

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Honours Degree programmes in European Studies**. For Joint and Combined 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 the Single Honours Degree programmes in European Studies are:

- to produce students who are well prepared with the knowledge and skills to live in and contribute to a rapidly changing international environment;
- to produce students who will graduate with a commitment to continue to improve their knowledge and expand their skills;
- to place questions of European political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic development at the centre of the analysis;
- to foster an understanding of how European political, economic, social, cultural and linguistics developments are inter-related;
- to encourage an interdisciplinary theoretical approach based on these inter-related phenomena;
- to enable students to understand and use the key concepts, approaches and methods of at least one social science and at least one European language /or a comparative literature and culture course, a literature and culture option;
- to develop in students a capacity to think critically about events, ideas and institutions;
- to encourage students to relate the academic study of Europe to questions of public concern;
- to assist students to develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development;
- to provide a curriculum supported by scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate;
- to create a learning environment that is receptive to the needs and views of students and encourages them to achieve their full potential;

Programmes are delivered in three stages, each of which comprises 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). European Studies is an interdisciplinary, course-unit programme and for each of the language pathways (European Studies with French/German/Italian/Spanish) this includes a year abroad for students between Stages two and three. The students spend the year in a country appropriate to their major language option. Students studying two languages may, if approved by the relevant department and the by the Director of European Studies, spend their year abroad in two countries. Students take courses to the value of fourteen whole course units. This is based on four units in each stage in residence at Royal Holloway and two units based on the year abroad between Stages two and three. For the Politics, Society and Culture pathway, the compulsory language course are replaced by compulsory literature and culture courses (from a range of options), and students progress directly from the second to the third and final year.'

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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

- of the development, workings, policies and limitations of European institutions;
- of the major social, political and economic trends in Europe, especially integration;
- advanced linguistic competencies in at least one of the following languages – French, German, Italian, Spanish or, for the Politics Society and Culture pathway, advanced understanding of different aspects of European politics, society and culture.
- of the cultural and social context of at least one of the major languages mentioned above;
- of the major concepts, theories, methodologies and literature of at least one social science;
- an ability to apply the major concepts, theories, methodologies and literature of the social science subject(s) to the empirical setting of Europe.

Skills and other attributes

- use information to support an argument, hypothesis or proposition;*
- present information with high levels of written accuracy;*
- transfer linguistic skills to a specialist social science literature;
- gather, structure and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources;*
- identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems;*
- construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement;*
- reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback;*
- continually analyse and question their own assumptions and those of others;*
- demonstrate oral competence and the confidence to use these skills in at least one language additional to the mother tongue;*
- use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information;*
- engage in theoretical and conceptual debate;*
- work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management;*
- collaborate with others to achieve common goals;*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures and seminars, the latter generally providing a forum for students with the support of their instructors, to develop skills in engaging in theoretical debate and the ability to question assumptions. Assessment is typically by formal examinations, seminar presentations, coursework essays and oral presentations for a number of courses. Essays and short written answers ensure that the skills of exposition and critique are developed and evaluated. Such essay writing will help teach information gathering, evaluating skills, how to support an argument or proposition and how to present information in a logical/ordered way with high levels of written accuracy. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from [European Studies home](#)

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of options 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 [European Studies home](#)

In the first year, European Studies students are introduced to a range of disciplines, some of which they will not have studied at school. This gives students the time and opportunity to make well-informed choices regarding the different disciplines in which they may specialise, in combination with their language(s). The scheme of course unit combinations taken by individual students is varied and chosen in consultation with the European Studies Programme Co-ordinator, and the appropriate departmental Academic Co-ordinator(s). The year abroad requirements (13th and 14th unit) are set by the language departments.

Students must take four units each year as comprised below:

Stage One

- European Studies Compulsory Course - PR1500 Introduction to International Relations (one unit)
- Main Language course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)
- Main Social Science course (one unit) or, for Politics, Society and Culture students, a literature or culture course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)
- Selected Options course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)

Stage Two

- European Studies Compulsory Course - ES2001 European Integration since 1945 (one unit)
- Main Language course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)
- Main Social Science course (one unit) or, for Politics, Society and Culture students, a literature or culture course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)
- Selected Options course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)

Year Abroad

Requirements set by Individual Language Departments. (not applicable for Politics, Society and Culture pathway students)

Stage Three

- European Studies Core (Pass Required) Course - ES3001 Contemporary Issues in European Integration (one unit)
- Main Language course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)
- Main Social Science course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit) or, for Politics, Society and Culture students, a literature or culture course from **List C** (one unit)
- Selected Options course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (one unit)

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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 (including the compulsory units) on each stage of the programme. In order to progress into Stage three of the programme, students must have achieved a pass mark in at least six units (including Compulsory units) and two of the six units must have been taken for the first time and passed in the Stage two. For those students taking a Period of Residence Abroad (PRA), 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.

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. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%. The BA (Hons) European Studies can be awarded only to students who have, by the end of the programme:

- Achieved a pass mark in at least nine units.
- Achieved a pass mark in the European Studies core courses; PR1500, ES2001, ES3001.
- Achieved a pass mark in the compulsory language unit or half unit for each of Stages one and two and a pass mark in the core PR language unit or half-unit for Stage three.

The BA European Studies (Politics, Society and Culture) can be awarded only to students who have, by the end of the programme:

- Achieved a pass mark in at least nine units.
- Achieved a pass mark in the European Studies core courses; PR1500, ES2001, ES3001.
- Achieved a pass mark in both their politics and comparative literature courses for Stage three.

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Tutors: Each student (other than those studying the BA European Studies (Politics, Society and Culture) has a personal advisor both for European Studies in the Department of Politics and International Relation and in the School of the Modern Languages. The personal advisors can meet with students regularly during the duration of the programme. The advisor helps with academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- The Programme Director will be available to advise European Studies students on academic matters and has overall pastoral responsibility. The Programme Director also organises various social events for European Studies students throughout the academic year.
- In addition, students have access to the Academic Co-ordinators in all the departments in which they study for academic, pastoral and welfare advice. The European Studies Management Team is also available to consider broad issues involving more than one department.
- The Student-Staff Committee meets at least once each term to consider issues raised by students. In addition, the contributing departments have their own Student-Staff Committees, which are open to representation from European Studies students. There is also a student representative on the Library Users Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources can direct students to sources of support at College level.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- Careers advice: access to the [College Careers Service](#) and 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.
- Access to all College and University support services, including [Student Counselling Service](#), [Health Centre](#) and the [Disability and Dyslexia Services](#) for students with special needs.

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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

European Studies graduates have employment records considerably above the national average. Some of our recent graduates have found employment within various international organisations, national governments, international business and consultancies, journalism, public relations and banking. Many of our students also go on to study for professional qualifications in law, teaching and interpreting as well as research degrees in areas such as Geology, Marketing, Politics and International Relations and comparative European literature. For further details please refer to the College [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.

Established in 1991, the European Studies centre at Royal Holloway brings together the language and social science departments to provide undergraduate programmes in European Studies. The European Studies programme is among the most successful and challenging on offer at Royal Holloway. It is an interdisciplinary programme combining the advanced study of modern European languages with the study of at least one social science and of contemporary European politics, economics and international relations. Students are taught by subject experts in all areas. Departmental systems for monitoring and assessing quality include course and Departmental student evaluation questionnaires, the student-staff committees, peer evaluation of teaching, the monitoring of curricula provision through the Departmental Board, and the annual review report, including reports from visiting examiners.

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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. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Politics and International Relations, to whom the European Studies centre belongs, 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).

Single Honours Degree programmes in European Studies

- BA European Studies (French) (R100)
- BA European Studies (German) (R200)
- BA European Studies (Italian) (R300)
- BA European Studies (Spanish) (R401)
- BA European Studies (Politics, Society and Culture) (R900)

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