

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Crusader Studies**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2014**.

The aims of the Programme are to:

- provide advanced study of the crusading movement and the crusader states of the Levant;
- provide the opportunity for advanced study of specialized topics within the field of crusader studies;
- examine critically current techniques of enquiry and research in crusader studies;
- provide applied training in the methodologies and techniques needed for research leading to MPhil/PhD in crusader studies and related fields;
- foster the ability to learn independently, whether for further research, for career enhancement, or for personal intellectual development;
- develop the written and oral presentation skills needed for the effective communication of research findings at advanced level;
- expand and enhance the intellectual community devoted to the study of the Middle Ages.

This MA programme is run by the History Department of Royal Holloway and draws upon London's status as an established centre of crusading research. Most of the course units are (as appropriate) also available to students on the MA in Medieval Studies, the MA in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies and the MA in History: Gender and Women's History. The Masters programme is delivered in a single stage, equating to one year of full-time study (52 weeks), or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks).

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the Programme, 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 research interests of medievalists at the forefront of their discipline drawn from the History Department of Royal Holloway. In general terms, the Programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding:

- the major concepts and theories that inform the field of crusader studies;
- a wide variety of materials and approaches related to the Crusades;

- the research skills that are commonly used in the study of crusading history;
- the location and organisation of primary and secondary sources of evidence, both textual and otherwise, relating to crusading history;
- the various historiographical arguments for changes and continuities in crusading history;
- the underlying social, cultural, economic, religious, ideological and political changes occurring during the crusading period.

Skills and other attributes:

- making productive use of research institutions: libraries, museums, world-wide web and other useful sources of information;*
- locating, organising, deploying and critically evaluating primary and secondary sources of information required for research into the Crusades;
- analysing and synthesising complex and often contradictory information to create coherent and logical arguments supported by relevant evidence;*
- analysing and assessing complex debates concerning the Crusades, and engaging in constructive debates with other students and with course teachers;
- applying specific skills (in languages, palaeography, archaeology etc) relevant to the study of the Crusades
- examination of complex problems of historical interpretation, and the formulation of judgements on the basis of incomplete data;*
- planning and executing an independent, original and extended piece of research for the Dissertation;*
- reflecting critically on the results of research investigations and the methods used to obtain these;*
- independent learning and scholarship;*
- In addition to the above skills, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes. These include: personal motivation; the ability to work, as appropriate, both autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; intellectual integrity; flexibility, adaptability; and creativity.*
- conveying the results of research clearly and systematically in a manner comprehensible to the non-specialist, both orally and in writing*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

The interest and enthusiasm of students are nurtured through their close involvement with the current research of established scholars. As befits an advanced research programme, all teaching is highly interactive, with an emphasis on open discussion with a 'community of scholars'. Methods used to develop knowledge, understanding and skills are: seminars, student oral presentations, small-group tutorials, and guided independent research or study.

Discipline-specific and transferable skills are developed throughout the programme, the acquisition of these skills being underpinned by the core course 'Recording the Crusades' and the compulsory 'Research Development' course. The former will provide a thorough grounding in the historiography and evidence specific to the study of the crusades whilst the latter will provide more general training in humanities research techniques (footnoting, compiling a bibliography, reviewing, textual editing etc.) and in making and chairing oral presentations. Research skills are developed to a professional level through the design and production of an independent research dissertation, which also serves to integrate knowledge and skills acquired throughout the programme.

Assessment of knowledge, understanding and skills is by coursework essays and other exercises, oral presentations, formal examinations, and an independent dissertation. The assessment methods used for a particular course will vary in accordance with the knowledge and skills being developed by that course

(see next section for details). Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the Programme structure

The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook. **Credits are indicated in brackets, and indicate proportional weighting towards the MA, PGDip and PGCert classification grade.** The programme structure for the PGDip is as below, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation, while that for the PG Cert is that students are required to pass courses worth only 60 credits.

MA Students follow the full-unit 'programme' course and also take a compulsory half-unit Research Development course plus a half-unit 'skills' option course, the core course 'Recording the Crusades' and a further half-unit option course. In addition, all students complete a compulsory Dissertation.

A. Programme Courses

This element of the Programme runs over both the Autumn and Spring terms:

HS5515 Louis IX of France and the Recovery of the Holy Land (20 credits);

HS5516 The Mongols: 'A Journey Through the Gates of Hell'; Europe Discovers the Wider World, c.1219-c.1262 (20 credits)

B. Option Courses

Students select one of the following, which will be studied in the Spring term:

HS5220 Byzantium and the Crusades: From the Origins of the Fourth Crusade to the Fall of Constantinople (20 credits)

HS5209 Women, the Crusades and the Frontier Societies of Medieval Christendom, 1000-1300 (20 credits)

C. Core Course

HS5256 Recording the Crusades (20 credits)

D. Skills Courses

During the Autumn and Spring terms, students take:

HS5217 Research Development course (20 credits)

plus one of the following:

HS5250 Introductory Latin for Medievalists (20 credits)

HS5251 Further Latin for Medievalists (20 credits)

E. Dissertation

MA Students take the following compulsory unit during the Summer term and the following vacation:

HS5205 Dissertation (60 credits)

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](#).

N.B. Part-time MA students will normally complete the *Programme Course* and the *Research Development Course* in their first year of study and the two *Option Courses*, the *Skills Course*, and the *Dissertation* in their second year of study. Variations of these patterns may be allowed in consultation with the Programme Director.

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Progression and Award Requirements

If a student is taking the programme over more than one year, he or she must normally pass the course or courses taken in one year in order to progress into the following year.

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

Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

To pass the **Masters** 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 which do not constitute up to a maximum of 40 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%, but a failure mark (i.e. below 50%) in the dissertation and the Programme Course 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% and normally with a mark of at least 70% in the dissertation. 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 course 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 40 credits.

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 course 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 course 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 course. 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%, with no mark in any taught course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate.

The Postgraduate Certificate with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any course 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, with no mark in any course 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 course. 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

- Full information about the programme can be found on the website below:
<http://www.crusaderstudies.org.uk/>
- A Programme Guide is sent to all students before their arrival.
- An Induction Meeting at the beginning of the Autumn Term provides students with both College and Departmental orientation.
- Personal Adviser. The Programme Director acts as the Personal Adviser for students on this programme. His role is to offer advice on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. The Personal Adviser sees students at regular intervals, typically once a term, throughout the Programme and is also available for consultation at advertised office hours.
- All tutors are available for consultation by their students at advertised office hours.
- Departmental Student-Staff Postgraduate Committees in the History department acts as a two-way channel of communication between the Department and the student community.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources are available in the College libraries, in the Computer Centre, and at the College's London base at 11, Bedford Square.
- Students enjoy access to all College and University support services, including the College Careers Service (and the Departmental Careers Service Liaison Officer), Student Counselling Service, Health Centre, College Chaplaincy and the Student Union. Students with additional learning needs also have access to Disability and Dyslexia Services (ESO).
- Students enjoy membership of a number of research centres and libraries in Central London, including the University of London's Institute of Historical Research and Institute of English Studies, Senate House library and the Warburg Institute.

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Admission requirements

For details of admissions requirements please refer to the [Course Finder](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

The MA in Crusader Studies provides an ideal qualification for embarking upon further postgraduate work in the field; it has an excellent record of producing PhD students. The wide range of discipline-specific and transferable skills developed by this programme also makes it an excellent qualification for posts involving research, analysis and presentation of information at an advanced level. It is thus suitable for, for example, writers, archivists, librarians, full-time researchers, journalists, business and marketing people, management-level training with the Metropolitan Police, civil servants, university administrators and teachers looking to develop and extend their professional skills. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

The design and delivery of the College's Programmes draws extensively upon the research activities and expertise of its staff. 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. 60% of the History Department's research profile is of 3* and 4* standard.

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

The programme is taught by staff of Royal Holloway, University of London, and the Masters degree 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 History are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme codes are given in parentheses.

Master of Arts in Crusader Studies

MA in Crusader Studies (1305)

Postgraduate Diploma in Crusader Studies

PGDip in Crusader Studies (2922)

Postgraduate Certificate in Crusader Studies

PGCert in Crusader Studies (2923)

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