

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts in Crusader Studies**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2011**.

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 programme is delivered in a single stage, equating to one year of full-time study (52 weeks), or two years of part-time study (104 weeks).

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the Programme structure](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[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, 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

[Back to top](#)

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](#).

[Back to top](#)

Details of the Programme structure

MA Students follow the full-unit 'programme' course (contributing 25% of the total assessment of the degree) and also take a compulsory half-unit Research Development course (12.5%) plus a half-unit 'skills' option course (12.5%), the core course 'Recording the Crusades' and a further half-unit option course (12.5% each). In addition, all students complete a compulsory Dissertation (25%).

A. Programme Course

This element of the Programme contributes 25% toward the final award of MA and runs over both the Autumn and Spring terms:

HS5515/5516 Louis IX of France and the Recovery of the Holy Land; The Mongols: 'A Journey Through the Gates of Hell'; Europe Discovers the Wider World, c.1219-c.1262. (two half-units)

B. Option Courses

This element of the Programme contributes 25% toward the final award of MA. 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 (½ unit)

HS5209 Women, the Crusades and the Frontier Societies of Medieval Christendom, 1000-1300 (½ unit)

C. Core Course

HS5256 Recording the Crusades (½ unit)

D. Skills Courses

This element of the Programme contributes 25% toward the final award of MA. During the Autumn and Spring terms, students take:

HS5217 Research Development course (½ unit)

plus one of the following:

HS5250 Introductory Latin for Medievalists (½ unit)

HS5251 Further Latin for Medievalists (½ unit)

E. Dissertation

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

HS5205 Dissertation (1 unit)

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.

[Back to top](#)

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. To pass the 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 more than 25% of the final assessment, 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.

[Back to top](#)

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, Education Support Unit for students with special needs, College Chaplaincy and the Student Union.
- 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.

[Back to top](#)

Admission requirements

Students are normally expected to have a first degree equivalent to at least Second Class Honours from a UK or overseas university. Mature applicants who do not possess the standard qualifications, but can demonstrate appropriate professional experience within the discipline, will also be considered, each such application being considered on its merits. 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.

[Back to top](#)

Further learning and career opportunities

The MA in Crusader Studies provides ideal qualifications for embarking upon further postgraduate work in the field; it has an excellent record of producing PhD students (9 students have embarked upon doctoral programmes from the graduates between 2006 and 2010). 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](#).

[Back to top](#)

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.

[Back to top](#)

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. 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)

[Back to top](#)