

## 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 2015**.

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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For students registered in or after September 2015

Version 5.0

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## [List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

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 (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> unit) are set by the language departments.

Students must take four units each year as comprised below:

### Stage One

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

PR1500 Introduction to International Relations (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

PR1500 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

- Main Language course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (1 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** (1 unit)
- Selected Options course **as detailed in the European Studies Programme Handbook** (1 unit)

### Stage Two

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

ES2001 European Integration since 1945 (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

ES2001 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

- 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. (Please note, this is not applicable for Politics, Society and Culture pathway students.)

### **Stage Three**

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

ES3001 Contemporary Issues in European Integration (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to qualify for the degree**]

ES3001 must be passed in order to qualify for the degree.

- 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 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.

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.

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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.
- College Careers and Employability Service and Departmental Careers and Employability Tutor.
- 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

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 & 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 Politics and International Relations is ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the UK for research of 4\* standard and 18<sup>th</sup> 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. 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](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://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)

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