

## Royal Holloway, University of London

### Programme specification for an undergraduate award

#### BA History and Music (VW13)

#### 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 History and Music is normally delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow courses to the value of 120 credits. The programme comprises 'mandatory' disciplinary courses, including a compulsory stage one common to all degree programmes in the departments, and 'optional' specialist courses, with an extended essay in the final stage. Whilst the development of disciplinary-specific skills are emphasised in the 'mandatory' courses, the specialist options provide focused opportunities to examine the application of these skills. Moreover, the multi-disciplinary common first year, and the opportunity to take courses offered in complementary disciplines gives a heightened appreciation of disciplinary distinctiveness.

For joint and combined honours programmes, please refer to the programme specification for your secondary department's corresponding single honours programme for further information on educational aims, and learning outcomes.

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	April 2019	Location of study	Egham Campus
Programme award and title	BA History and Music	Level of study	Undergraduate
Programme code	1211	UCAS code	VW13
Year of entry	2019/20		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	History	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme	Music
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the programme	Three years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>	For queries on admissions:	<a href="mailto:study@royalholloway.ac.uk">study@royalholloway.ac.uk</a> .

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	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		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 1	Year 2	Year 3
History: Gods, Men and Power	History: Rome and its Empire	History: Faith and Fire
History: The Rich Tapestry of Life	History: The Crusades	History: Victorian Babylon
History: Mao to Mandela: 20th Century Leaders	History: The Victorians	History: Photography, Film and British Society
Music: Creative Composition Techniques	History: Modern Girls	History: Age of Terror
Music: Very Short History of Music	Music: Mozart's Operas	Music: Popular Music in Post-war Britain
Music: Solo Performance	Music: Introduction to Jazz	Music: Music and Gender
	Music: Issues in Popular Music	Music: Composing with Technology

### 3.3 Optional course unit requirements

#### Year 1

In addition to the mandatory **History** courses, you **must** also take one Gateway 30 credit course from the Department of History; details of the current Gateway courses can be obtained from the Department.

For **Music** you must take 60 credits, to include at least one course from List A; at least one course from Lists C or D; and no more than one course from List E:

#### List A

MU1110 Theory and Analysis (15 credits)  
 MU1111 Practical Musicianship (15 credits)

#### List B

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (15 credits)  
 MU1113 Practical Composition Skills (15 credits)

#### List C

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (15 credits)  
 MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (15 credits)

**List D**

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (15 credits)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (15 credits)

**List E**

MU1118 Solo Performance (15 credits)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (15 credits)

**Year 2**

The mandatory **History** essay is freestanding. The subject of the essay must be outside the direct remit of the various Group 1 taught courses in the Department of History, and taught courses from the Department of Music, that you are taking. Work on the essay takes place in Term One and Term Two.

**In addition**, you must take three of the Group 1 15 credit courses; details of these are available from the Department.

For **Music** you choose courses to the value of 60 credits, to include at least two courses from the following list:

MU2000 Studies in Music Analysis (15 credits)

MU2001 Studies in Composition (15 credits)

MU2002 Studies in Music History (15 credits)

MU2003 Studies in Ethnomusicology (15 credits)

MU2004 Studies in Music, Media & Technology (15 credits)

MU2205 Practical Performance (15 credits)

and options drawn from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level courses with a maximum of 30 credits of H.

**Year 3**

Alongside the **History** mandatory course you should also take HS3105 Dissertation Research Skills as an extra-curricular unit, although you do not need to produce assessed written work for this course. This course offers invaluable assistance in planning and writing a dissertation. However, students on the History and Music degree CANNOT take HS3105 as an assessed option as part of their degree.

For **Music** you choose courses to the value of 60 credits drawn from honours (H) and intermediate (I) level courses with a maximum of 30 credits of I.

**Note:**

(i) The curriculum above reflects the equal division of the 360 credits of a Joint Honours programme into 180 credits of each component. Over stages two and three the Music curriculum may be decreased or increased by up to 30 credits to give the permitted minimum of 150 credits and maximum of 210 credits in Music.

(ii) Within stages two and three, and subject to the approval of the Departments concerned, up to 1 'elective' unit of intermediate (I) or honours (H) level courses in other Departments may be substituted for Music courses, consistent with the permitted maxima of H and I in stages two and three respectively, given above.

(iii) Prerequisites may apply to optional 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](#).

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:

- Provides a systematic understanding and knowledge of Music theory and practice in an historical context;
- Encourages a critical awareness of problems in Music and History in terms of both their contemporary complexities and their historical bases;
- Provides theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the development and interpretation of knowledge in History and Music and to the evaluation of current research and scholarship in the fields;
- Fosters an independent learning ability for continued intellectual development;
- Provides an opportunity for you to obtain an undergraduate qualification in History and Music.

**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 (\*))**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extensive knowledge and critical understanding of recent and current developments in the fields of History and Music, and of the issues and controversies associated with these developments <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>2. A sound knowledge of the theories, techniques, practices and concepts used to further our understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with the fields of History and Music <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>3. A critical understanding of information relating to the fields of History and Music and of the results of analysis based thereon <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>4. Assess the merits of theories, models and explanations in History and Music and situate them in a wider disciplinary context <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>5. Apply the concepts and methods used in History and Music to the analysis of events and practice in the fields <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>6. Analyse qualitative data relating to the fields of History and Music <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>7. Evaluate current research and scholarship in the field, and evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies employed by historians and Music scholars <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>8. Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and assess their nature and value <b>(S)</b>;</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Carry out an independent investigation of a music and/or historical topic or issue and produce a coherent written account <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>10. Communicate complex ideas and present arguments and complex information in a clear and concise manner in writing <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>11. Analyse and interpret complex issues, and develop reasoned arguments and make sound, critical judgements in the absence of complete data <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>12. Use literature, internet and database searches to gain necessary information <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>13. Develop the intellectual autonomy and self-direction needed for independent investigation of intellectual problems, taking responsibility for one’s learning, and developing habits of reflection on that learning <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>14. Exercise of initiative and personal responsibility <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>15. Ability to take decisions in complex and uncertain situations <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>16. The ability to work autonomously and collaboratively with other <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>17. Self-awareness and self-management of research <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>18. Awareness of one’s responsibility as a local, national and international citizen <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>19. Ability to learn independently and to take advantage of life-learning <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>20. Skills of oral presentation <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>21. Where appropriate, develop advanced skills in performance, with either the voice and/or a specific instrument(s) <b>(S*)</b>.</li> </ol>
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### Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on the Programme draws upon the methods and concepts used to develop skills and knowledge in the different disciplines, and to conduct historical scholarship. It is also very strongly informed by the current research interests of the teaching staff from the two departments contributing courses to the Programme. This is particularly the case with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year options, all of which are offered by staff based on their own individual research interests (fully consistent with the College's approach to Research led Teaching).

The main methods used to develop knowledge and understanding are: formal lectures by academic staff, tutorials and seminar discussions based on a combination of staff led sessions and student participation (including presentations). There is also guided independent research and study for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Dissertation. Where appropriate, music tuition will also be used.

Assessment will be by a combination of assessed coursework and examination as indicated in individual Course Specifications. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the History [Department](#) and Music [Department](#).

### Section 8 – Additional costs

There are associated costs no greater than £50 in Music 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	
<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	4-6
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.	
<b>QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)</b>	<a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements</a>
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.

### 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)**

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