

Royal Holloway, University of London
Programme specification for an undergraduate award
BA History (Four Year Programme with Integrated Foundation Year) (V10F)

Section 1 – Introduction to your programme

This programme specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your programme and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and polices can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree programme in BA History with an integrated Foundation Year is delivered in four stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits).

The Foundation Year prepares you for university study by offering a rigorous introduction to university-level study methods and skills, transitioning from Level 3 to Level 4. It provides progressive structures in which you are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding of approaches to humanities study and your chosen degree subject, together with embedded good academic practice and study skills, leading towards increasingly discipline specific modules which facilitate greater levels of specialisation and individual choice. The mandatory courses include a range of different expressive media (texts, images, objects, rituals, digital forms) from different historical periods, tested by a wide variety of assessment methods including (but not limited to) short written exercises and critical appreciations, Moodle-based quizzes, essays, examinations, poster presentations, blog/vlogs, short digital films, dissertations and personal development plans.

The degree 'with an International year' (optional) comprises an extra-curricular year between the second and third stages which contributes to the final marks of students on the five year programme. The programmes are characterised by clear academic and intellectual progression and by opportunities for specialisation throughout, including the possibility of taking courses offered by other History departments within the University of London. Upon progressing to the first year of your degree programme, the first stage of the programme provides both a stimulating general introduction and lays the foundations for later, more specialised, study. In stage two, you explore periods and themes of history in greater depth, with the opportunity to undertake guided independent research or study. In the third stage, you follow courses which closely reflect the research interests of members of staff, and also research and write a 10,000 word dissertation, which is seen as the climax of the stage-by-stage training in research techniques, analysis and presentation.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, programmes and the availability of individual course units, especially optional course units are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree programme – Also referred to as 'degree course' or simply 'course', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Course unit – Also referred to as ‘module’, this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree programme. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise four full units, or a combination of full and half units, to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree programmes a certain number of optional course units must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Programme details			
Date of specification update	August 2020	Location of study	Egham Campus
Programme award and title	BA History	Level of study	Undergraduate
Programme code	3446	UCAS code	V10F
Year of entry	2021/22		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Department of History (School of Humanities)	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time (Foundation Year is full time only)	Duration of the programme	Four years or seven years (Foundation Year is full-time)
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	study@royalholloway.ac.uk

Section 3 – Degree programme structure

3.1 Mandatory course unit information

The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study

Year	Course code	Course title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams	Practical assessment	Coursework	Credits**	FHEQ level	Course status (see below)
0	FY1001	Global Perspectives I	50	100	0	0	100%	15	3	MC
0	FY1002	Global Perspectives II	50	100	0	0	100%	15	3	MC
0	FY1003	Cultures of Reading	40	110	40%	0	60%	15	3	MC
0	FY1004	Cultures of Looking	40	110	0	40%	60%	15	3	MC
0	FY1007	Objects and Rituals	40	110	0	40%	60%	15	3	MC
0	FY1008	Digital Cultures	40	110	0	100%	0	15	3	MC
0	HS1998	Department Specific Skills	40	110	0	0	100%	15	3	MNC
0	HS1999	Department Based Project	40	110	0	0	100%	15	3	MNC
1	HS1004	History in the Making	56	244	0	0	100%	30	4	MC
2	HS2300	Independent Essay	13	137	0	0	100%	15	5	MC
3	HS3106	Historians on History: Why Historiography Matters	25	123	50%	0	50%	15	6	MC
3		Dissertation	3	297	0	0	100%	30	6	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory courses on your degree programme. These courses are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree programme will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these courses each year. Mandatory courses fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) courses, you must pass the course before you can proceed to the next year of your programme, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) courses, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that

although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree programme may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

**The way in which each course on your degree programme is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the course, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the course you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular course.

3.2 Optional course units

In addition to mandatory course units, there will be a number of optional course units available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional course units that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their [webpage](#).

Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
None	Gods, Men and Power	Rome and its Empire	Christians and Pagans
	Rome to Renaissance	The Crusades	The Fall of Constantinople
	Republics, Kings and People	The Silk Road	Victorian Babylon
	The Rich Tapestry of Life	Killing the King	The Holocaust
	Conflict and Identity	Waging Armageddon	Malcolm X
	Mao and Mandela: 20 th Century Leaders	Modern Girls	Migration, Identity and Citizenship
		Martin Luther King	Age of Terror
		Awakening China	Christians and Pagans

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree programme

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#). As part of your degree programme you will also be required to complete a course to develop your academic writing skills. This course does not carry credit but passing it is a requirement to progress to the next year of study.

In order to progress from the Foundation Year to Year One you must pass all 120 credits. Opportunities for resits are detailed in the [Academic Regulations](#). Once progression has been confirmed, you may choose your preferred pathway which may include Single Honours History, a joint or minor degree with History, or variants within the Humanities (English (except pathways with Creative Writing), Drama, Media Arts, Classics, Philosophy, Comparative Literature and Culture, Liberal Arts). There is flexibility within the Programme for you to take your Department Based Project in one of the other departments in Humanities should you wish to follow an alternative pathway after progressing from your Foundation Year.

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.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the programme

The aims of this programme are:

- To develop the critical skills to study a wide range of texts and expressive forms at Level 4
- To introduce the writing and reflexive skills that support the educational aims of the BA History programme
- To experience a wide range of assessment forms in preparation for study at university
- To develop transferability and employability skills at an appropriate level for entry to university.
- to give a sound and extensive basis for the study of History;
- to provide a flexible and progressive structure in which students are able to gain knowledge, understanding and appropriate skills relating to distinctive research specialisms, which provide a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research;
- to develop in students a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education, the ability to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community.

Section 6 - Programme learning outcomes

In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

<p>Foundation Year</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop knowledge of a wide range of expressive forms, from different historical periods, that underpin the study of literary texts for progression to level 4 (K); 2. Develop knowledge of appropriate critical terminology for the analysis of a variety of expressive forms, especially those that underpin the study of historical texts and documents for progression to level 4. (K); 3. Develop knowledge of the relationship of a wide range of expressive forms to other disciplines and forms of knowledge (K); 4. Critical skills in close reading, the analysis and critical interpretation of texts, images, data, and new media (S); <p>BA History</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The concepts of continuity and change over an extended time span and across more than one society and culture (K); 2. The broad range of historical issues and events and the different approaches that may be employed in understanding or interpreting them (K); 3. The complexity and variety of situations, events and past mentalities; 4. The diversity of specialisms in the discipline (K); 5. The significance of cultural, social, economic and political factors in initiating and/or influencing important historical issues and events (K); 6. The role of key individuals, groups and institutions in initiating and/or influencing important historical issues and events (K); 7. The key sources of evidence and methods of enquiry employed in historical research (K); 8. The ability to understand human behaviour in the context of the past (S); 9. Gathering, sifting, organising and interpreting evidence and source material (S); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Interpretation and evaluation of a variety of historical texts and other source materials (S); 11. Construction and use of historical databases (S); 12. Research skills needed to plan and execute a project on a defined topic, and produce a coherent, extended piece of written work (S*); 13. Independent thought and study (S*); 14. Written and oral presentation of arguments and debate (S*); 15. Information technology, including word-processing and conducting on-line searches (S*); 16. Time-management (S*); 17. Ability to work with others and respect their reasoned views (S*); 18. Synthesis and critical analysis of information (S*); 19. Imaginative insight and the ability to propose creative solutions (S*).
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching takes place in lectures, large and small seminar groups, and occasionally in one-to-one tutorials. Lectures are primarily used to provide a broad introduction to themes and issues, and to expand your knowledge base (e.g. Foundation and Gateway Courses). Oral presentation skills are developed in small to medium sized groups. The chance to study historical texts occurs throughout the degree, but especially in the third year courses and the dissertation. The dissertation also provides the opportunity for guided independent research. You are introduced to computing skills in the first year introduction to computing courses. As you progress through the programme, you develop a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of your skills in general, through their application and interpretation in particular historical and sub-disciplinary contexts.

Assessment of knowledge, understanding and discipline-specific skills is by formal unseen written examinations, coursework essays and other exercises, oral presentations and the independent dissertation. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree programme.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree programme at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	3-6
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Your programme is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.

QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
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Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of programmes in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.

Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on course units, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Course Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Your programme will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your programme may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes. In line with the College's [Admissions Policy](#), if your department or school make any significant changes to any year of your programme of study between the time at which an offer is made to you on the Foundation Year and the point at which you complete your registration we will write to you advising you of the changes and the rationale.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the programme as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory course units, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Section 12 - Associated award(s)	
BA History (V100)	BA History with an International Year (V101)