Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BA English and Digital Arts (QW40)

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.

Your degree course in English and Digital Arts provides progressive structures in which you will be able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. Your course contains a combination of mandatory modules to introduce you to historical periods, to the principle literary genres, and to contemporary critical and theoretical approaches. In stage two and three, you are encouraged to develop your own interests through informed choice among specialist options. In stage three, you are also required to write a dissertation and/or long essays. Your course aims to equip you with a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education (HE), allowing you to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community. Your degree courses at Royal Holloway, University of London, will be delivered over three years, each of which normally involves modules to the value of 120 credits.

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 a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.
Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	May 2024	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA English and Digital Arts	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	3569	UCAS code	QW40
Year of entry	2026/27		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Department of English, School of Humanities	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Department of Media Arts, School of Performing and Digital Arts
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time	Duration of the course	Three years or six years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

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

Year	Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC
1	MA1800	Introduction to Digital Media Practice	30	4	MC
1	MA1054	Introduction to Film Narrative (Media Arts Department)	15	4	MC
1	MA1154	Screen Narrative: Theory and Practical	15	4	MC
1	EN1107	Reorienting the Novel (English Department)	30	4	MC
1	EN1011	Thinking as a Critic (English Department)	15	4	MC
1	EN1112	Introduction to Poetry (English Department)	15	4	MC
2	MA2801	Digital Aesthetics	15	5	MC
2	EN2315	Literature and the Digital	15	5	MC

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 each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. 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. 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. 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; please contact the Department for further information.

In **year 2** you must choose options to the value of 45 credits from the list of stage two modules offered by the Department of Media Arts, and 45 credits from the list of stage two modules offered by the Department of English.

In your **final year** you must choose **one** of the following four 30 credit modules:
MA3017 Independent Praxis Project
MA3061 Media Arts Dissertation
EN3401 English Dissertation
EN3215 Literature, the Digital and the Creative Industries
You must then choose options to the value of 90 credits, ensuring you have an overall total of 60 credits from the Department of Media Arts and 60 credits from the Department of English.

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 first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy 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 Academic Taught Regulations but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study.

Part-time study
The degree will be available part-time over six years instead of three. There is no particular order in which modules need to be taken, but you should consult the course director Dr John Regan concerning your yearly choices when the change to part time is being discussed.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- To gain expertise in storytelling in literature, film, TV, videogames, immersive and other media

- To work towards your future ambitions with an employability focussed pathway into the digital and creative industries

- To develop your sense of the mutual cultivation of theoretical rigour and creative-critical work

- To build your confidence in a range of creative writing forms

- To provide specialised knowledge on the various concepts of narrative, from literary history to contemporary digital storytelling

- To encourage students to reflect critically upon the act of reading

- To develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills

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. English and Digital Arts at Royal Holloway will give you the critical and theoretical skills to understand storytelling and its histories and futures – meaning you will be well equipped to pursue roles across many creative industries. You will gain specialised knowledge on the various concepts of narrative, from literary history to contemporary digital storytelling. *(S)(K)(*);*

2. You'll gain knowledge of industry standard tools used in digital storytelling and creative production alongside academically rigorous critical thinking and communication skills. *(K) (S);*

3. You will cultivate critical and theoretical terminologies central to the disciplines of English Literature and Media Arts. Developing students' sense of the mutual cultivation of theoretical rigour and creative-critical work. *(K);*

4. You'll develop your ability to evaluate relevant critical, theoretical and contextual research in literary, digital humanities and media arts areas. *(S);*

5. Because of the emphasis placed on practice-based research: advanced written and oral communication skills. If the option is chosen, students may build their confidence in a range of creative writing forms. *(S);*

6. This course will develop your ability to present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths. *(S);*

7. You'll gain knowledge of the digital and creative industries and will learn strategies for making industry-appropriate job applications within the sector. *(S)(*).*

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on your course is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of English Literature and Media Arts. In general terms, the course provides an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes detailed herein.

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures; seminars; study groups; essay consultations; oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, translation exercises, online tests and exercises, oral presentations and the dissertation or long essay. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative or editorial work.

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 or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through 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, for the assessments listed as 'summative', you will receive a mark for it 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. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like 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 Royal Holloway Curriculum 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

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this 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	4-6
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 Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
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
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College