Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for a postgraduate award
MSc Environmental Diagnosis and Management (1114)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course 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 University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and policies can be found here. Further information on the University's Admissions Policy can be found here.

The Masters course is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to 5 years (260 weeks) of part-time study (usually 2 years). It is designed for recent science and engineering graduates, and for those in their early- and mid-careers with working experience, who wish to begin or advance careers in the environmental sector, or to pursue scientific research. Teaching and training focuses on producing professional environmental scientists and managers via a combination of interactive lectures and small group work, a wide range of case studies and study visits, much practical hands-on laboratory- and field-work, and teambuilding. Graduates possess a wide range of practical and transferable skills and scientific knowledge necessary to become leading experts in their chosen careers within environmental consultancies and engineers, local and regulatory authorities, industry, research institutes and academia. Indeed, with ongoing implementations of EU and UK Contaminated Land Regulations, Landfill Directive, Water Framework Directive, and Air Quality Strategy, employment prospects within the environmental sector remain very good. The Masters course has "outstanding and expanding links" with the environmental sector, and an "outstanding and enviable" record of employment and research training within the environmental sector.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules 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 course. 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 course – Also referred to as 'course', this term refers to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. 'Courses' were formerly known as 'programmes' at Royal Holloway.
Module – This refers to the credits you will study each year to complete your degree course. Postgraduate taught degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 180 credits. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title. 'Modules' were formerly known as 'course units' at Royal Holloway.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	May 2024	**Location of study**	Egham
Course award and title	MSc Environmental Diagnosis and Management	**Level of study**	Postgraduate taught
Course code	1114	**Year of entry**	2025/26
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department/ School	Department of Earth Sciences School of Life Sciences and the Environment	**Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course**	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full time Part time	**Duration of the course**	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two to five years (104 - 260 weeks) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A	**For queries on admissions:**	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/		

Section 3 – Degree course structure

3.1 Mandatory module information

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

Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status
EA5110	Data Analysis and GIS	15	7	MC
EA5111	Environmental Inorganic Analysis	15	7	MC
EA5220	Hydrogeology and Water Quality	15	7	MC
EA5221	Air Pollution	15	7	MC
EA5222	Waste and Resource Management	15	7	MC
EA5431	Hounslow Heath Contaminated Land	15	7	MC
EA5432	Thames River Basin	15	7	MC
EA5433	RHUL Campus Air Quality	15	7	MC
EA5500	Independent Research Project	60	7	MNC

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

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module to successfully graduate with a particular degree title, or before you can proceed to the next year of your course where studying part-time. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them (see Academic Regulations on condonable fails). Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course 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 course 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.

3.2 Optional modules

There are no optional modules on this degree course.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's Academic Regulations.

All postgraduate taught students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001 to be awarded. The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who otherwise meet the requirements for award as stipulated in the Academic Taught Regulations but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be awarded.

The part-time Masters course normally lasts 104 weeks, beginning in September of year one. However, part-time students are also permitted under University regulations to complete their course of study over a period of up to 5 years. Students who are unable to complete the course within the standard 2 year time-frame should liaise with the Course Lead to agree a time-frame for completion.

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are to:

- To provide a wide range of practical training, transferable skills and scientific knowledge and understanding to enable graduates to have successful careers within environmental consultancies and engineers, local and regulatory authorities, industry, research institutes and academia.
- To emphasise practical, scientific and quality aspects of the diagnosis (i.e. analysis and assessment) and management (i.e. remediation and restoration) of environmental, ecological, health and climate issues concerned with contaminated land, water quality, air pollution and waste management

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes **In general terms, the courses 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 (*)*)**
Course learning outcome
To develop a comprehension and a critical awareness of the emission, dispersion and conversion of man-made gaseous and particulate pollutants and greenhouse gases and to evaluate their impact on climate change, human health and vegetation on local, regional and global scales.
To develop a comprehension of, and evaluate the prevention, reduction, re-use, recycling, recovery, disposal and utilisation of municipal, nuclear and industrial waste within the constraints of national and international legislation.
To identify and evaluate the importance and impacts of hydro-geological and bio- and physico-chemical processes on the treatment of water and waste and the quality of groundwater and aquatic systems.
To identify and evaluate the importance and impacts of anthropogenic metal contaminants on soils and vegetation, and the management of future land use.
To evaluate and apply quality assured sampling strategies, preparation procedures and analytical systems that are used to quantify the health risks posed by inorganic and organic pollutant linkages in soils, waters and air.
To assess and apply the range of techniques, including statistical analysis, GIS and environmental impact assessment, that are routinely used in the interpretation of environmental data.
To demonstrate an ability to communicate, in a professional manner, scientific, technical and managerial data and ideas orally, visually and through scientific writing.
To plan, design and safely execute a rigorous piece of independent research in the field of Environmental Diagnostics and Management, in association with environment sector partners.

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment
The course focuses on producing professional environmental scientists and managers. Teaching and learning is highly interactive, and occurs via a combination of lectures and small group work, seminars and tutorials, a wide range of case studies and study visits, much hands-on practical laboratory and fieldwork, and teambuilding. In addition, there is a variety of assessed work including verbal and written reports, posters, PC-based exercises, and an independent research project, all with significant confidential verbal and/or written feedback. The emphasis throughout the course is on practical and scientific environmental diagnosis and management of environmental issues of contaminated land, water quality, air pollution, and waste management. There is also much interaction with professional practitioners from environmental consultants, industry, local and regulatory authorities, industry and universities, who teach, present seminars, host several study visits and co-supervise research projects. Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Course Handbook. The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary. Assessments designated as 'summative' will receive a mark which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online Module 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.

Section 8 – Additional costs
There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.
These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	7
Your course 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 courses of study.	
QAA Characteristics Statement (Master's Degrees) – September 2015	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses 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 course 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 modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online module 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. Your course 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 course may be revised during 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 course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any course specific requirements).	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Section 12 - Associated award(s) with Banner Codes	
Master of Science in Environmental Diagnosis and Management (1114) Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Diagnosis and Management (2888)	Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Diagnosis and Management