

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Honours Degree programmes in Multilingual Studies**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2011**.

The aims of all Honours programmes in Multilingual Studies are:

- To enable students to develop (a) high levels of competence in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding in three modern European languages; (b) a good grasp of key theoretical issues relating to language competence and learning; and
- To provide an appropriate educational background for students wishing to follow careers in Europe (in EU institutions or in multinationals), or to progress to PGCEs and become language teachers.

These degrees are only available currently to full-time students, normally lasting four years, the third being spent abroad, wholly in one of the three language areas, or splitting the year to divide the time evenly between two or all three. In each year of study, all students take one language course unit in each of the three languages they are studying and they must pass all three each year in order to progress and ultimately to graduate with the degree title BA in Multilingual Studies. Since the full-time load for a student is 4 course units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits), this leaves one each year to devote to some aspect of the culture, history, or linguistics of the language areas. Most of these options are available in half-unit form, enabling students to cover up to 6 topics beyond the core language element of the degree programme. Students have a free choice as to whether to use these units to specialize in the culture, history, and linguistics of one of their three languages, or to take a broader sweep and cover aspects of two or all three.

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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

- A range of texts (including print and television journalism, cinema, and literature);
- A range of current theoretical approaches to language and language learning, which they can apply to their own language development and that of others;

- The sociohistorical and cultural context of the language areas studied, which will inform their use of the three languages spoken there.

Skills and other attributes

- High levels of competence in the four key linguistic areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in three modern European languages;
- Comprehension of the three written and spoken languages in a wide variety of geographical and stylistic variations (all language courses);
- Production of the three written and spoken languages with accuracy and employing appropriate register (all language courses);
- Understanding of the cultures which express themselves in the three languages in many of its forms (all courses);
- Understanding of where the cultures studied fit within European and global cultural movements (FR2104, GM112, GM3111, GM3118, IT3060, SN1104, SN1105 and several interdepartmental courses available to students on these programmes);
- Adaptability to living abroad (FR/ GM/ IT/SN 2201/02,FR/ GM/ IT/SNL2401/02);
- Use of information technology related to language-learning software and library research (all courses);
- Effective identification and use of reference materials (all courses);
- Planning, designing, and executing a piece of rigorous research and writing it up competently (FR/ GM/IT/SN 2201, FR/GM/IT/SN 2202 and dissertation and project options in all language departments);
- Assessing the merits of contrasting theories and approaches (all courses);
- Analysing and problem-solving (all courses);*
- Critically interpreting texts (all courses);
- Abstracting and synthesizing information (all courses);
- Developing a reasoned argument (all courses except SN1010);
- Taking responsibility for independent learning and developing habits of reflection on that learning (all courses, but especially SN2501, FR/ GM/IT/SN 2201/02, SN3108, SN3113);
- Intellectual independence (all cultural courses);*
- Written English (all translation and cultural courses);*
- Oral articulacy (all courses);*
- Information Management (all courses);*
- Time management (all courses);*
- Research techniques (all cultural courses and project and dissertation, if taken);*
- Teamwork (language courses);*
- Resourcefulness (all courses);*
- Coping with pressure (all courses);*
- Competitiveness (language courses);*
- Interpersonal skills (all courses);*
- Dealing with authority (all courses);*
- Developing career or further study plans which take account of their language skills (extra-curricular, supported within the Department and at College level).*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Knowledge and understanding learning outcomes are best thought of as general ways of thinking which stretch across different courses and sub-disciplinary areas. As students progress through the programme, they develop a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of a selection of these aspects of their studies, always focusing on the language skills, but otherwise determined as flexibly as possible to suit personal interests of individual students. A detailed mapping of the ways in which particular courses meet these outcomes can be found in the Degree Programme Guide. Methods used to develop knowledge and understanding include language classes, lectures, seminars, small-group tutorials, guided independent research, guided independent study, and study and/or work placements during the year abroad. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is by written, oral and aural examinations, coursework essays and exercises, and dissertations.

General training is also given in discipline-specific, intellectual and key skills. Methods used to enable students to acquire and develop these skills include the following: teaching and class- and seminar-based discussion and debate (both in English and the target language), setting, marking, and feedback on work produced by students, one-to-one tutorials, training courses run by library and computer staff, guided independent study and research and one-to-one contact with personal advisers. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be found on the School's [website](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available optional courses offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the School's [website](#).

French pathways

Stage one

All students take 2 half-units unit in language: FR1001 Pratique de l'écrit: expliquer, résumer, rédiger

And FR1002 Pratique de l'oral: La France à travers ses médias

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to French studies can choose from a list of Stage one courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage two

All students take 2 half-units in language: FR2001 Pratique de l'écrit: analyser et argumenter

And FR2002 Pratique de l'oral: la France contemporaine à travers son cinéma

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to French studies can choose from a list of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage Four

All students take 2 half-units in language: FR3001 Pratique de l'écrit: communiquer et convaincre

And FR3002 Pratique de l'oral: réflexions et débats

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to French studies can choose from a list of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

German pathways

German has two language pathways, one for post-A/AS level non-native speakers and one for the native speakers.

Stage one

All students take 2 half-units in language:

GM1009 German Language I, for post-A/AS level

GM1002 Advanced Translation I

And GM1102 Introduction to German Linguistics, for native speakers

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to German studies can choose from a list of Stage one courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage two

All students take 1 course unit in language:

GM2001 German Language II, for post A/AS level (full unit)

GM2002 Advanced Translation II (half-unit)

and GM2101 The German Language, Past & Present (half-unit), for native speakers

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to German studies can choose from a list of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage four

All students take 2 half-units in language:

GM3009 German Language III, for post A/AS level

GM3102 The Emergence of Modern Standard German and GM3002

Advanced Translation III, for native speakers

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to German studies can choose from a list of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Italian pathways

Italian has two language pathways, one for beginners and one for post-A level students.

Stage one

All students take 1 course unit in language:

IT1000 Intensive Italian for Beginners

Or IT1050 Advanced Italian, for post-A level

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to Italian studies can choose from a list of Stage one courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage two

Those that were beginners in their first year take:

IT2000 Advanced Italian II for post beginners

Post A/AS level students take:

IT2050 Advanced Italian II

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to Italian studies can choose from a list of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage four

All students take 2 half units in language:

IT3000 Advanced Oral & Communication Skills

And either IT3050 Advanced Italian III: Translation from & into Italian

Or IT3070 Essay in Italian

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to Italian studies can choose a third language half unit from those listed above or a course from a list of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Spanish pathways

The first two years of the programme divides students into three separate streams: beginners in Spanish, post-A (or -AS) level, and native competence. In the final year they are all fully integrated.

Stage one

All students take 1 course unit in language: SN1010 Intensive Spanish I, for beginners

SN1001 Spanish I, for post-A/AS-level

SN2001 Spanish II, for native competence

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to Hispanic Culture can choose:

SN1100 Spanish Through Texts, a half course-unit only for beginners or a course from a list of Stage one courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage two

All students take 1 course unit in language:

SN2010 Intensive Spanish II, for beginners

SN2001 Spanish II, for post-A/AS-level

SN2011 Principles & Practice of Translation Spanish to English (½ unit)*

SN2012 Principles & Practice of Translation English to Spanish (½ unit)*

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to Hispanic Culture can choose from a list of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage four

All students take 1 course unit in language: SN3001 Spanish III

Those who wish to devote part or all of their fourth unit to Hispanic Culture can choose from a list of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Stage 3: Year abroad

The year abroad is an integral part of Multilingual Studies. Students may choose between studying at one or more approved institution in one or more of the language areas, or, if English is their mother tongue, they may opt for a work placement as an English teaching assistant. The **accreditation** of the year abroad consists of a total of **2 course units**, which will either be wholly attributed to one language area or

divided between two if the year was split. Students wishing to spend time in all three language areas will devote one or both of the two summers on either side of the academic year to living in one of the three and one semester of the academic year to living in each of the other two. The assessment will relate to the language area(s) in which the academic year was spent.

FR2501/02, Oral Examination in French: accredits progress made in the spoken language (half or full unit)

GM2501/02, Oral Examination in German: accredits progress made in the spoken language (half or full unit)

IT2501/02, Oral Examination in Italian: accredits progress made in the spoken language (half or full unit)

SN2501/02, Oral Examination in Spanish: accredits progress made in the spoken language (half or full unit)

FR/GM/IT/SN 2401/02, Study Abroad: accredits university study (half or full unit)

FR/GM/IT/SN 2201/02, Work Placement Project: accredits what has been learnt through an assistantship or some other work placement (half or full unit)

A range of interdisciplinary courses may also be of particular interest to students of Multilingual Studies: SNN1104 Key Concepts in European Culture & Theory, ML1101, Reading European Film 1, ML1102 The Birth of European Film, ML 2101 Reading European Film 2, ML1201 European Literature 1, ML2201 European Literature 2.

Progression and award requirements

In order to progress through the programme and graduate at the end, students must pass courses to a value of at least 3 course units per year, including their language courses.

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.

The classification of the degree is based on a weighted average of the marks for courses taken in second year and year abroad, and final year, where final-year marks are given double the weight of the earlier ones.

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 Educational Support Office 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 Socrates-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 School Careers Liaison Officer 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 videos and 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 Catalogue](#) 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 of degree programmes in Multilingual Studies find employment in a wide variety of professions and careers, in the UK, in Europe and internationally. Recent graduates have followed careers in, amongst others, sales and marketing, tourism, the arts, publishing, advertising, the public sector (civil service and diplomatic corps, local government and the NHS), banking, commerce, the leisure industry and management. Many graduates are keen to continue their studies to a higher level and/or to acquire professional, vocational qualifications as translators, interpreters and teachers of a European language or English as a foreign language. Considerable numbers choose to seek employment abroad,

some returning to contacts they made during their year abroad, others opting for international organizations, such as the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and the United Nations.

Apart from encouraging students to make full use of the [College Careers Service](#), the School holds an annual careers forum to which employers and RHUL language graduates are invited to make presentations to current students. The School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures runs successful MA programmes and is keen to encourage students to undertake a higher degree.

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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.

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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. Multilingual Programmes are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements for French, German, Hispanic Studies and Italian describe the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in these subjects, and can therefore be used as points of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Honours Degree programme in Multilingual Studies

BA Multilingual Studies (R991)

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