

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Bachelor of Arts in Ancient and Medieval History**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2015**.

The aims of the programme are:

- to develop students' knowledge of Ancient and Medieval history;
- to introduce students to issues of methodology in relation to the study of pre-modern history;
- to allow students to explore the relationship between ancient and medieval history;
- to develop skills in research in premodern history;
- to provide students with key skills, the ability to work independently and in a self-directed fashion; to devise and deliver a project; and an ability to set learning goals;
- to develop students' transferable skills in studying at degree level, communicating ideas and information, information retrieval, and presentation, both written and oral, and team working
- to develop the range of skills necessary to pursue a further degree in historical studies
- to develop students' ability to derive information and ideas from fragmentary or imperfect sources

The programme is delivered over three years of full-time study or six years of part-time study. On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the BA at a level appropriate for a graduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to MA study in the same or closely related fields (notably Ancient History, History).

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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 programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge of a variety of critical approaches to Ancient and Medieval History;
- a detailed understanding of the methodological questions and issues involved in studying Ancient and Modern history
- a detailed understanding of both Classical and Medieval history;

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- the acquisition of knowledge of scholarship in the chosen areas of the discipline to a level appropriate for a BA degree.

Skills and other attributes

- the ability to develop and complete an extended project at an advance level; *
- an ability to self-direct in research and in the delivery of a project;*
- familiarity with and the capability of presenting work to recognised scholarly standards in a recognised scholarly format;*
- the ability to conduct historical research independently;
- the ability to articulate knowledge and the understanding of historical material, concepts and theories at an Honours level, demonstrating an understanding of historical methodologies appropriate to the field of study;
- the ability to use information resources, libraries, webs-sites, and original texts in translation, as appropriate to the field of study
- time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;*
- the ability to analyse and evaluate critically, reflect critically on one's own practices and methodologies, to take initiatives, and responsibilities and to, innovate.*
- the ability to present work at an appropriate standard both orally and in writing*

*transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning will be through a mix of formal lectures, seminar discussions and oral presentations, guided independent research, guided independent study, coursework essays, and a dissertation. The basic strategies are to nurture the interest and enthusiasm of the students for the field, to develop the students' critical and communication skills and to develop critical, research and creative skills. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically through written work. Formative feedback will be provided continuously through informal oral feedback in seminars and more formally through written feedback on essays. Full details of the assessments for individual course elements can be obtained from the [Department of Classics](#) and the [Department of History](#).

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Details of the programme structure

The brief outline of the programme is enclosed; students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook. The programme is delivered over 12 course units taken over 3 years (or their part-time equivalent).

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the Department.

Bachelor of Arts Programme in Ancient and Medieval History

FIRST YEAR

Students must take the following **mandatory** courses:

- HS1002 History and Meanings: Part 1 (0.5 unit)
- HS1005 Public History **or** HS1111 Latin for (0.5 unit)
- CL1575: Ancient History: Methods and Approaches (0.5 unit)
- CL1550: Greek History and the City State (0.5 unit)
- CL 1560: Key Themes in Roman History (0.5 unit)
- Option from Classics year one introductory units (0.5 unit)

Plus one History Gateway course from the list below (1 unit)

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HS1107: Republics, Kings and People: The Foundations of European Political Thought from Plato to Rousseau
HS1108: The Rich Tapestry of Life: A Social and Cultural History of Europe 1500-1780
HS1116: Rome to Renaissance: An Introduction to the Middle Ages

Students may substitute HS1005/HS1111 and the optional Classics ½ unit for a language acquisition course from the Classics listings at an appropriate level.

SECOND YEAR

Students must take the following **mandatory** course:

HS2300: (0.5 unit) Independent Essay

One History Group 2 course from those listed below (1 unit).

HS2124: The Later Roman Empire
HS2127: Byzantium and its Neighbours
HS2132: London Urban Society, 1400-1600
HS2142: The Crusades and the Eastern Mediterranean, 1095-1291
HS2143: Medicine and Society in Medieval Europe

At least four from the following courses (0.5 unit):

HS2004: The Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic (Group 1)
HS2005: Rome and its Empire from Augustus to Commodus (Group 1)
CL2352 Greek History to 322BC I
CL2353 Greek History to 322BC II
CL2355 Greek Historiography: [to be validated]
CL2369 Historiography of the Roman World [to be validated]

Plus one further course (0.5 unit) from the list of Classics courses or the following Group 1 History courses:

HS2004: The Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic
HS2009: Europe 1000-1300 (1): The Structures of Power
HS2011: The Flowering of the Middle Ages (1): Politics, Pestilence and War, c.1300-c.1500
HS2111 Advanced Latin in the second term (0.5 unit)
HS2151: The Silk Road (1): Genghis Khan and the Mongol Legacy (1200-1500)
HS2149: Daily Life in Renaissance and Baroque Italian Cities 1: Social and Domestic Life
HS2005: Rome and its Empire from Augustus to Commodus
HS2010: Europe 1000-1300 (2): Culture, Society and Religion
HS2012: The Flowering of the Middle Ages (2)
HS2152: The Silk Road (2): The Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires (1500-1700)

THIRD YEAR

Pathway A

History

One Group 3 course with dissertation (2.0 units) from the following:

HS3296/7: Christians and Pagans from Constantine to Augustine (AD 306-430)
HS3150/1: Heresy, Crusade and Inquisition in Southern France, c.1140-c.1300
HS3131/2: England in the Reign of Richard II
HS3139/40: Religious Culture in England c. 1375-1525
HS3145/6: The Causes and Consequences of the Fall of Constantinople, 1453
HS3361/2: Genghis Khan and His Empire, 1150-1300

Classics

EITHER

Two Year 3 courses (taught courses only, 2 units)

OR

One Year 3 course (taught course only, 1 unit) and one Classics language course (1 unit)

Pathway B

History

One Group 3 course (taught course only, 1 unit) from the following:

HS3296: Christians and Pagans from Constantine to Augustine (AD 306-430)

HS3150: Heresy, Crusade and Inquisition in Southern France, c.1140-c.1300

HS3131: England in the Reign of Richard II

HS3139: Religious Culture in England c. 1375-1525

HS3145: The Causes and Consequences of the Fall of Constantinople, 1453

HS3361: Genghis Khan and His Empire, 1150-1300

Plus EITHER

One Group 2 course (1 unit) from the list above

Classics

One Year 3 course with dissertation (two units)

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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 as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can normally be condoned. However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees.

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.

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 and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. The College's Undergraduate Regulations include full details on progression and award requirements for all undergraduate programmes offered by the College.

Student support and guidance

- **Personal Advisers:** All students are allocated a personal advisor. Joint Honours are assigned a Joint Honours Coordinator. The personal adviser will advise on all matters connected with your academic work or will support you in pastoral of issues. Where the Personal Adviser is unable to help directly, students may discuss issues

with the Senior Faculty Administrator, who will be able to refer students to an appropriate source of help. Students are required to see their advisor when they arrive at the beginning of the academic and in the Spring term when course choices are made.

- Staff are available and accessible through dedicated office hours system or by appointment (by e-mail)
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee. The Classics Department runs a large number of programmes with provision that overlaps between programmes. Representation on the committee is by year group and gender, with representation for mature students.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources. Students will have access to a detailed student handbook, up-dated regularly on the web. Course resources are available through Moodle.
- The Classics Department has a common-room, used by students for informal meetings, socialising between classes, and as a work space.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources are held in College libraries and the Computer Centre supports access to internet and IT provision.
- College Careers Service and Employability Service, Departmental Careers and Employability Tutor: The College has a dedicated careers service with liaison into Classics and History. An academic member of staff in each Department liaises with the career service and supports the running of events.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.

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Admission requirements

Details of the Department's typical offer for each programme of study is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has 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. For further guidance it may be helpful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from History and Classics programmes have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions which include journalism, publishing and the media, advertising and marketing, the creative industry, the public sector, and teaching. A University of London degree can be the precursor to embarking on research, ultimately leading to a PhD. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers & Employability 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 Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 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 and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4* and 3* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

The Department of Classics is ranked 21st in the UK for research of 4* standard and 21st for 3* and 4* research.

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List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to an award of the University of London. Programmes in Classics and History are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Honours Degree programmes in Ancient and Medieval History

BA Ancient and Medieval History (VV19)

BA Ancient and Medieval History with an International Year (Banner code 2652)

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