

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Combined Honours Degree programmes in Multilingual Studies with International Relations and Multilingual Studies with Philosophy**. For Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2011**.

The aims of all Combined Honours Degree programmes in Multilingual Studies are to enable students to:

- develop high levels of competence in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding in one or more of the four modern European languages offered within this programme;
- develop a good grasp of key theoretical issues relating to language competence and learning;
- acquire an appropriate educational background to follow careers in Europe (in EU institutions or in multinationals), or to progress to PGCEs and become language teachers, or to undertake postgraduate research leading to MPhil/PhD.

Students taking all Combined Honours Degree programmes in Multilingual Studies study three of the four languages offered (French, German, Italian and Spanish) , taking one unit of each language (in German, native speakers take one half unit of language and one half unit chosen from a range of cultural options in each year) and one unit of International Relations or Philosophy in each year spent on campus. Students may take Spanish or Italian language *ab initio*, but not both.

The programmes are delivered in four stages, three of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits) with an additional Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) between stage two and the final stage. This PRA can be spent wholly in one of the four language areas, or splitting the year to divide the time evenly between two or more of the language areas. In each year of study, all students take one course unit in each of the languages they are studying and they must pass all of them in each year in order to progress and ultimately to graduate with a BA in Multilingual Studies.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), 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 on the programmes are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms the programmes provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- one or more of the four written and spoken languages offered within the programme in a wide variety of geographical and stylistic variations;
- a range of current theoretical approaches to language and language learning, which they can apply to their own language development and that of others;
- the socio-historical and cultural context of the language areas studied, which will inform their use of the four languages spoken there;
- the cultures which express themselves in the four languages in many of its forms, and also where the cultures studied fit within European and global cultural movements;
- a range of relevant texts, including print and television journalism, cinema, and literature.

Skills and other attributes

The multi-disciplinary nature of the programmes supports the development of a wide range of skills, both discipline-specific and transferable:

- a high level of competence in the four key linguistic areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in one or more of the four modern European languages;
- production of one or more of the four written and spoken languages with accuracy and employing appropriate register;
- critically interpreting texts;
- effective identification and use of reference materials;
- use of information technology related to language-learning software and library research
- adaptability to living abroad;*
- assessing the merits of contrasting theories and approaches;
- analysing and problem-solving;*
- abstracting and synthesizing information;*
- developing a reasoned argument;*
- written and oral presentation skills;*
- information management;*
- time management;*
- research techniques;*
- planning, designing, and executing a piece of rigorous research and writing it up competently;*
- a range of personal attributes, including intellectual independence, resourcefulness, ability to work independently and reflect on that learning, ability to cope with pressure, interpersonal skills, ability to work effectively within a team, and dealing with authority;*
- developing career or further study plans which utilise the acquired language skills and cultural knowledge.

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of language classes, lectures, seminars, small-group tutorials, guided independent research, guided independent study, and study and/or work placements during the year abroad. Methods used to enable students to acquire and develop discipline-specific and transferable skills are: class- and seminar-based discussion and debate (both in English and the target language), setting, marking, and feedback on work produced by students; one-to-one tutorials; guided independent study and research; training courses run by library and computer staff; and the study year abroad. The learning outcomes are best thought of as general ways of thinking which stretch across different courses and sub-disciplinary areas. As students progress through their chosen programme, they develop a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of a selection of these aspects of their studies, always focusing on the language skills, but otherwise determined as flexibly as possible to suit personal interests of individual students. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by written, oral and aural examinations, coursework essays and exercises, and assessed project and dissertation, if taken. Full details of the assessments for individual language courses can be obtained from the [School](#). Full details on the assessments of courses in International Relations and Philosophy can be obtained from the [Politics and International Relations](#) and [Classics and Philosophy](#) websites respectively.

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available courses for International Relations and Philosophy offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [School](#) and the Departments of Politics and International Relations and Classics and Philosophy.

Combined Honours Degree programmes with Multilingual Studies as a major component:

Students take the following courses (from three of the four languages offered) in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE LANGUAGE COURSES ARE CORE COMPULSORY. STUDENTS MUST PASS THEM IN ORDER TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT YEAR OF STUDY, WHILE THOSE IN THE FINAL YEAR MUST BE PASSED IN ORDER FOR THE STUDENT TO BE AWARDED THE DEGREE TITLE.

FRENCH PATHWAYS

Stage one:

Students must take and pass:

FR1001 Pratique de l'écrit: expliquer, résumer, rédiger (½ unit)

FR1002 Pratique de l'oral: La France à travers ses médias (½ unit)

Stage two:

Students must take and pass:

FR2001 Pratique de l'écrit: analyser et argumenter (½ unit)

FR2002 Pratique de l'oral: la France contemporaine à travers son cinéma unit (½ unit)

Stage four:

Students must take and pass for the degree title:

FR3001 Pratique de l'écrit: communiquer et convaincre (½ unit)

FR3002 Pratique de l'oral: réflexions et débats (½ unit)

GERMAN PATHWAYS

German has two pathways: one for post-A level non-native speakers and one for the native speakers.

Stage one:

Post-A level non-native speakers must take and pass:

GM1008 German Language I (D) (1 unit)

Native speakers must take and pass:

GM1002 Advanced Translation I (½ unit)

and one option equal to the value of ½ unit from a list of Stage one courses offered by German.

Stage two:

Post-A level non-native speakers must take and pass:

GM2001 German Language II (1 unit)

Native speakers must take and pass:

GM2002 Advanced Translation II (½ unit)

and one option equal to the value of ½ unit from a list of Stage two courses offered by German.

Stage four:

Post-A level non-native speakers must take and pass for the degree title:

GM3009 German Language III (1 unit)

Native speakers must take and pass:

GM3002 Advanced Translation III (½ unit)

and one option equal to the value of ½ unit from a list of final stage courses offered by German.

ITALIAN PATHWAYS

Italian has two pathways: one for beginners and one for post-A level students.

Stage one:

Beginner students must take and pass:
IT1000 Intensive Italian for Beginners (1 unit)

Post-A level students must take and pass:
IT1050 Advanced Italian (1 unit)

Stage two:

Beginner students must take and pass:
IT2000 Advanced Italian II for post beginners (1 unit)

Post-A level students must take and pass:
IT2050 Advanced Italian II (1 unit)

Stage four:

All students must take and pass for the degree title:
IT3000 Advanced Oral & Communication Skills (½ unit)
and one option equal to the value of ½ unit from a list of final stage courses offered by Italian.

HISPANIC STUDIES PATHWAYS

Hispanic Studies has three pathways: one for beginners in Spanish, one for post-A (or -AS) level, and one for native speakers.

Stage one:

Beginner students must take and pass:
SN1010 Intensive Spanish I (1 unit)

Post-A (or -AS) level students must take and pass:
SN1001 Spanish I (1 unit)

Native speakers must take and pass:
SN2001 Spanish II (1 unit)

Stage two:

Beginner students must take and pass:
SN2010 Intensive Spanish II (1 unit)

Post-A (or -AS) level students must take and pass:
SN2001 Spanish II (1 unit)

Native speakers must take and pass:
SN2011 Principles & Practice of Translation, Spanish into English (½ unit)
SN2012 Principles & Practice of Translation, English into Spanish (½ unit)

Stage four:

All students must take and pass for the degree title:
SN3001 Spanish III (1 unit)

Additionally in each stage all students must take and pass specified courses to the value of 1 unit in the other minor subject of study.

Stage three - Period of Residence Abroad :

The year abroad is an integral part of Multilingual Studies. Students may choose between studying at one or more approved institution in one or more of the language areas, or, if English is their mother tongue, they may opt for a work placement as an English teaching assistant. The assessment of the year abroad consists of a total of 2 course units, which will either be wholly attributed to one language area or divided

between two if the year was split. Students wishing to spend time in all three language areas will devote one or both of the two summers on either side of the academic year to living in one of the three and one semester of the academic year to living in each of the other two. The assessment will relate to the language area(s) in which the academic year was spent.

- GM2501/02 Oral Examination in German: assesses progress made in the spoken language (½ or 1 unit)
- IT2501/02 Oral Examination in Italian: assesses progress made in the spoken language (½ or 1 unit)
- SN2501/02 Oral Examination in Spanish: assesses progress made in the spoken language (½ or 1 unit)
- ML2101/02 Study Abroad: assesses university study (½ or 1 unit)
- ML2201/02 Work Placement Project: assesses what has been learnt through an assistantship (½ or 1 unit)

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. **In the case of Multilingual Studies with International Relations and Multilingual Studies with Philosophy, students must pass all four units at each stage of the programme in order to progress into the next stage of their degree path and must pass all four in the final year in order to graduate with the relevant combined honours degree title.**

It is a College requirement that students **complete** their Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) in order to be able to progress into the final year. Following agreed university courses to their conclusion, including the sitting of examinations, carrying out agreed work placements and completing PRA reports (where appropriate) constitute the completion of the PRA. **NB** Low or fail marks for elements that make up the thirteenth unit will pull down the average for that unit but will not prevent progression. However, **PLEASE NOTE that students who fail to complete their PRA as defined above will NOT normally be permitted to progress into the final year of their studies.**

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stage two, the year abroad and the final stage, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in the final stage. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

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.

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Student support and guidance

- **Personal Advisors:** Each student is allocated to a particular member of academic teaching staff. Personal Advisors are available to meet their advisees regularly throughout the programme in order to advise on academic, pastoral or welfare issues and to review academic performance. Personal Advisors may also advise students on College and University support services, including the Student Counselling Service, the Health Centre and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs. When a student's usual Personal Advisor has sabbatical leave, the student is re-allocated to another colleague.
- **Office Hours:** All members of staff make themselves available for consultation by students on any academic or pastoral matter at specific hours during each teaching week of the academic year.
- **Academic Co-ordinators:** The Academic Co-ordinator provides a further, back-up source of academic advice. The Academic co-ordinator is also responsible for general oversight of Joint Honours students, liaising as necessary with Personal Advisors and with the other departments on the

programme. Matters concerning programme pathways, course options and timetabling are discussed in the first instance with the student's Personal Advisor who may refer these to the Academic Co-ordinator.

- **Language Co-ordinator:** Each language has its own Language Co-ordinator, who may be consulted by students about any matters related to language courses and to the School's audio-visual and CALL resources related to these courses.
- **Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) Co-ordinators:** The PRA Co-ordinators, members of academic staff, run briefing sessions for students in Stage 2 of the programme who are going abroad the following year. The PRA Co-ordinators provide help and advice with applications, forms, accommodation plans, interviews, the British Council, and the Socrates-Erasmus Programme.
- **School Educational Support Office (ESO) Network Member:** The ESO Network Member co-ordinates the provisions made within the School for students with disabilities or special educational needs through liaison with colleagues across the School and elsewhere in College (above all the ESO itself).
- **Student Handbooks:** The *School of Modern Languages Student Handbook* is published online annually and made available to all Modern Languages students via the 'For Students' section of the SMLLC website. It comprises a complete general guide to the School, its various subject areas, and its resources, containing contact details, help available, facilities, advice on study skills, assessment, feedback, plagiarism, Student-Staff Committee, examinations, etc., and information about other sources of support offered by the College. Lists of courses available, with course descriptions, are also available on the SMLLC website.
- **Student-Staff Committee:** All years of the undergraduate programme as well as postgraduate students and teaching staff are represented on this committee, which is chaired by a student. Any student may bring matters of concern before this committee, which, after discussion, will refer them to the appropriate School or College authority for resolution.
- **Careers Advice:** Whilst the principal role is played by the University of London Careers Service, there is also a School Careers Liaison Officer who works with the Careers Service to ensure timely dissemination to students of information concerning careers, employers' forums, or other careers events. A number of these, including sessions designed to raise students' awareness of the marketability of the transferable skills acquired during their university careers, are organized on an annual basis specifically for Modern Languages students.
- **Resources:** The School is situated in the International Building where, along with Royal Holloway International, it offers students access to computer laboratories with dedicated Computer-Assisted Language Learning Software and recording facilities. The School liaises closely with the College libraries to ensure that the needs of students are appropriately met by the College's extensive collections of books, journals and electronic resources. Foreign-language videos and DVDs can be viewed in the library's viewing rooms.

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Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Catalogue](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures degree programmes have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions, while some have continued onto Postgraduate studies. For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

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.

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List of programmes

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Multilingual Studies are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Languages describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Combined Honours Degree programmes with Multilingual Studies as a major component

BA Multilingual Studies with International Relations (Q1L2)

BA Multilingual Studies with Philosophy (R9VM)

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