

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
**Course specification for a postgraduate award**  
**MA Victorian Literature, Art and Culture (1442)**

**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 course is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or two years of part-time study (104 weeks). On successful completion of the course you should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the course provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to a PhD course in the same or a closely related field.

This course requires a minimum of 6 students to enable the University to run the course. Should this number not be reached and we are unable to run the course, we will offer an alternative or refund any deposit paid.

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			
<b>Date of specification update</b>	May 2024	<b>Location of study</b>	Egham Campus / CLC
<b>Course award and title</b>	MA Victorian Literature, Art and Culture	<b>Level of study</b>	Postgraduate
<b>Course code</b>	1442	<b>Year of entry</b>	2025/26
<b>Awarding body</b>	Royal Holloway, University of London		
<b>Department/ School</b>	Department of English School of Humanities	<b>Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course</b>	N/A
<b>Mode(s) of attendance</b>	Full-time / Part-time	<b>Duration of the course</b>	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two years (104 weeks) part-time
<b>Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)</b>			
<b>Link to Coursefinder for further information:</b>	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>	<b>For queries on admissions:</b>	<a href="https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery">https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery</a>

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 (see section 6)
EN5831	Victorian London	30	7	MC
EN5001	Methods and Materials of Research	0	7	MC
EN5837	The Nineteenth-Century Novel: Contexts; Theories; Readers	30	7	MC
EN5840	Victorian Climates: Writing Empire and Environments	30	7	MC
EN5838	The Pre-Raphaelite Revolution: Poetry and Painting	30	7	MC
EN5839	Dissertation	60	7	MNC
<p>Plus four two-hour structured dissertation support workshops in Term III.</p> <p>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'.</p> <p>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 <a href="#">Academic Regulations</a> 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.</p>				
3.2 Optional modules				
None				

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 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. 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 normally access via Moodle. .

### 3.3 Optional module requirements

N/A

## 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 in order 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.

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.

### Part-time Course Structure

The course lasts 104 weeks if you are a part-time student. Normally you take the mandatory modules, Victorian London and Methods and Materials of Research, plus one other module in your first year, and the remaining two taught modules plus the dissertation in the second year.

## Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are to:

- to offer you the opportunity to engage in advanced and interdisciplinary study of the Victorian period, encompassing all the varieties of nineteenth-century cultural expression and contexts;
- to develop advanced skills of academic study;
- to offer the possibility of advanced work across a range of periods and media within Victorian studies, rooted in a mandatory course that builds on the historic and geographical connections Royal Holloway has with the city of London;
- to develop advanced skills in literary study;
- to provide training in research techniques in the field of study;
- to foster an independent learning ability;
- to develop key communications, IT and management skills relevant for postgraduate work;
- through the internships negotiated with external institutions, to offer selected students experience of working in a variety of scholarly academic-related arenas, such as Libraries, Galleries, Institutes and Publishers.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes	
In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. ( <i>Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)</i> )	
Theme	Course Learning Outcome
K	1. Engage with and apply a range of sources (secondary; primary) in a variety of formats and genres (material, visual, textual, oral, digital, etc)
K	2. Gain experience of the range of methodological approaches in the study of Victorian literature, history and culture including art-historical approaches, material cultures, theoretical debate, and historical and trans-historical approaches to the discipline.
K	3. Demonstrate understanding at an advanced level key concepts, theories, methodologies, and debates that currently inform Victorian Studies
K	4. Develop awareness of the global and historical contexts of Victorian texts and debates through study of a range of set texts that are both canonical and lesser known.
S *	5. Design and implement effective methods for pursuing structured critical enquiry, including the ability to retrieve, select, and evaluate relevant information from across periods and media within Victorian Studies.
S *	6. Structure and communicate their ideas in writing or other forms (e.g. oral, digital), in ways that are suited to the needs of particular audiences.
S *	7. Practice self-motivation, initiative and independence by creating topics for discussion that speak to, and advance, their academic interests and interpretations of works, events, and issues related to Victorian Studies.
K S *	8. Understand and reflect on the role of culture in the construction of power and meaning, and the inequities that can result
S *	9. Enhance interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others
S *	10. Demonstrate self-direction in tackling and solving set tasks; they will be able to act autonomously when it comes to planning and carrying out their assignments, including designing and completing an original extended piece of independent research (dissertation; final project).
S *	11. Apply and integrate feedback from previous written assessments and learning activities into their assessed work, demonstrating the capacity for improvement and progression.
S *	12. Manage a complex written document demonstrating advanced control of structure, logic, cogency, and clarity of communication.

## Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning in the course are closely informed by the active research of staff. Teaching is mainly by two-hour seminars during the Autumn and Spring Terms and takes place in Egham. Seminars are timetabled as far as possible for late afternoon or early evening, to permit part-time students to attend. The mandatory module will normally be timetabled from 5-7 pm on Thursdays in the Autumn Term.

A number of extra events may be timetabled in the central London facilities of the University, in Bedford Square, Bloomsbury. You should be aware that (a) research resources including the British Library, Senate House Library, the Museum of London and the partner institutions are located in central London, and that (b) If you are intending to undertake an internship you will usually find yourself placed in central London. Whilst the bulk of teaching on this MA takes place on the Egham campus of Royal Holloway, its London focus and the proximity of central London mean that you need to be prepared to avail yourself of the research and teaching opportunities of the capital from time to time.

The taught modules are designed to offer the possibility of advanced work across a range of periods and media within Victorian studies, rooted in a mandatory module that builds on the historic and geographical connections Royal Holloway has with the city of London.

It is an objective of each module that you will contribute intelligently to seminar discussion; that you deliver at least one seminar presentation per module; that you write essays for the module and undertake supervised work on a dissertation or other project.

Coursework assessments are designed to deliver key subject skills and academic skills at the postgraduate level, and an assessment for learning approach, small-weighted assessments are designed to provide formative feedback to assist with achievement on the larger-weighted assessments. A range of authentic assessment types are offered to provide employability skills and opportunities.

The dissertation will be a piece of original written work, of between 12,000 and 15,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices). The topic of the dissertation will be agreed between you and whichever member of staff is allotted as your supervisor and is normally required to be submitted by the beginning of September in the year of the completion of the course.

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	
<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	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 programmes of study.	
<b>QAA Characteristics Statement (Master's Degrees) – September 2015</b>	<a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources</a>
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 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 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

MA in Victorian Literature, Art, and Culture (1442)	
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