

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Joint Honours Degree programme in Spanish and Music**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2015**.

The Joint Degree's principal aim is to allow students to pursue the study of Spanish alongside Music, while providing opportunities to engage with music's various manifestations in Spanish and Latin American cultures. In addition the programme's aims are:

- to encourage a deeper understanding of Spanish and music through the detailed study of their manifold aspects, while promoting the development of the student's intellectual, critical and creative abilities;
- to provide students with knowledge of the Spanish language, and of Spanish and Latin American literature, history, film and visual culture, to enable them to engage with Spanish-speaking communities across the world;
- to promote the study of music in its practical application and creative dimensions through performance, composition and analysis (including music technology);
- to encourage students to situate music and Spanish-speaking cultures in their socio-historical context by relating them to a wider cultural dynamics encompassing art, literature, history, politics, and a range of other social, ethical, religious and philosophical influences;
- to stimulate students to read widely in Spanish, and to encourage them to develop and express their opinions cogently whether orally or in writing;
- to equip students with knowledge, experience and skills (transferable and specialist) which will serve them well in professional life and further study at postgraduate level.

This programme is delivered in four stages; stages one, two and four each comprise 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). Stage one courses concentrate on fundamental skills and knowledge, while stages two and four permit students increasing freedom of choice, with a diverse range of options available, including a Special Study (dissertation, analysis, or performance) in stage four. Stage three consists of a year spent in Spain or Latin America, at a university or in approved employment. The Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) abroad is assessed via full or half units to the value of two full units based either on marks awarded for courses taken at the foreign university or on a report on the work placement, written in Spanish plus a full unit oral examination to test linguistic skills and intercultural awareness.

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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 in the programme are closely informed by the active research or creative practice of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- to speak and write Spanish with a high level of fluency and accuracy in varied contexts and across a range of registers;
- to have knowledge of selected musical repertoires and cultures, alongside understanding of their relationship to broader cultural, social, political and economic environments;
- to understand and apply different theoretical and critical approaches to various aspects of musical and Hispanic cultures;
- to understand the concepts underpinning the study of music history (e.g. stylistic change; the musical work), and the problems encountered in identifying and explaining these concepts; an understanding of musical works in terms of coherent bodies of theory and tested analytically;
- to understand the complex linkages between the many aspects of a culture, repertory, problem or theme;
- to understand the nature of professional musical and musicological activity at the highest national and international levels;
- to maximize the benefits offered by the period of residence abroad by means of:
 - enhancing understanding of the subject area;
 - acquiring new perspectives on the subject area within the framework of the other country's educational or professional culture;
 - understanding intercultural issues in relation to aspects of self (attitudes, behaviour and cultural expectations) on adaptation to life in a foreign culture.

Skills and other attributes

- to use language (both English and Spanish) creatively and precisely for a range of purposes and audiences;
- to manipulate both words and musical notation in the service of advanced creative or interpretive tasks;
- to take notes effectively, organize materials, and ultimately, produce well-structured, well-argued essays by a deadline;*
- to work autonomously in the planning and execution of individual essays, projects and research;*
- to exercise critical judgement in the light of evidence and argument;*
- to collect, analyse, synthesise and evaluate information;*
- to conduct library and bibliographical research;*
- to employ appropriate IT skills (including word-processing, email, use of the internet and databases).*
- to maximize the benefits offered by the period of residence abroad by means of making major improvements in competence in the target language.
- to define the numerous key musical terms and analytical concepts that are employed in the historical, theoretical, critical and aesthetic analysis of musical products and cultures;
- to analyse the context, form and content of primary and secondary sources, both of musical works and of other materials relating to the study and criticism of music in all its aspects, and to test their interplay;
- to assimilate and comprehend complex bodies of information perceived through the eye and the ear;*
- to participate in collective debate and analysis;*
- to plan and produce a body of work or performance based on independent research and/or creative activity;*
- to engage in team-working, collaborative problem-solving, organization and presentation.*

* *transferable skills*

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Spanish: Teaching is carried out mainly by means of lectures, structured seminars and language classes. Language acquisition is also promoted through Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) packages, Moodle (the College's Virtual Learning Environment platform) and other web-based resources, appropriate audio and video material, translation work, and textual analysis using printed and electronically available materials. Most language classes are conducted in Spanish (frequently by native speakers) to encourage familiarity with the language in the classroom. The four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are integrated with the study of key grammatical structures. A wide range of sources is used to encourage familiarity with different linguistic registers and the acquisition of new vocabulary. Classes for cultural courses are conducted mainly in English, partly because of the sophistication required at university level in students' critical responses to cultural works and in essay-writing and partly in order to inculcate excellent oral and written communication skills in English in addition to those simultaneously developed by students in their other European language/s.

Learning is encouraged through strong support at every stage for active student participation in lectures and seminars, and through designated reading and directed self-study. Essays and other, shorter written pieces ensure that the skills of exposition and critique are developed and evaluated throughout the learning process. School programmes are so designed that the foundations of the intellectual and transferable skills are laid in stage one and then developed, with an increasing reliance on the individual student's personal research and self-direction. The Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) makes a particularly important contribution to this growing intellectual independence. All students are encouraged to acquire IT competence, in particular by registering for the IT skills programmes which become available from time to time through the Computer Centre.

Assessment of knowledge, understanding and linguistic skills is by a combination of coursework and two essays, and, in some cases, a written examination (for cultural courses) and by a mixture of continuous assessment (including class presentations, grammar exercises and reading comprehension) and a final examination (both written and oral) for language courses. Course units studied at a Spanish or Latin American university during the Period of Residence Abroad are also examined in Spain or Latin America, whilst students who undertake a work placement are required to submit a work placement project report which will be assessed at Royal Holloway. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be found in the Detailed Course Specifications available on the School's [website](#).

Music: Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, tutorials, oral presentations, and instrumental/vocal lessons. Beyond formal teaching sessions, learning takes place through private study and practice, attendance at college concerts, and participation in Department-sponsored (and other) musical activities, including performances by various orchestras, choirs and other ensembles. Formative assessment during the academic year is succeeded by formal summative assessment; modes of assessment include coursework essay or other assignment, portfolio of technical exercises or compositions, formal written examination, practical tests, examination recital and dissertation. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

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 Departmental websites:

[Hispanic Studies](#)

[Music Department](#)

Stage one:

Spanish –

Students with GCSE Spanish only or no prior knowledge of the language must take the following **mandatory** course:

SN1010 Intensive Spanish I (1 unit) **[Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage]**

SN1010 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

Students with A Level or A/S Level Spanish must take the following **mandatory** course:

SN1001 Spanish I (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

SN1001 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

Students deemed by the School to be proficient or native speakers on entry must take the following **mandatory** course:

SN2001 Spanish II (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

SN2001 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

In addition students must choose two 0.5 units from a range of Stage one courses offered by the School for students on this programme

Music - students choose 4 half-unit courses from the list below to include at least one course from List A; at least one course from Lists C and D; and no more than one course from List E.

List A

MU1110 Theory and Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU1111 Practical Musicianship (0.5 unit)

List B

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (0.5 unit)

MU1113 Practical Composition Skills (0.5 unit)

List C

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (0.5 unit)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (0.5 unit)

List D

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (0.5 unit)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (0.5 unit)

List E

MU1118 Solo Performance (0.5 unit)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (0.5 unit)

Stage two:

Spanish - Courses to the value of 2 units

Students must take either:

SN2010 Intensive Spanish II (1 unit) (for students who have taken and passed SN1010 in their first year) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

SN2010 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

or

SN2001 Spanish II (1 unit) (for students who have taken and passed SN1001 in their first year) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

SN2001 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

or

SN2011 Principles & Practice of Translation Spanish to English (0.5 unit) **and** SN2012 Principles & Practice of Translation English to Spanish (0.5 unit) (for students who have taken and passed SN2001 Spanish II in their first year). [**Both non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

SN2011 and SN2012 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

In addition students must choose two half units from a range of Stage two courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Music - Choose courses to the value of 2 units, to include at least 2 half-unit courses from the following list:

MU2000 Studies in Music Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU2001 Studies in Composition (0.5 unit)

MU2002 Studies in Music History (0.5 unit)

MU2003 Studies in Ethnomusicology (0.5 unit)

MU2004 Studies in Music, Media & Technology (0.5 unit)

MU2205 Practical Performance (0.5 unit)

Plus level 5 (intermediate) or level 6 (honours) options from the list specified each year, to bring your total number of Music courses up to 2 units, with a maximum of 1 unit at Honours level.

Stage three:

Year Abroad (Coordinated by Hispanic Studies Department)

Students must take the following **mandatory** course:

SN2501 Oral Examination in Spanish (1 unit)

and one of:

SN2401 Study Abroad (1 unit)

SN2201 Work Placement Project (1 unit)

Stage four:

Spanish - Courses to the value of 2 units

Students must take the following **mandatory** course:

SN3001 Spanish III (1 unit) **[Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to qualify for the degree]**

SN3001 must be passed in order to qualify for the degree.

and choose options equal to the value of 1 full unit from a range of Stage four courses offered by the School for students on this programme (including some History courses subject to certain restrictions)

Music - Choose courses to the value of 2 units drawn from level 5 (intermediate) or level 6 (honours) courses with a maximum of 1 unit of intermediate level. The honours level courses may include a (one unit) special study in one of the following:

MU3394 Composition (1 unit)

MU3391 Dissertation (1 unit)

MU3392 Theory & Analysis (1 unit)

MU3393 Performance (1 unit)

Note: The curriculum above reflects the equal division of the 12 units of a Joint Honours programme into 6 units of each component. Over stages two and four the Spanish or Music may be decreased or increased by up to 1 unit to give the permitted minimum of 5 and maximum of 7 units in either subject.

Also, in stage two and four, and subject to the approval of the Departments concerned, up to 1 'elective' unit of level 5 (intermediate) or level 6 (honours) courses in other Departments may be substituted for Music courses, consistent with the permitted maxima of Honours and Intermediate courses in stages two and four respectively, given above.

Additional notes on the Year Abroad:

There are three main schemes:

- Spanish or Latin American University: students spend all or part of the academic year following courses of their choice at the host university. In Spain, most students choose a host university which has an Erasmus link with RHUL. These currently include Alcalá de Henales, Almería, Autónoma de Madrid, Cádiz, Complutense de Madrid, Córdoba, Gran Canaria, Granada, León, Málaga, Murcia, Salamanca, Sevilla Pablo Olavide, Sevilla Universidad, Valencia, Valladolid, and Zaragoza. Our Latin American university destinations, none of which have Erasmus links, include Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay

- Assistant post (co-ordinated by the British Council): students are employed to teach English in a school in Spain or Latin America, normally for up to 12 hours per week. Students are required to produce a written Work Placement Report in Spanish for assessment at RHUL.
- Other work placement: although the School does not undertake to find work placements abroad for students, students themselves, or their families, are sometimes able to make such arrangements, which must be approved by the School. Students in such approved work have similar academic work commitments to those in assistant posts.

The study requirements associated with the year abroad are as follows:

The School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Royal Holloway, University of London has a system for assessment of the Year Abroad to reflect its integral place within the degree programme which involves two course units:

The **13th unit** aims to develop intellectual or professional abilities through an experience either working, or studying, in a Spanish-speaking country.

The **14th unit** aims to further linguistic abilities and cultural awareness through a period of up to one academic year spent living in a Spanish-speaking country.

Assessment of the 13th unit

Students are to follow and complete courses at a Spanish speaking university. Students must provide marks for classes taken, in subjects approved by the School at Royal Holloway, amounting to a minimum of 48 European credits for a full year, and a minimum of 24 European credits for a half year placement. The College provides clear guidelines for the conversion of ECTS to the University of London marking scheme. Each grade obtained at a Spanish or Latin American university is carefully calculated and converted following the guidelines of conversion to the University of London grading system. Students have online access to the official conversion schema used, and are also emailed the guidelines during the PRA. Certain courses in Spanish language may also count towards these credits. For full details of the conditions applying in respect of such courses see page 10 of the PRA Handbook.

Students on a work placement, including assistants, will be assessed by a Work Placement Report. This report will be written in Spanish and will discuss aspects of the year abroad relating specifically to the work environment. Students may also be required to write a Cultural Report, in addition to the Work Placement Report. Those spending an entire year in a Spanish speaking country on a work placement must write a Work Placement Report, and a Cultural Report. Those on half a year work placement can choose between a Work Placement and a Cultural Report.

The **14th unit** is assessed by examination to test oral/aural linguistic skills and intercultural awareness.

Further details can be found in the Period of Residence Abroad Handbook.

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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 as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can normally be condoned. However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees

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 stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. The College's Undergraduate Regulations include full details on progression and award requirements for all undergraduate programmes offered by the College.

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 Advisers:** All students are allocated a personal adviser from the teaching staff of the Department, who meets with them regularly through the programme. The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. In the Music Department, first-year students meet with their personal advisers weekly (in terms 1 and 2) in a group of approximately eight to ten students. Subsequently, responsibility for meetings is placed on the student.
- **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 Disability and Dyslexia Services Network Member:** Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.
- **Student Handbooks:** The *Music Department and School of Modern Languages* publish handbooks online annually, which are available under the 'For Students' section of the respective websites. (A hard copy of the Music handbook is also provided for all first year music students). The handbook comprises a complete general guide to the Department/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 Departmental Employability Lead 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:** Hispanic Studies is situated in the International Building, where 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. The Music Department is located in Wettons Terrace, with practice rooms and instrumental/vocal teaching rooms in Woodlands, and film-composition studios and World Music teaching rooms in the North Tower of Founders.

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Admission requirements

Details of the Department's typical offer for each programme of study is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has 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. For further guidance it may be helpful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from 'Hispanic Studies' and /or 'Music' have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions, such as accountancy, teaching, law, marketing, public relations and a number of Graduate Training Schemes, while some have continued onto Postgraduate studies. For further details please refer to the [Careers & Employability 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 Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 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 and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4* and 3* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

The School of Modern Languages is ranked 15th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 13th for 3* and 4* research excellence.

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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 Spanish and Music are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in Spanish and Music describe 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).

Joint Honours Degree programmes with Spanish and Music as equal components

BA Spanish and Music (WR34)

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