Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for a postgraduate award
MRes Rhetoric (2538)

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 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 policies can be found here. Further information on the College'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 MRes 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 PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

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	November 2022	Location of study	Egham Campus/Central London (for some taught modules)
Course award and title	MRes Rhetoric	Level of study	Postgraduate
Course code	2538	Year of entry	2023/24
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department/ School	Department of Classics School of Humanities	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 years (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 (see section 6)**
CL5051	Problems and Methods in Oratory and Rhetoric	30	7	MC
CL5052	Independent Project 1	30	7	MC
CL5053	Independent Project 2	30	7	MC
CL5050	Dissertation	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

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Royal Holloway operates in agreement with King's College London, Birkbeck College and University College London to provide an extensive list of modules within the field of Classical Studies, including modules in history, archaeology, language acquisition, and literature. Students on this course have also taken optional modules designed for programmes in Politics and International Relations, English, and History with the consent of the course director. 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
The choice of modules a student can take is subject to the following rules: • An optional module or modules to the value of 30 credits to be chosen (subject to the approval of the Course Director) from a list of modules offered by the Department, or by another department at Royal Holloway, or by other London institutions as part of the Intercollegiate MA programmes in Classics, Classical Art and Archaeology, Ancient History, or Late Antique and Byzantine Studies. • Please note that not all modules run each year. A full list of modules including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the Department.

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. Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a 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. 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 College's Postgraduate Taught Regulations (Section 15: Consideration and classification of candidates for the award) but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be awarded. Part-time course structure The part-time course lasts 104 weeks, beginning in September of year one. Part-time students for the MRes normally take CL5051 in their first year and CL5050 in their second year; the other modules may be taken in either year by individual arrangement. Part-time students for the PGDip take CL5051 in their first year; the other modules may be taken in either year by individual arrangement.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are to:

- to enable you to pursue advanced research in Rhetoric;
- to prepare you for research at PhD level by providing training in a range of historical and analytical methods;
- to equip you with advanced skills in research, analysis and presentation that will be valuable in a variety of non-academic careers;
- to contribute to continuing professional development, tailoring research projects to your past experience and future plans.

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 (*)*)

1. understanding of how to plan, carry out and present research at an advanced level **(K)**;
2. an advanced knowledge of the foundations of rhetorical theory and practice **(K)**;
3. an appreciation of the history of rhetorical theory and practice in the European tradition from Classical antiquity to modern times, and of the applicability of rhetorical approaches to the study of communication in the modern world **(K)**;
4. knowledge and understanding of such other areas of language, literature, history, politics, culture, or ideas as may be appropriate in order to pursue the chosen research project(s) to an advanced level **(K)**;
5. the acquisition of appropriate knowledge of advanced scholarship in the chosen area(s) **(K)**;
6. the ability to conduct research independently at an advanced level **(S)**; *
7. the ability to understand and analyse concepts relating to rhetorical theory and practice **(S)**;
8. the ability to engage critically and at an advanced level in rhetorical analysis of texts (e.g. argumentation, character-projection, emotional strategies, structure, use of language) **(S)**; *

9. the ability to engage in the study of rhetoric and communication as historical and/or contemporary phenomena in human societies **(S)**;
10. the ability to articulate and present arguments at an advanced level with clarity and persuasiveness **(S)**; *
11. the ability to engage in debate on scholarly issues, respecting the views of other participants **(S)**; *
12. enhanced time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising worktime **(S)**; *
13. in addition, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthens our postgraduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity **(S)**. *

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning in the mandatory and optional modules take place by means of lectures/presentations by experts in the field, seminar discussions, oral presentations, and coursework essays, together with guided independent study and research. Training in research methods is incorporated into the core course and is assessed both by means of coursework essays in the module itself, and in dissertation and/or project work undertaken independently under supervision. Details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Department.

Contact hours come in various 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-based or studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion taking place in 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 module on your degree course is assessed will also vary; however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it that 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. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, such as 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 module.

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, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs

None, but should you decide to take modules in London, travel may be required.

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 programmes 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 – 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