

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Research, Postgraduate Diploma, and Postgraduate Certificate in Rhetoric**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2012**.

The aims of the programme are:

- to enable students to pursue advanced research in Rhetoric;
- to prepare students for research at PhD level by providing training in a range of historical and analytical methods;
- to equip students with advanced skills in research, analysis and presentation that will be valuable in a variety of non-academic careers;
- to contribute to continuing professional development, tailoring research projects to students' past experience and future plans.

The programme is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or two years of part-time study (104 weeks). On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the MRes at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

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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 the Centre for Oratory and Rhetoric which is located within the Classics Department. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- understanding of how to plan, carry out and present research at an advanced level;
- an advanced knowledge of the foundations of rhetorical theory and practice;
- an appreciation of the history of rhetorical theory and practice in the European tradition from Classical antiquity to modern times, and of the applicability of rhetorical approaches to the study of communication in the modern world;
- knowledge and understanding of such other areas of language, literature, history, politics, culture, or ideas as may be appropriate in order to pursue the chosen research project(s) to an advanced level
- the acquisition of appropriate knowledge of advanced scholarship in the chosen area(s).

### *Skills and other attributes*

- the ability to conduct research independently at an advanced level;\*
- the ability to understand and analyse concepts relating to rhetorical theory and practice;
- the ability to engage critically and at an advanced level in rhetorical analysis of texts (e.g. argumentation, character-projection, emotional strategies, structure, use of language);\*
- the ability to engage in the study of rhetoric and communication as historical and/or contemporary phenomena in human societies;
- the ability to articulate and present arguments at an advanced level with clarity and persuasiveness;\*
- the ability to engage in debate on scholarly issues, respecting the views of other participants;\*
- enhanced time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;\*
- in addition, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthens our postgraduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity.\*

\*transferable skills.

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### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

Teaching and learning in the core and optional courses take place by means of lectures/presentations by experts in the field, seminar discussions, oral presentations, and coursework essays, together with guided independent study and research. Training in research methods is incorporated into the core course and is assessed both by means of coursework essays in the core course itself, and in dissertation and/or project work undertaken independently under supervision. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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### **Details of the programme structure(s)**

The full-time programme lasts 52 weeks, beginning in September. The brief outline of the programme is shown below; further details may be obtained from the Programme Handbook.

The programme contains five elements with credit values as shown below. Where weightings are indicated in brackets, these refer to weightings within the MRes. The programme structure for the PgDip is as below, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation. Weightings for courses within the PgDip are proportionate, but exclude the dissertation.

(i) CL5051: Problems and Methods in Oratory and Rhetoric (core course incorporating research methods: 40 credits)

(ii) EITHER: CL5054: Oratory and Identity (40 credits)

OR: An optional course or courses to the value of 40 credits to be chosen (subject to the approval of the Programme Director) from a list of courses offered by the Department, or by another department at Royal Holloway, or by other London institutions as part of the Intercollegiate MA programmes in Classics, Ancient History, or Late Antique and Byzantine Studies.

(iii) CL5052: Independent Project 1 (20 credits)

(iv) CL5053: Independent Project 2 (20 credits)

(v) CL5050: Dissertation (60 credits)

Students for the MRes take all five elements as shown above. Students for the Postgraduate Diploma take elements (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv). Students for the Postgraduate Certificate take element (i) and at least one of elements (ii), (iii) or (iv). Students may register for either the MRes, the Postgraduate Diploma, or the Postgraduate Certificate in the first instance. Students registered for the MRes may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma or the Postgraduate Certificate in accordance with the regulations set out below.

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](#).

### Part-time programme structure

The part-time programme lasts 104 weeks, beginning in September of year one. Part-time students for the MRes normally take element (i) in their first year and element (v) in their second year; the other elements may be taken in either year by individual arrangement. Part-time students for the PGDip take element (i) in their first year; the other elements may be taken in either year by individual arrangement.

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### **Progression and award requirements**

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework.

To pass the **MRes programme** a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses totalling not more than 40 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%, but a failure mark (i.e. below 50%) in the dissertation cannot be condoned.

The Masters degree with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Masters degree with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme.

In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50% *and* has either chosen not to proceed to the dissertation, or has failed the dissertation on either the first or second attempt. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, but if they are, such condoned fails would be in courses which do not constitute more than 25% of the final assessment

The Postgraduate Diploma with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme.

In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The **Postgraduate Certificate** may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00% in the elements specified for the Certificate, with no mark in any taught element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%, *and* has either chosen not to take the remaining elements or has failed in them on a first or second attempt.

The Postgraduate Certificate with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above in the specified elements, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above in the specified elements, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme.

In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

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### **Student support and guidance**

- The Programme Director acts as a point of contact and meets with the students on a regular basis to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- The Programme Director will normally act as personal adviser for all students on the programme, or if deemed appropriate will nominate another member of staff to be personal adviser. Students should meet with their personal advisers at least once a term, or more often if required, to discuss any matters relating to their programme and for pastoral support.
- Course coordinators, tutors and dissertation supervisors provide academic, pastoral and welfare advice as appropriate.
- Induction programmes for orientation and introduction to the Department and College are provided by the Programme Director. Some induction events may be shared with students on other programmes, especially the MA programmes in the Department.
- Students are provided with information on relevant Central London facilities, especially the Institute of Classical Studies.
- All staff are available and accessible either through regular office hours (posted in the Department) or by e-mail appointment.
- Students on postgraduate taught programmes are represented on the Student-Staff Committee.
- A detailed MRes handbook is provided, which includes course documentation for the core course and independent projects.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources are available in College and University libraries, as well as the Computer Centre.
- Students have access to departmental computing facilities and a study room in the Department.
- Advice on careers is provided by the College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Students have access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre, Students' Union and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.

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### **Admission requirements**

Admission to the programme normally requires a First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree at BA level or an equivalent qualification. International and overseas qualifications are welcomed. No particular subjects are specified for entry. The Department 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. For further details please refer to the [Prospective Students](#) web page. 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**

The MRes prepares students for further research at PhD level. The MRes and associated Diploma and Certificate qualifications are also intended as preparation for non-academic careers, especially those involving communication (such as law, politics, the media, advertising, or teaching) and as continuing professional development for those already pursuing careers of this kind. For more details on further learning and career opportunities 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 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 (13th for Classics) and 18th for 3\* and 4\* research (15th for Classics).

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

The programmes are taught entirely under the direction of staff at Royal Holloway, University of London. The Master's programme leads to an award of the University of London. The Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate lead to awards of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. Programmes in Classics are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme codes are given in parentheses.

### **Master of Research Programme in Rhetoric**

MRes in Rhetoric (2538)

### **Postgraduate Diploma in Rhetoric**

PG Diploma in Rhetoric (2563)

### **Postgraduate Certificate in Rhetoric**

PG Certificate in Rhetoric (2564)

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