

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts in Classical Reception by Research**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2012**

The aims of the programme are:

- to encourage students to develop their research skills;
- to introduce students to reception theory, specifically in relation to literary and political thought;
- to develop advanced skills in the presentation of research;
- to provide students with the skills and background necessary for further study;
- to provide students with key research skills, the ability to work independently and in a self-directed fashion; to devise and deliver a research project; and an ability to set research goals;

The programme 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 programme a student 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 programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme, and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- an advanced knowledge of a variety of critical approaches to the Classical Reception;
- a detailed understanding of the role the classical tradition has played in intellectual debates in the modern era;
- the acquisition of knowledge of advanced scholarship in the chosen area of the discipline to a level appropriate for a MA degree.

Skills and other attributes

- the ability to develop and complete an extended research project at an advanced level; *
- an ability to self-direct in research and in the delivery of a research;*
- familiarity with and the capability of presenting research to recognised scholarly standards in a recognised scholarly format;*

- the ability to conduct literary research independently at an advanced level;
- the ability to articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories at an advanced level, demonstrating self-direction and originality;
- the ability to use research resources, libraries and archival materials appropriate to the field of study
- enhanced time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;
- the ability to analyse and evaluate critically, reflect critically on one's own practices and methodologies, to take initiatives, and responsibilities and to, innovate.*

*transferable skills

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of seminar discussions and oral presentations, guided independent research, guided independent study, coursework essays, and a dissertation. The basic strategies are to nurture the interest and enthusiasm of the students for the field, to develop the students' critical and communication skills and to develop critical, research and creative skills. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically through written work. Formative feedback will be provided continuously and through a number of reports in term one (as specified in the particular courses), the longer project in draft in term two (from the supervisor of the project), and through discussion of the research dissertation, especially in terms two and three (with the project supervisor). Full details of the assessments for individual course elements can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Details of the programme structure(s)

The full-time programme lasts 52 weeks, beginning in September. It has two core elements, the dissertation and the core course (Making Classics).

The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook. The weightings are indicated below.

Students must take the following:

- (i) CL5800: Making Classics (40 credits)
- (ii) CL5801: Dissertation in Classical Reception (140 credits)

Part-time programme structure

The part-time programme lasts 104 weeks, beginning in September of year one. Part-time students normally take element (i), in their first year, and elements (ii) mainly in their second year (with preparatory work in year one).

Progression and award requirements

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework. To pass the programme a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses which do not constitute more than 25% of the final assessment, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%, but a failure mark (i.e. below 50%) in the dissertation cannot be condoned.

The Masters degree with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Masters degree with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

Student support and guidance

- The Programme Director meets with the students on a regular basis to advise on academic, pastoral

and welfare issues. The Programme Director acts as a point of contact for pastoral support and any questions about the programme throughout the year. The Programme Director will have over-sight over all aspects of the provision. S/he will also be available by appointment. Other tutors will also be available by appointment.

- Induction programmes for orientation and introduction to the Department and College by the Director of MA programmes.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee through the MA representative.
- Detailed MA handbook and course booklets.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College and University libraries, as well as the Computer Centre.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre, Students' Union and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.

Admission requirements

Admission to the programme normally requires a First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree in a related subject. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further details please refer to the [Prospective Students](#) web page. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from Classics MA programmes have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions which include journalism, publishing and the media, advertising and marketing, the creative industry, the public sector, and teaching. For other graduates, completing an MA/Masters by Research is the precursor to embarking on research, ultimately leading to a PhD. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard (13th for Classics) and 18th for 3* and 4* research (15th for Classics).

List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to an award of the University of London. Programmes in Classics are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme code is given in parentheses.

Master of Arts Programme in Classical Reception by Research

MA in Classical Reception by Research (2537)

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