

Royal Holloway, University of London

Programme specification for an undergraduate award

BA Liberal Arts with an International Year (Y002)

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 Liberal Arts with an International Year is delivered in four stages. Stages one, two, and four each comprise one year of full-time study during which time you must follow courses to the value of 120 credits in each stage. The programme provides progressive structures in which you are able to gain ever-wider knowledge, understanding, and appropriate skills. The programme contains a combination of mandatory non-condonable courses (in years one and two), a mandatory non-condonable unit in a foreign language in stage one, and a very wide range of stage one, two and four options. At each stage you develop your own interests through informed choice of options drawn from different disciplines. In stage four you are required to write a dissertation. The programme aims to produce graduates with a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education, who are able to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community. Where you are taking an International Year, you will be required to take a mandatory -condonable unit in a foreign language in stage one only.

Whilst taking an **International Year** you must take courses at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Programmes. The language of instruction may be English. The equivalent of a full academic load at the overseas university must be taken. The courses to be taken overseas are to be agreed with the Programme Director. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and will count as a thirteenth unit contributing 20% to the final stage three marks.

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 | | | |
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| Date of specification update | May 2019 | Location of study | Egham Campus |
| Programme award and title | BA Liberal Arts with an International Year | Level of study | Undergraduate |
| Programme code | 2857 | UCAS code | Y002 |
| Year of entry | 2019/20 | | |
| Awarding body | Royal Holloway, University of London | | |
| Department or school | School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures | Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme | N/A |
| Mode(s) of attendance | Full-time | Duration of the programme | Four years |
| 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) |
| 1 | LA1000 | Liberal Arts: Cultural Encounters | 40 | 260 | 0 | 20% | 80% | 30 | 4 | MNC |
| 2 | LA2000 | Liberal Arts: Power and Dissent | 40 | 260 | 0 | 20% | 80% | 30 | 5 | MNC |
| 4 | LA3000 | Liberal Arts Dissertation | 6 | 294 | 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 | | | |
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| <p>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.</p> | | | |
| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
| CL1581 Introduction to Roman Art | CL2654 Body and Soul in Ancient Philosophy | Study Abroad | CL3737 Aspects of Modern Greek Language and Culture |
| CL1560 Key Themes in Roman History | DT1300 Theatre & Culture | | EN3113 Rewriting Mythologies |
| DT1200 Theatre and Text | IT2400 Renaissance Literature | | EN3012 Drama & Witchcraft |
| DT1400 Theatre and Ideas | EN2212 Victorian Literature | | EN3231 Children's Literature |
| EN1112 Introducing Poetry | EN2217 Queer Histories | | ML3207 Transnational Cinema |
| HS1107 Republics, Kings and People: The Foundations of European Political Thought from Plato to Rousseau | MU2004 Studies in Music, Media and Technology | | MA3077 Television and digital culture |
| HS1113 Mao to Mandela: Twentieth Century leaders of the Western World | PR2510 The Politics of Migration and Ethnicity | | HS3106 Historiography |
| MA1051 Film and Television history | PR2480 Democracy in Britain | | PR3670 Comparative Foreign Policy |
| MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music | CR2013 Key perspectives in criminology | | PR3530 The Politics of Modern Germany |
| PR1520 Classics and Contemporary Readings in Politics and International Relations | CR2014 Sociology of Contemporary Society | | CR3001 Sociology of health and illness 1 |

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| GM1122 German History and Culture Past and Present | MA2072 The Cultures of Celebrity | | CR3003 Youth in society – deviance and delinquency |
| SN 1119 Visualising Cuba | MA2057 Film Theory: Hitchcock And Point Of View | | CR3008 Critical readings in criminology |
| IT1980 Italian Fascism | MA2101 International Film II: Readings and Representations | | CR3015 Children, risk and society |
| CR1011 Introduction to Criminology | ML2403 Gender and Clothing in Twentieth Century | | CR3026 Lost in music: the sociology of popular music |
| CR1014 Introduction to Sociology | ML2301 Boccaccio's Decameron | | FR3124 Blindness and Vision in French Culture |
| PS1040 Lifespan and Development | MT2800 Linear Algebra and Project | | MA3073 Critical Problems in Modernism |
| PS1110 Introduction to Abnormal Psychology | MT2630 Graphs and Optimisation | | MA3074 Cinephilia from 1915 to the present |
| EC1101 Principles of Economics | HS2006 Globalising Capital: Britain and the World, 1846-1913 | | MT3110 Number Theory |
| MT1810 Number Systems | HS2030 The Western Powers and Asia, 1839-1945 | | MT3610 Error Correcting Codes |
| MT1820 Matrix Algebra | HS2151 The Silk Road: Genghis Khan and the Mongol Legacy (1200-1500) | | MA3064 Television Histories |
| BS1040 Diversity of Life | HS2224 Spain: from Dictatorship to Democracy, 1939-1989 | | |
| EN1106 Shakespeare | ML3205 Debates in Contemporary Theory | | |
| FR1601 French Ab Initio Written I | | | |
| FR1602 French Ab Initio Oral I | | | |

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| FR1701 French Advanced Written I | | | |
| FR1702 French Advanced Oral I | | | |
| GM1601 German Ab Initio Written I | | | |
| GM1602 German Ab Initio Oral I | | | |
| GM1701 German Advanced Written I | | | |
| GM1702 German Advanced Oral I | | | |
| IT1601 Italian Ab Initio Written I | | | |
| IT1602 Italian Ab Initio Oral I | | | |
| IT1701 Italian Advanced Written I | | | |
| IT1702 Italian Advanced Oral I | | | |
| SN1701 Spanish Advanced Written I | | | |
| SN1702 Spanish Advanced Oral I | | | |
| SN1601 Spanish Ab Initio Written I | | | |
| SN1602 Spanish Ab Initio Oral I | | | |
| SN2001 Spanish II | | | |
| 3.3 Optional course unit requirements | | | |

Liberal Arts is a truly interdisciplinary subject and the flexible structure of the degree programme reflects this. In the first year, you will take a compulsory foreign language course unit and one compulsory course unit, alongside optional course units chosen from an extensive and varied list. In the second year, you will take one compulsory course unit alongside further optional units. In the final year, you will undertake an independent research project and dissertation, alongside optional course units. Students on this programme can choose optional course units from a number of different academic departments such as English, Modern Languages (including Comparative Literature and Culture), History, Classics, Drama, Psychology and Mathematics.

At Stage One, you must take a mandatory non-condonable Language Course at a level suitable to the student (FR1601, FR1602, FR1701, FR1702, GM1601, GM1602, GM1701, GM1702, IT1601, IT1602, IT1701, IT1702, SN1601, SN1602, SN1701, SN1702), equivalent to 1 unit **and** choose options equal to the value of **two** full units from the list of Stage One courses from at least two academic disciplines.

At Stage Two, you must choose options equal to the value of **three** units for the list of Stage Two courses from at least two academic disciplines.

At Stage Three, you must complete Study Abroad courses to the equivalent of 1 unit.

At Stage Four, you must choose options equal to the value of **three** full units from a list of Stage Three courses.

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](#).

If you wish to specify a specialisation in your degree title—e.g. Liberal Arts (History) — you must complete at least 90 credits in your chosen area. 30 of these credits may derive from the Dissertation, so long as it falls within the area of specialisation. You will be advised about specialisation pathways at every stage of your degree but do not need to change degree programme. The specialisation will be awarded, once agreed, as an 'exit award' at the end of the programme.

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

- to engage students imaginatively in the process of reading and analysing different types of texts;
- to develop knowledge and understanding relevant to the chosen fields of study;
- to provide theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the creation, interpretation, and critical evaluation of knowledge in a range of disciplines;
- to enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement;
- to prepare students to undertake their own research under appropriate levels of supervision;
- to foster competence in at least one foreign language;
- to explore the delineation of disciplines as well as the value of interdisciplinary work;
- to encourage students to take progressive responsibility for their own study through negotiating subject areas of specialism with each other in seminars, through the informed choice of options, and through an extended piece of writing in the final year.
- to support the development of a range of transferable skills suitable both for further academic study and for a range of future careers.

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 (*))

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The distinctive qualities of the concept of 'Liberal Arts'; these include a grasp of the founding principles and key methods in a range of subject areas and disciplines, and an appreciation of the both the differences and the continuities and commonalities between disciplines (K); 2. The benefits and challenges of comparative approaches to subject areas (K); 3. A range of contemporary critical and theoretical approaches to culture (K); 4. Knowledge and understanding relevant to the disciplines chosen by the student (K); 5. Critical skills in close reading, including analysis and critical interpretation of text and data (S); 6. The ability to conduct research independently using traditional and electronic resources, and develop habits of reflection on study, reading, learning and research (S*); 7. Command of a wide vocabulary and appropriate critical and theoretical terminology (S); 8. Planning and execution of essays and project-work, bibliographical skills, developing a reasoned argument (S*); 9. Advanced written and oral communication skills, including the ability to present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths (S*); 10. Experience of learning a modern foreign language (S); | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. The ability to organise and interpret complex information in a structured and systematic way, and to comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts (S*); 12. The capacity for independent thought and judgement, along with skills in critical reasoning (S*); 13. Information technology skills (including word processing, email, WWW, information handling and retrieval), and the ability to engage with the textual use of new media, video, TV, DVD and electronic (S*); 14. Interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others (S*); 15. Time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising worktime (S*); 16. In addition, this programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthen the graduates' 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 (S). |
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, workshops, essay consultations, and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, translation exercises, oral presentations (both individual and group), exhibits/posters, and the dissertation or long essay. In addition, students may produce various forms of creative work, both individually and in groups. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Departments.

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| Section 8 – Additional costs | |
| <p>The cost of your year abroad will vary by country. Typical living costs to consider will be accommodation, food and household items, entertainment, travel, books and bills (including your mobile phone). You'll also need to budget for travel to and from your country of study. Additional costs compared to studying in the UK will also depend on personal choices and it is important to research the cost of living before the year commences.</p> <p>The fee for your year abroad will be 15% of the tuition fee for that academic year if you study or complete work-based placement as part of the Erasmus exchange programme, or study at a university outside of Europe. The fee will be 20% of the tuition fee for that academic year if you complete a work-based placement in a non-European country.</p> | |
| <p>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.</p> | |

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| Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards | |
| QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level | 4-6 |
| <p>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.</p> | |
| QAA Subject benchmark statement(s) | http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements |
| <p>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.</p> | |

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.

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 |
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| 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) | |
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| BA Liberal Arts (Y000) | Liberal Arts with an International Year (Y002) |
| BA Liberal Arts with a Language Year Abroad (Y001) | |