

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Honours Degree programmes in German**. For Combined and Joint Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2014**.

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in German are:

- to develop advanced skills in speaking, writing and understanding contemporary German;
- to develop an understanding of authentic German from a range of historical periods;
- to impart a broad knowledge and critical understanding of German and Austrian society and culture;
- to provide a structured and stimulating learning environment for students from all backgrounds;
- to develop a range of transferable skills that will continue to be valuable to students when they leave the university environment for employment;
- to introduce students to the methods of independent study and research, particularly those related to work in modern languages, literatures and cultures;
- to provide the basis for further, advanced study and research in German Studies.

Most programmes are delivered in four stages; stages one, two and four each comprise one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits) and stage three consists of a Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) spent partly or wholly in a German-speaking country for which students take two units. Combined programmes with German as a minor component consist of three stages comprising four units each, without a year abroad (although it is possible, in exceptional circumstances, and with the agreement of both departments, for students to suspend their studies and spend a year abroad).

Stage three, the Period of Residence Abroad (PRA), is arranged in conjunction with the Academic Year Abroad Co-ordinator. We offer students the possibility of fulfilling this requirement in a number of ways – working as a language assistant in a school, attending a foreign university or gaining a work placement abroad. The majority of students will spend their time abroad in Germany or Austria, but under certain circumstances residence in German-speaking Switzerland is also possible. The PRA abroad is assessed via full or half units to the value of two full units based either on marks awarded for courses taken at the foreign university or on a report on the work placement, written in German plus a full or half-unit oral examination to test linguistic skills and intercultural awareness.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of

individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- contemporary German, thereby enabling students to speak, read and write German accurately and fluently, and to understand spoken German used in a variety of circumstances and for a variety of purposes;
- written German, literary and non-literary, from a variety of historical periods from the 18th century onwards;
- the literature of German-speaking countries in a variety of periods from the 18th century to the present day, including prose, poetry and drama;
- key aspects of the history of Germany and Austria, with an emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries;
- the resources and techniques available to students and researchers in the field of German studies, and their wider applicability to their own and other cultures and disciplines.

Skills and other attributes

The multi-disciplinary nature of the programmes in German encourages the development of a wide range of skills, both discipline-specific and transferable, including the ability to:

- express ideas, opinions, statements and responses in accurate and fluent spoken German, in a variety of circumstances and for a variety of purposes, and to use language (both English and German) creatively and precisely;
- read and understand written German from a variety of historical periods, and to do so for the purposes of work and research connected with other aspects of the programmes;
- write fluent, authentic and accurate German for a variety of purposes, including an extended essay in German;
- translate from and into German so as to produce an accurate, imaginative and fluent interpretation of the original ;
- make effective and critical use of reference resources related to German and German Studies in general, especially dictionaries, grammars, encyclopaedias and electronic resources;
- master the key critical discourses associated with the materials and subject-matter (for all non-language courses);
- identify, analyse and discuss specific features of German using the appropriate terminology;
- identify, assess critically and analyse historical data relating to individuals and societies, and to assess and analyse appropriate historiographical material (for those taking historical courses and other courses with historical dimensions);
- analyse critically abstract and complex thought and to express understanding in a clear, coherent manner (for those taking philosophical or theoretical courses);
- read and assess critically both primary literary texts and secondary materials in a variety of genres (including poetry, prose, drama) and in a variety of historical and social contexts, (for those taking literary courses);
- engage with and interpret layers of meaning within a variety of different text types and to contextualise from a variety of perspectives;*
- assimilate and evaluate material of varying degrees of complexity, extract and synthesise key information and exercise critical reflection and judgement in the light of evidence and argument;*
- organise and present ideas within the framework of a structured and reasoned argument;*
- work autonomously, manage time effectively and write and think under pressure;*
- take notes and summarise information accurately and effectively;*
- conduct library and bibliographical research;*
- employ appropriate IT skills (word-processing, email, use of the internet and databases);*
- employ appropriate interpersonal skills, including presentation; communication and interaction with

others, including group-working; self-reliance; initiative, adaptability; and intercultural competence.*

* transferable skills

N.B. For students following BA Multilingual Studies, the aims and outcomes relating to the society and culture of Germany and Austria apply in reduced measure.

For students following BA Comparative Literature and Culture, the aims and outcomes which assume knowledge of the German language do not apply.

Students taking the Visual Arts Minor programme will have opportunities to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- acquire a broad and comparative knowledge of the theories and practices of visual media across a range of cultures;
- develop analytical skills and critical approaches to visual media;
- think critically and communicate clearly about a range of visual media, analysing works in relation to one another as well as with reference to other types of cultural production across contexts.

Students taking the International Film Minor programme will have opportunities to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- develop their awareness of the expression of cultural diversity, exchange and cross fertilisation in cinematic activity in and beyond Europe;
- acquire an understanding of how films function, evaluating them in relation to other films and to the film industry, nationally and internationally;
- develop an understanding of the significance of film for the expression of contemporary social and cultural issues, politics and ideology.

The Joint Honours Visual Cultures programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- acquire a broad and comparative knowledge of the theories and practices of visual media across a range of cultures;
- develop their awareness of the expression of cultural diversity, exchange and cross fertilisation in cinematic activity in and beyond Europe;
- acquire an understanding of how films function, evaluating them in relation to other films and to the film industry, nationally and internationally;
- develop an understanding of the significance of film for the expression of contemporary social and cultural issues, politics and ideology;
- develop analytical skills and critical approaches to visual media;
- think critically and communicate clearly about a range of visual arts, analysing works in relation to one another as well as with reference to other modes of cultural production across contexts.

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching is carried out mainly by means of lectures, structured seminars and language classes. Language acquisition is also promoted through Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) packages, Moodle (the College's Virtual Learning Environment platform) and other web-based resources, appropriate audio and video material, translation work, and textual analysis using printed and electronically available materials. Language classes are conducted in German (frequently by native speakers) to encourage familiarity with the language in the classroom. The four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are integrated with the study of key grammatical structures. A wide range of sources is used to encourage familiarity with different linguistic registers and the acquisition of new vocabulary. Classes for cultural courses are conducted mainly in English, partly because of the sophistication required at university level in students' critical responses to cultural works and in essay-writing and partly in order to inculcate excellent oral and written communication skills in English in addition to those simultaneously developed by students in their other European language/s.

Learning is encouraged through strong support at every stage for active student participation in lectures and seminars, and through designated reading and directed self-study. Essays and other, shorter written pieces ensure that the skills of exposition and critique are developed and evaluated throughout the learning process. School programmes are so designed that the foundations of the intellectual and transferable skills are laid in stage one and then developed, with an increasing reliance on the individual student's personal research and self-direction. The Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) makes a particularly important contribution to this growing intellectual independence. Joint Honours students taking a second language, will divide their year between a German-speaking country and the other country. All students are encouraged to acquire IT competence, in particular by registering for the IT skills programmes which become available from time to time through the Computer Centre.

Most course units are assessed by a combination of written coursework, end-of-year examination class presentations, and Moodle-based or class tests. They are carefully designed to reflect the intended learning outcomes of each course. In addition to summative assessments, which count towards the final marks for each unit, coursework also includes formative assessment to provide students with feedback from course tutors, which is important in supporting student learning. Assessed coursework exercises vary with the course unit and are selected from the following: essays, comprehension exercises and précis, analytical commentaries, guided independent writing in German, translations, oral presentations, participation in structured discussion and a dissertation. Course units studied at a German university during the Period of Residence Abroad are also examined in Germany, whilst students who undertake a work placement are required to submit a work placement project report which will be assessed at Royal Holloway. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Detailed Course Specifications available on the School's [website](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available courses offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year is provided with course preregistration documentation e-mailed to all students before they start their second and final years, and for Incoming first-year students via the course preregistration link on the School's [web pages](#).

Single Honours Degree programmes

Stage one:

No longer available at Stage one.

Stage two:

No longer available at Stage two.

Stage three:

Students must take:

GM2501 Oral Examination in German (1 unit)

and one of:

GM2401 Study Abroad (1 unit)

GM2201 Work Placement Project (1 unit)

Stage four:

Students must take:

GM3009 German Language III (1 unit)

and choose options equal to the value of 3 units from a list of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme,

Students may take one half or one course unit as an elective unit which can be freely chosen from those offered by other departments in accordance with College Regulations.

Joint Honours Degree programmes with German as an equal component

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Stage one:

Post-A Level (or equivalent) students must take:

GM1009 German Language I (1 unit)

GM1120 Introduction to German Studies (½ unit)

GM1122 German History and Culture: Past and Present (½ unit)

Native-speakers of German must instead take:

GM1120 Introduction to German Studies (½ unit)

GM1122 German History and Culture: Past and Present (½ unit)

and choose options equal to the value of 1 full unit from a list of Stage one courses offered by the School.

Students on the beginners' pathway must instead take:

GM1010 Intensive German Language for Beginners (1 unit)

GM1120 Introduction to German Studies (½ unit)

GM1122 German History and Culture: Past and Present (½ unit)

and specified courses in the other subject.

Students taking German and Visual Cultures must take two compulsory courses, one core course, plus one optional half unit:

Compulsory courses:

ML1301 Visual Arts 1: An Introduction to Visual Media (½ unit)

ML1101 International Film 1: Contexts and Practices (½ unit)

Core course:

ML1102 Birth of Film (½ unit)

And an optional course to the value of 0.5 units from a range of stage one courses as listed on the School [website](#) and programme handbook

Stage two:

Post A-Level (or equivalent) students must take:

GM2009 German Language II (1 unit)

Native-speaking students must instead take German options equal to the value of 1½ units from a list of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme and a half unit from the provision in the School.

Students on the beginners' pathway must instead take:

GM2010 Intensive German for Beginners 2 (1 unit)

and choose options equal to the value of 1 full unit from a list of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme

and specified courses in the other subject.

Students taking German and Visual Cultures must take two compulsory courses plus two optional half units:

Compulsory courses:

ML2302 Visual Arts 2: Genre and Movements (½ unit)

ML2101 International Film: Readings and Representations (½ unit)

And two optional courses to the value of one unit from a range of stage two courses as listed on the School [website](#) and programme handbook.

Stage three:

If spending the whole year in a German-speaking country, students must take:

GM2501 Oral Examination in German (1 unit)

and one of:

GM2401 Study Abroad (1 unit)

GM2201 Work Placement Project (1 unit)

If splitting the year abroad between two countries, students instead must take:

GM2502 Oral Examination in German (½ unit)

and one of:

GM2402 Study Abroad (½ unit)

GM2202 Work Placement Project (½ unit)

and specified course(s) in the other subject

Stage four:

Students must take:

GM3009 German Language III (1 unit)

and choose options equal to the value of 1 unit from a list of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme

and specified courses in the other subject.

Students taking German and Visual Cultures are required to take two compulsory courses plus two optional half units. Students are not permitted to write more than two SMLLC dissertations.

Compulsory courses:

ML3207 Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalisation in Contemporary Film (½ unit)

ML3211 Visual Arts Dissertation (½ unit)

And two optional courses to the value of one unit from a range of stage three courses as listed on the School [website](#) and programme handbook

Combined Honours Degree programmes with German as a major component

Stage one:

No longer available at Stage one.

Stage two:

No longer available at Stage two.

Stage three:

Students must take:

GM2501 Oral Examination in German (1 unit)

and one of:

GM2401 Study Abroad (1 unit)

GM2201 Work Placement Project (1 unit)

Stage four:

Students must take:

GM3009 German Language III (1 unit)

and choose options equal to the value of 3 units from a list of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme

and specified course(s) in the minor subject.

Combined Honours Degree programmes with German as a minor component

Stage one:

Post-A Level (or equivalent) Students must take:

GM1009 German Language I (1 unit)

Native-speakers of German must instead take:

GM1120 Introduction to German Studies (½ unit)

GM1122 German History and Culture: Past and Present (½ unit)

Students on the beginners' pathway must instead take:

GM1010 Intensive German Language for Beginners (1 unit)

and specified courses in the major subject.

Stage two:

Students must take:

GM2009 German Language II (1 unit)

Native-speaking students must instead take:

options equal to the value of 1 unit from a list of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme,

and specified courses in the major subject.

Stage three:

Only applicable if the major subject is another foreign language. In this case PRA course units in the major language, as prescribed by the programme specification for that language, will be taken.

Stage three (four):

Students must take:

GM3009 German Language III (1 unit)

and specified courses in the major subject.

Additional notes on the Year Abroad:

There are three main schemes:

- German or Austrian University: students spend all or part of the academic year following courses of their choice at the host university. In Germany or Austria, most students choose a host university which has an Erasmus link with RHUL. Students following Joint Honours, Multilingual Studies and European Studies programmes may choose to spend the year in two countries.
- Assistant post (co-ordinated by the British Council): students are employed to teach English in a school in Germany or Austria, normally for up to 12 hours per week. Students are required to produce a written Work Placement Report in German for assessment at RHUL.
- Other work placement: although the School does not undertake to find work placements abroad for students, students themselves, or their families, are sometimes able to make such arrangements, which must be approved by the School. Students in such approved work have similar academic work commitments to those in assistant posts.

The study requirements associated with the year abroad are as follows:

The School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Royal Holloway, University of London has a system for assessment of the Year Abroad to reflect its integral place within the degree programme which involves two course units:

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The **13th unit** aims to develop intellectual or professional abilities through an experience either working, or studying, in a German-speaking country.

The **14th unit** aims to further linguistic abilities and cultural awareness through a period of up to one academic year spent living in a German-speaking country.

Assessment of the 13th unit

Students are to follow and provide marks for classes, in subjects approved by the School at Royal Holloway, amounting to a minimum of 48 European credits for a full year, and a minimum of 24 European credits for a half year placement. Certain courses in German language may count towards these credits. For full details of the conditions applying in respect of such courses see the latest [PRA Handbook](#)

Students on a work placement, including assistants, will be assessed by a Work Placement Report. This report will be written in German and will discuss aspects of the year abroad relating specifically to the work environment. Students may also be required to write a Cultural Report, in addition to the Work Placement Report. Those spending an entire year in a German speaking country on a work place must write a Work Placement Report, and a Cultural Report. Those on half a year work placement can choose between a Work Placement and a Cultural Report.

The **14th unit** is assessed by examination to test oral/aural linguistic skills and intercultural awareness.

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme and additionally must pass the compulsory language course units in both of the first two stages (GM1009 and GM2009, or GM1010 and GM2010 for those on the Beginner's German Stream) in order to progress from the first to the second year of study and from the second year of study onto the PRA or final year of study, respectively depending on the degree programme. In order to qualify for an award in the field of study the final-year language course (GM3009) must be passed. Students taking CLC and Visual Cultures must pass the final year courses ML3207 and ML3211 in order to qualify for a joint award in Visual Cultures. Students taking German with Film Studies must pass the final year courses ML3207 and ML3307 in order to qualify for an award in the minor field of study.

It is a College requirement that students **complete** their Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) in order to be able to progress into the final year. Following agreed university courses to their conclusion, including the sitting of examinations, carrying out agreed work placements and completing PRA reports (where appropriate) constitute the completion of the PRA. **NB** Low or fail marks for elements that make up the thirteenth unit will pull down the average for that unit but will not prevent progression. However, **PLEASE NOTE that students who fail to complete their PRA as defined above will NOT normally be permitted to progress into the final year of their studies.**

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two, three and four, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage four. The two units taken during stage three are included in the average mark for stage two. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a final average of at least 35%.

All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for

progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

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Student support and guidance

- **Personal Advisors:** Each student is allocated to a particular member of academic teaching staff. Personal Advisors are available to meet their advisees regularly throughout the programme in order to advise on academic, pastoral or welfare issues and to review academic performance. Personal Advisors may also advise students on College and University support services, including the Student Counselling Service, the Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services (ESO) for students with special needs. When a student's usual Personal Advisor has sabbatical leave, the student is re-allocated to another colleague.
- **Office Hours:** All members of staff make themselves available for consultation by students on any academic or pastoral matter at specific hours during each teaching week of the academic year.
- **Academic Co-ordinators:** The Academic Co-ordinator provides a further, back-up source of academic advice. The Academic co-ordinator is also responsible for general oversight of Joint Honours students, liaising as necessary with Personal Advisors and with the other departments on the programme. Matters concerning programme pathways, course options and timetabling are discussed in the first instance with the student's Personal Advisor who may refer these to the Academic Co-ordinator.
- **Language Co-ordinator:** Each language has its own Language Co-ordinator, who may be consulted by students about any matters related to language courses and to the School's audio-visual and CALL resources related to these courses.
- **Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) Co-ordinators:** The PRA Co-ordinators, members of academic staff, run briefing sessions for students in Stage 2 of the programme who are going abroad the following year. The PRA Co-ordinators provide help and advice with applications, forms, accommodation plans, interviews, the British Council, and the Erasmus Programme.
- **School Educational Support Office (ESO) Network Member:** The ESO Network Member co-ordinates the provisions made within the School for students with disabilities or special educational needs through liaison with colleagues across the School and elsewhere in College (above all the ESO itself).
- **Student Handbooks:** The *School of Modern Languages Student Handbook* is published online annually and made available to all Modern Languages students via the 'For Students' section of the SMLLC website. It comprises a complete general guide to the School, its various subject areas, and its resources, containing contact details, help available, facilities, advice on study skills, assessment, feedback, plagiarism, Student-Staff Committee, examinations, etc., and information about other sources of support offered by the College. Lists of courses available, with course descriptions, are also available on the SMLLC website.
- **Student-Staff Committee:** All years of the undergraduate programme as well as postgraduate students and teaching staff are represented on this committee, which is chaired by a student. Any student may bring matters of concern before this committee, which, after discussion, will refer them to the appropriate School or College authority for resolution.
- **Careers Advice:** Whilst the principal role is played by the University of London Careers Service, there is also a Departmental Employability Lead who works with the Careers Service to ensure timely dissemination to students of information concerning careers, employers' forums, or other careers events. A number of these, including sessions designed to raise students' awareness of the marketability of the transferable skills acquired during their university careers, are organized on an annual basis specifically for Modern Languages students.
- **Resources:** The School is situated in the International Building where, along with Royal Holloway International, it offers students access to computer laboratories with dedicated Computer-Assisted Language Learning Software and recording facilities. The School liaises closely with the College libraries to ensure that the needs of students are appropriately met by the College's extensive collections of books, journals and electronic resources. Foreign-language DVDs can be viewed in the library's viewing rooms.

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Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from German degree programmes have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions, while some have continued onto Postgraduate studies. For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research. German was ranked joint 5th in the top 10 universities in the country in terms of proportion of 3* and 4* research, with 55% of the School's German research profile of 3* and 4* standard.

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List of programmes

All the programmes are taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in German are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in German describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Combined Honours Degree programmes with German as a minor component

- BA French with German (R1R2)
- BA Multilingual Studies (R991)
- BA Music with German (W3R2)
- BA Spanish with German (R4R2)
- BSc Mathematics with German (G1R2)
- BSc (Econ) Economics with German (L1R2)

Joint Honours Degree programmes with German as an equal component

- BA Comparative Literature and Culture and German (QR22)
- BA Drama and German (WR24)
- BA English and German (QR32)
- BA European Studies (German) (R200)
- BA French and German (RR12)
- BA German and Classical Studies (RQ28)
- BA German and Greek (RQ27)
- BA German and History (RV21)

BA German and Italian (RR23)
BA German and Management (RN22)
BA German and Music (RW23)
BA German and Philosophy (RV25)
BA German and Spanish (RR24)
BA German and Visual Cultures (RW26)

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