teaching and Learning Methods	
<p>Learning outcomes C1-2 are achieved via communicative, student-centred skills training, (e.g. developing and practising reading skills, enhancing listening skills through language laboratory work, liaison interpreting, analysing and practising different writing skills, and conducting oral discussion and presentation, both individually and as part of a team), and formal grammar instruction (e.g. guided study, drills and exercises, and use of IT resources). C1-2 skills may be further enhanced by delivery of specified modules in the target language. These skills are developed and consolidated during the year abroad. C3 is achieved by guided translation into and out of the target language, and analysis of translation techniques; liaison interpreting in and out of the target language; reading for gist exercises; summary and evaluation of texts in the modern language, working in the modern language. C4-5 are achieved in the teaching of C1-3, and further enhanced by study skills sessions as detailed in section 13 (below). Self-access language learning is also encouraged in order to further both C4 and C5.</p>	
Assessment Strategy	
C1-3 are assessed by written continuous assessment and class tests (evaluating student progress) and unseen written examination (reading, writing, translating and interpreting skills), aural examination (listening and writing skills) and oral examination (listening, speaking and interpreting skills). Skills C4 and C5 are not formally assessed.	
Transferable/Key Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
D1	communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
D2	give oral presentations.
D3	manage one's time, make plans and set priorities in order to achieve an objective.
D4	work creatively and flexibly with others as part of a team, and, in the case of the intercalary project, the ability to conduct an effective interview.
D5.	adapt and operate effectively within a different cultural environment.
D6.	use library and bibliographic research resources.

D7. analyse and solve problems

D8. use IT effectively, such as word processing, email, databases, online environments and the use of the Internet as a research and study tool.

Teaching and Learning Methods

D1 is enhanced through seminar presentations and discussions, and through written assignments. In the case of language modules, they are developed through communicative skills training. Skills D2-3 and D6-8 are practised through seminar preparation and presentation. D3 and D6-8 are further developed through written assignments and research-based modules. D4 is developed through team presentations and projects (including the intercalary project). D5 is developed initially through communicative language training, and is later enhanced during the student's year abroad. D8 is further enhanced through the use of IT resources in language teaching and as an organisational tool for certain modules. D6 and D8 skills are also developed during induction (see 13 below).

Assessment Strategy

D1 is assessed by essay, dissertation and unseen written examination, (written communication), while both D1 and D2 are assessed via assessed seminar presentations and oral examinations (oral communication). D3 and D6-7 are assessed in a number of ways, including written assignments, unseen examinations, assessed seminar preparation and presentation, self-directed language coursework and preparation for language classes. D4 is assessed via team presentations and projects (including the intercalary project, which involves a transcribed interview).

D5 is assessed via the personal learning record produced during the year abroad.
D8 is assessed in a number of ways including the preparation of written assignments and seminars.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The programme is studied over four years full-time based on 30 weeks attendance per annum. Stages 1, 2 and 4 of the programme are spent in residence attending the University of Newcastle; Stage 3 is an intercalary year during which students attend university or work in a French-speaking country. Each year or stage requires the study of modules with a total credit value of 120. 20 credits of module study represent 200 hours of student work, including lectures and other teaching (such as seminars), private study, preparation of coursework and exam preparation and revision. Larger modules are proportionately heavier in their work content. All modules at Stages 1, 2 and 4 are generally 20 credits in weight. Modules undertaken during the intercalary year have a weighting of 100 credits (Personal Learning Record) and 20 credits (Intercalary Project or Study Abroad module).

In each of Stages 1, 2 and 4, students are required to study 20 credits of practical language; at stage 1 this 20 credit language module is core. In addition to the compulsory practical language module, students must take further modules to bring their credit weighting up to a total of 120 credits at Stages 1, 2 and 4. These modules are chosen from the range of modules offered at the appropriate stage in that particular year in the School of Modern Languages. At stage 1, a student must take approved modules worth 20 or 40 credits taught in another section or School (usually chosen from the options offered within the BA with Honours in Combined Studies).

French language modules are conducted mainly in the foreign language; optional modules are taught in a combination of French and English, varying from module to module and from year to year. The range of options includes those that are language specific and provided by the relevant constituent sections of the School of Modern Languages and those that are open to all students of modern languages and are provided by colleagues across the School.

At Stage 1, students develop the language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking; these modules also provide knowledge and understanding of the target language and its cultural context as well as the foundations of subject-specific skills (outcome A1, 2, & 4, C1-5). Students choose additional credits from a range of introductory modules within the School of Modern Languages in linguistics, film, literature, society and institutions; these modules enhance knowledge and understanding of the language and of specialist areas (outcomes A2, A3) as well as providing an introduction for cognitive skills (B1-3) and effective practice in key transferable skills (especially outcomes D1-4). They may also take 20 or 40 credits from outside the School (see above).

At Stage 2, a compulsory 20-credit French language module is taken; additional credits are chosen from a range of options in film, history, linguistics, literature, media and politics. Students continue to develop the language skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking and translation; language modules are designed to develop these skills in preparation for the forthcoming Year Abroad (outcome A1, 2, & 4, C1-5), practise cognitive skills in the target language (B1-3) as well as key transferable skills (D1, 2, 4 & 6). The optional modules are intended to be as broad-ranging as possible to allow informed choices to be made about more specialised final-year options; they develop knowledge and understanding of the language in relation to specialist areas of study (A2-3), while at the same time providing a sufficient introduction to critical skills and methodology appropriate to the area (B1-4) and further advancing key transferable skills (especially outcomes D1-2, 6-7).

At Stage 3 students spend the whole year in a country where one of the target languages is spoken, working as a teaching assistant in a school or college, or studying at a university, or undertaking an approved work placement. The School of Modern Languages has Erasmus student exchange programmes in a number of universities in France. The Year Abroad is fully accredited and assessment is by means of a personal learning record (100 credits) plus either an intercalary project (20 credits) or marks achieved at the host university (to a total of 20 credits). While all aspects of knowledge, understanding and language skills will be developed during Stage 3, there will be particular opportunities for increasing intercultural awareness and understanding (A4), for developing self-study skills for language learning (C5), for developing organisational and interpersonal skills (D3-5); students preparing a dissertation will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and cognitive skills in this area too (A5, B5).

The language module at Stage 4 is taught on the basis that students have reached a very high level (Level D) of competence during their year abroad. The emphasis now is on sophisticated use of language in all skills (A1, 2 & 4, C1-5) as well as the cognitive abilities of analysis and structured argumentation (B2-3). Opportunities to practise interpreting skills are available through translation and interpreting courses (C3). A wide range of more specialised options in film, history, linguistics, literature, media, politics and visual arts takes the cognitive skills to a much higher level of development, including greater emphasis upon independent analytical skills, use of appropriate methodologies and problem-solving skills (B1-4, D1-3, 6-7). Students writing a dissertation as well as those preparing an extended essay will develop their knowledge and understanding as well as their subject-specific, cognitive and transferable skills over a broad range of outcomes (A2, 3, & 5, C1 & 4, B1-5, D1, 3, 6 & 7).

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)
Possibility of movement across degree programmes across the School depending on options taken; this is quite common after stage 1, when students may pick up a second language as an outside option and may switch to T900 (Modern Languages) for stages 2 and 4.
Programme regulations (link to on-line version)
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/

13 Criteria for admission
<i>Entry qualifications</i>
Not applicable. Programme being taught out.
<i>Admissions policy/selection tools</i>
<i>Non-standard Entry Requirements</i>
14 Support for Student Learning
<p>The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at: https://my.ncl.ac.uk/students/</p> <p><i>Induction</i></p> <p>During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students (see International Office website)</p> <p><i>Study skills support</i></p> <p>Students will learn a range of personal transferable skills, including study skills. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the individual modules. We also run general study skills sessions in the first 5 weeks of Semester 1, covering note-taking, essay-writing, library skills and plagiarism. On-line study skills packages are available on the SML UG Community site on BlackBoard. Students are tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.</p> <p><i>Academic support</i></p> <p>All students are assigned a Degree Programme Director whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and progress of their tutees. Issues relating to the programme may be raised with the Degree Programme Director, at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.</p>

Pastoral support

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the overall well-being of their tutees. In addition the University offers a range of support services, including one-to-one counselling and guidance or group sessions / workshops on a range of topics, such as emotional issues e.g. Stress and anxiety, student finance and budgeting, disability matters etc. There is specialist support available for students with dyslexia and mental health issues. Furthermore, the Union Society operates a Student Advice Centre, which can provide advocacy and support to students on a range of topics including housing, debt, legal issues etc.

Support for students with disabilities

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

Learning resources

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities.

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. This is administered by INTO Newcastle University Centre on behalf of Newcastle University. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The INTO Newcastle University Centre houses a range of resources which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange

15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Module reviews

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the Undergraduate Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty.

Programme reviews

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

External Examiner reports

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies, where there are students representatives. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

Student evaluations

All modules and stages are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The National Student Survey is sent out every year to final-year undergraduate students, and consists of a set of questions seeking students' views on the quality of the learning and teaching. The results from student surveys are considered as part of the Annual Monitoring and Review of the programme and any arising actions are captured at programme and School / institutional level and reported to the appropriate body.

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback

Module questionnaires, Stage questionnaires, Student Focus Groups, the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process. Every five years degree programmes in each subject area are subject to periodic review. This involves both the detailed consideration of a range of documentation, and a two-day review visit by a review team which includes an external subject specialist in addition to University and Faculty representatives. Following the review a report is produced, which forms the basis for a decision by University Teaching and Learning Committee on whether the programmes reviewed should be re-approved for a further five year period.

Accreditation reports

Additional mechanisms

16 Regulation of assessment

Pass mark

The pass mark is 40 (Undergraduate programmes)

Course requirements

Progression is subject to the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations and Undergraduate Examination Conventions. In summary, students must pass, or be deemed to have passed, 120 credits at each Stage. Limited compensation up to 40 credits and down to a mark of 35% is possible at each Stage and there are re-assessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

Weighting of stages

Work undertaken at Stages 2, 3 and 4 counts towards the final award. Work completed at Stage 4 carries double the weighting of work completed at Stages 2 and 3. If the mark gained in SML3005 or SML3006 at Stage 3 (both 20 credits) is greater than the lowest mark for any 20-credit SML module taken at Stage 2 (except Level C French), then the mark for SML3005 or SML3006 will replace that lower mark when calculating the degree average.

Common Marking Scheme

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Undergraduate Examination Conventions, namely

	Honours	Non-honours
<40	Fail	Failing
40-49	Third Class	Basic
50-59	Second Class, Second Division	Good
60-69	Second Class, First Division	Very Good
70+	First Class	Excellent

Role of the External Examiner

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:

- See and approve examination papers
- Moderate examination and coursework marking
- Attend the Board of Examiners
- Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/>)

The School Brochure: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/marketing/services/print/publications/ordering/>

The University Regulations <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

The Undergraduate Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules for SML modules

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D
Language Modules					
FRE1065 FRE1066 FRE1071 FRE2061 FRE4061 SML2014		1, 2, 4	1 & 3	1-5	1-5
Content modules					
FRE1006 FRE2005 FRE2009 FRE2010 FRE2044 FRE2045 FRE4003 FRE4006 FRE4010 FRE4011 FRE4012 FRE4013		2-4	1-4	1	1-8
SML1018 SML1019 SML1021 SML1022 SML3004 SML3005 SML3006 SML4099		2-4	1-4	1	1-8