Liberal Arts
Undergraduate Studies
Welcome

Welcome to Liberal Arts in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures. We are an interdisciplinary School whose world-leading research strengths were confirmed by the results of the most recent, nationally-conducted Research Excellence Framework (2014), which saw us ranked 9th in the country among Modern Languages departments, and top in London. We are proud to be the lead department for Liberal Arts, a distinctive, flexible programme run in co-operation with the other departments of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and with selected departments from across the other faculties at Royal Holloway. We highly value our Liberal Arts students – they are in our experience some of the most dynamic, intellectually curious and motivated students at the College. Through our flexible programme, combining core courses and a wide range of course options, we help you to develop the sort of skillset that will give you a competitive edge in today’s jobs market.

Liberal Arts harnesses some of the best, research-led teaching from across the University, and allows you to tailor your programme to your existing interests, or to sample courses in subject areas in which you have no previous experience. We have also designed the programme to have a clear identity, founded in the tradition of comparative, multidisciplinary study that has its roots in classical culture and philosophy. Moreover, as a School specialising in teaching and research in Modern Languages we are able to offer you expert tuition in a foreign language during your first year, and perhaps beyond, ensuring that your studies have a practical dimension that will enhance the CV and broaden horizons.

Some of our Liberal Arts students choose to take a third year abroad, either as an international study year or as a language year abroad. The School has a lot of experience in supporting students during a third year abroad. Whatever you opt for, you can count on us for structured advice and support throughout your degree, and we hope to be able to welcome you on to the programme in the near future.

Dr Ruth Hemus
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR (LIBERAL ARTS)
Liberal Arts

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MORE INFORMATION
This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway’s Undergraduate Prospectus and information on the College website at royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts
It is also available as a PDF at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere

Contents

Why study Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway? 4
Degree programmes and structure 5
Student life 6
Your future career 7
Why study Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway?

Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway is the ideal degree programme for students who value flexibility, choice and breadth. Unlike most traditional programmes, Liberal Arts allows you to combine study of a range of disciplines in different proportions. Whether you favour arts and humanities subjects such as English, Modern Languages and Music, scientific disciplines such as Psychology, Economics and Mathematics, or wish to study as widely as possible – Liberal Arts allows you to build a degree according to your interests.

At its heart are core modules that introduce and develop interdisciplinary approaches to a wide range of issues. You will apply the critical skills you develop in these modules to a wide variety of course options offered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, as well as beyond. Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway requires you to study a modern foreign language in your first year (either from scratch or building upon previous competences), which you can pursue throughout your studies if you wish. If you continue your study of French, German, Italian or Spanish as part of the four-year degree programme you can spend an integrated year abroad developing your language skills at a university, as a teaching assistant or at a work placement. It is also possible to complete an integral year of study abroad (without a language component, at a university where the language of instruction is English) through the four year ‘Liberal Arts with an International Year’ programme.

All students of Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway acquire a sound grounding in the skills and knowledge needed to interpret and analyse texts and have the opportunity to be taught by specialists with research expertise in many different fields. By the end of your studies you will leave for the world of work with skills of critical enquiry, discipline, flexibility of thought, and clarity of expression. This is a challenging degree which will require you to negotiate study in departments and schools across the university, but you will have a home in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures. The School’s administrative and academic staff offer advice, structure and support. We look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant community of students and staff.

STUDENT VIEW

“The beauty of Liberal Arts is its versatility and breadth. This allows me to create a unique programme which suits my strengths and interests. I can say I truly enjoy every aspect of this education.”

Elizabeth, BA Liberal Arts
In your first year, ‘Cultural Encounters’ aims to give you a strong foundation upon which to base your study of particular disciplines, and also to help you think about how to bring different disciplines into conversation with each other.

As you move into year two, the core course ‘Power & Dissent’ focuses on visual and verbal communication in culture and politics. Both core courses put an emphasis on group work and presentations. In your final year, you will undertake an independent research project to write a dissertation.

By the end of the course you will have at least a basic grasp of a foreign language, knowledge of a wide range of disciplines, strong communication skills (both oral and written), and experience of the techniques and skills necessary for interdisciplinary work.

### Degree programmes and structure

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Y000</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Liberal Arts with an International Year</td>
<td>Y001</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Liberal Arts with a Language Year Abroad</td>
<td>Y002</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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</tbody>
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### Degree structure

**Year 1**
- Liberal Arts 1: Cultural Encounters (30 credits)
  - A Language Course at a level suitable to you. French, German, Italian or Spanish at either beginners’ or advanced level (30 credits)
  - Options to the value of 60 credits from a list of courses offered on the programme, to be chosen from at least two academic disciplines

**Year 2**
- LA2000 Liberal Arts 2: Power and Dissent (30 credits)
  - Students choose options equal to the value of 90 credits from a list offered on the Programme, to be chosen from at least two academic disciplines

**Year 3**
- LA3000 Liberal Arts Dissertation (30 credits)
  - Students choose options equal to the value of 90 credits from a list offered on the Programme

### BA LIBERAL ARTS WITH AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR

As above with an additional stage (Year 3) studying abroad. Students can apply to study at one of our international partner universities in countries including Australia, Canada and the USA.

### BA LIBERAL ARTS WITH A LANGUAGE YEAR ABROAD

As above with an additional stage (Year 3) spent either at an approved programme of study at one of our partner universities, or in an approved work placement. Possible destinations for the Year Abroad include France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Austria and Latin American countries including Mexico and Argentina. Liberal Arts students who opt for a language year abroad, must also take 30 credits of their language in both Year 2 and Year 4.

The School has a long and proven track record in supporting its students while they are studying abroad. We help students beforehand, in planning the year, and remain in contact with them throughout the year.

### OPTIONAL COURSES

The departments and schools offering selected options courses to Liberal Arts students in 2016-17 are:
- Biological Sciences
- Classics
- Drama, Theatre & Dance
- Economics
- English
- Geography
- History
- Law, Criminology and Sociology
- Mathematics
- Media Arts
- Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures
- Music
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology

Please note that although the College will keep changes to a minimum, new units may be offered or existing units may be withdrawn, for example, in response to a change in staff. Applicants will be informed if any significant changes need to be made. For a full list of available courses please visit royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts
Student life

Student life at Royal Holloway centres on our beautiful 135 acre campus.

Liberal Arts students have the unique opportunity to sample life in a range of different departments, which offers both social and academic advantages. They take advantage of the wide range of student-run clubs and societies, which cover academic and other interests including languages, politics, creative arts and culture.

Within the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, the societies organise a great range of activities including film screenings, performances of plays, parties, study trips and short breaks to European destinations. If all the activity on campus is still not enough for you, then, of course, the multiple and international attractions of central London are close at hand whilst our proximity to Heathrow Airport and Waterloo and St Pancras stations makes trips to Europe and beyond extremely convenient.
Your future career

Liberal Arts at Royal Holloway is designed to prepare graduates for a future career, by giving them the transferable skills, breadth of experience and adaptability that employers seek.

• Your courses will develop practical general skills such as the ability to work in a team, independent research skills, and confidence in oral presentation.

• You’ll also have specific skills, including knowledge of a foreign language.

• We seek to enhance our students’ employability by working closely with Royal Holloway’s Careers Service, which provides tailored events and advice.

• We also encourage our students to take advantage of work experience opportunities, for example by participating in Royal Holloway’s Community Action volunteering programme.

We are continuously looking at new career and skills development opportunities for our students. You may even have the chance to take a credit-bearing Voluntary Work module* with the Department of Social Work. Please see our website royalholloway.ac.uk/liberalarts for the latest details of modules on offer.

*Module under development

This brochure was published in February 2017 and the information given was correct at that time. It is intended primarily for those considering admission to Royal Holloway, University of London as undergraduate students in 2017-18. Occasionally it may be necessary for the University to vary the content and delivery of programmes so we advise all applicants to refer to the website prior to making any application. Full terms and conditions of admission can be found at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere
Royal Holloway, University of London, is ranked in the top 30 of all UK universities. Through the dedication of our teachers, discoveries that change the world and the feel of the Royal Holloway experience, ours is a community that will inspire you to succeed academically, socially and personally.

Our university was founded by two social reformers who pioneered the ideal of education and knowledge for all who could benefit. Their vision lives on today. As one of the UK’s leading research intensive universities, we are home to some of the world’s foremost authorities in the sciences, arts, business, economics and law. As teachers and researchers they change lives, expand minds and help current and future leaders understand power and responsibility. Students and academics travel from all over the world to study and work here, ensuring a global perspective within a close knit, safe and historic campus.