

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Joint Honours Degree programme in French and History, German and History, and History and Spanish**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2008**.

These three Joint Degrees' principal aim is to allow students to pursue the study of specific Modern European Languages alongside that of History, placing European language, literature and culture in an historical context as well as achieving an understanding of historical developments enhanced by the insights provided through the study of the individual countries concerned, plus a year spent abroad in the specified country. In meeting this principal aim the programme also:

- Provides a systematic understanding and knowledge of a Modern European language, literature and culture in an historical context;
- Encourages a critical awareness of the country studied, in terms of both their contemporary complexities and their historical bases;
- Provides insights relevant to the development and interpretation History and country studied and to the evaluation of current research and scholarship in the fields;
- Fosters an independent learning ability for continued intellectual development;
- Provides an opportunity for students to obtain an undergraduate qualification in History and a Modern European Language.

The programme is normally delivered in four stages. The first, second and fourth years each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The third year taken overseas, must comprise the equivalent of a full year of study overseas, is worth one unit to the degree (the thirteenth unit of the degree, which is added to the four units in the final year for calculating degree classification). The programme comprises 'core' disciplinary courses, including a compulsory stage one common to all degree programmes in the departments, and 'optional' specialist courses, with an extended essay in the final stage. Whilst the development of disciplinary-specific skills are emphasised in the 'core' courses, the specialist options provide focused opportunities to examine the application of these skills. Moreover, the multi-disciplinary common first year, and the opportunity to take courses offered in complementary disciplines gives a heightened appreciation of disciplinary distinctiveness.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), 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 on the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Extensive knowledge and critical understanding of recent and current developments in the fields of History, and the language, literature and culture of the country studied
- A sound knowledge of the theories, techniques and concepts used to further our understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with the fields of History and Modern European Languages.
- A critical understanding of data relating to the fields of History Modern European Languages and of the results of analysis based thereon.

Skills and other attributes

The Programme is designed to allow students to acquire competence in the following range of discipline-specific and transferable (denoted with an asterisk*) skills:

- Assess the merits of theories, models and explanations in History and Modern Languages and situate them in a wider disciplinary context.
- Apply the concepts and methods used in History and Modern Languages to the analysis of the studied county/countries.
- Evaluate current research and scholarship in the field, and evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies employed by historians and modern language scholars.
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and assess their nature and value.
- Carry out an independent investigation of a modern language and/or historical topic or issue and produce a coherent written account.
- Communicate complex ideas and present arguments and complex information in a clear and concise manner in writing.*
- Analyse and interpret complex issues, and develop reasoned arguments and make sound, critical judgements in the absence of complete data.*
- Use literature, internet and database searches to gain necessary information.*
- Develop the intellectual autonomy and self-direction needed for independent investigation of intellectual problems, taking responsibility for one's learning, and developing habits of reflection on that learning.*
- Exercise of initiative and personal responsibility.*
- Ability to take decisions in complex and uncertain situations.*
- The ability to work autonomously and collaboratively with other.*
- Self-awareness and self-management of research.*
- Awareness of one's responsibility as a local, national and international citizen.*
- Ability to learn independently and to take advantage of life-learning.*
- Skills of oral presentation.*
- Develop an advanced knowledge of the Modern European Language studied*, and of the culture and literature of the country/counties studied.

* transferable skills

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Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning on the Programme provides students with a knowledge of the literatures and cultures of various language areas, and to conduct historical scholarship. It is also very strongly informed by the current research interests of the teaching staff from the History Department and the School of Modern Languages, Literature and Culture (SMLLC) contributing courses to these Programmes. This is particularly the case with the 2nd and 4th Year options, all of which are offered by staff based on their own individual research interests (fully consistent with the College's approach to Research led Teaching).

The main methods used to develop knowledge and understanding are: formal lectures by academic staff, tutorials and seminar discussions based on a combination of staff led sessions and student participation (including presentations). There is also guided independent research and study for the 4th Year Dissertation.

Assessment will be by a combination of assessed coursework and examination as indicated in individual Course Specifications. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structure

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

The Programme is designed to be completed in 4 years of full-time study. Students complete 13 full units. Each of the three degree programmes rely on an equal division of courses between the relevant Department in the School of Modern Languages and the Department of History, 2 units (or equivalents) from the School of Modern Languages, Literature and Culture (SMLLC), 2 units (or equivalents) from the Department of History.

Stage One

Students **must** take the following courses in History:

HS1002 History and Meanings Part 1 (½ unit)

HS1005 History and Meanings Part 2 (½ unit)

Students **must** also take one Gateway whole unit course from the Department of History.

The current listing of Gateway courses can be found via the History Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at http://www.rhul.ac.uk/History/undergrad/undergrad_coursecatalogue.html.

Students **must** also take the equivalent of two whole units from the School of Modern Languages, Literature and Culture (SMLLC) appropriate to their degree registration, from either the Department of French, or German, or Spanish.

For **French and History**, students must take

FR1001 Pratique de l'écrit: expliquer, résumer, rédiger (½ unit)

FR1002 Pratique de l'oral: la France à travers ses médias (½ unit)

In addition, students **must** take two courses from the following courses:

FR1104 Perspectives on Modern France: Crisis, Nation, Identity (½ unit)

FR1105 The Visual Image in French Culture And Society (½ unit)

FR1106 Heroes and Anti-Heroes in their Social and Cultural Contexts (½ unit)

FR1107 Language, Communication and Society (½ unit)

FR1108 Landmarks: Reading the Classics of French Literature (½ unit)

The current listing of courses can be found via the French Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-French.html>.

For **German and History**, students must take

GM1007 German Language I (C) (½ unit)

GM1008 German Language I (D) (½ unit)

GM1109 Reading German Literature (½ unit)

and choose one ½ unit from the first year German options:

GM1112 Truth, Language and Art: Key Questions in the Humanities (½ unit)
GM1113 Modern Germany: History and Society (½ unit)
ML1203 Introduction to Comparative Textual Analysis (½ unit)
ML1102 The Birth of European Film (½ unit)
ML1101 Reading European Film 1 (½ unit)

However, students on the beginners' pathway must instead take:
GM1010 Intensive German Language for Beginners (1 unit)

and choose options equal to the value 1 full unit from the first German year options, listed above.

The current listing of courses can be found via the German Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-German.html>.

For **History and Spanish**, students must take **EITHER**

SN1001 Spanish I (one unit) **OR**
SN1010 Intensive Spanish (one unit) (depending on their entry level of Spanish)

and two ½ units from the list below

SN1100 Spanish Through Texts (½ unit)
SN1102 Text and Image in the Hispanic World (½ unit)
SN1105 Culture and Identity in Latin America (½ unit)
ML1101 Reading European Film (½ unit)
ML1102 The Birth of European Film (½ unit)

The current listing of courses can be found via the Hispanic Studies Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-Hispanic-Studies.html>.

Stage Two:

Students **must** take the following course from the Department of History:
HS2300 Independent Essay of 5,000 Words (½ unit)

This essay is freestanding. The subject of the essay must be outside the direct remit of the various Group 1 taught courses in the Department of History, and taught courses from the SMLLC, that the student is taking. Work on the essay takes place in Term One and Term Two.

In addition, students must take three of the Group 1 half unit courses.

On the **French and History** and **German and History** degree programmes:

In Term One students must take three Group 1 half unit courses, with at least one coming from each of two baskets (A & B)

In Term Two students must take one Group 1 half unit courses.

On the **History and Spanish** degree programme, students must take three of the Group 1 half unit courses. The following two half units are compulsory:

HS2223 Spain, 1898-1939 (½ unit)
HS2224 Spain from Dictatorship to Democracy, 1939-1989 (½ unit)

Further, in Term One students must take one Group 1 half unit courses, coming from either of two baskets (A & B)

The current listing of Group 1 half unit courses (and their baskets in Term One) can be found via the History Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at http://www.rhul.ac.uk/History/undergrad/undergrad_coursecatalogue.html.

Term Two Group 1 marked with an asterisk (*) are attached to Term One courses, which must be taken as a pre-requisite.

Student **must** also take the equivalent of two whole units from the School of Modern Languages, Literature and Culture (SMLLC) appropriate to their degree registration, from either the Department of French, or German, or Spanish.

For **French and History**, students must take

FR2001 Pratique de l'écrit: analyser et argumenter (½ unit)

FR2002 Pratique de l'oral: La France contemporaine à travers son cinéma (½ unit)

In addition, students **must** take two courses from the following courses:

FR2102 Writing Romance and Desire (½ unit)

FR2103 French: the Linguist's View (½ unit)

FR2104 Culture and Ideology: France and La Francophonie (½ unit)

FR2105 Stage and Screen in France (½ unit)

FR2106 Cinema in France: From Modernism to The Postmodern (½ unit)

The current listing of courses can be found via the French Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-French.html>.

For **German and History**, students must take **EITHER**

GM2001 German Language II (1 unit) **OR**

GM2010 German for Beginners II (1 unit) (or on the beginners' pathway)

and **two** half units from the following list:

GM2115 History and Politics as Reflected in the German Cinema from the 1930s to the 1990s (½ unit)

GM2116 Ideals and Realities in German Drama (½ unit)

GM2117 Narrative Strategies in German Prose Fiction (½ unit)

GM2119 Introduction to Modern European Philosophy (½ unit)

The current listing of courses can be found via the German Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-German.html>.

For History and Spanish, students must take **EITHER**

SN2001 Spanish II (1 unit) **OR**

SN2010 Intensive Spanish II (1 unit) (depending on their entry level of Spanish and progress through the First year)

and two ½ units from the following list

SN2013 Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spanish Film (½ unit)

SN2106 Theatre in Spain (½ unit)

SN2109 Myth and Tradition in the Modern Spanish Novel (½ unit)

SN2114 Andalusia, Deep Song, and Writing the Exotic Other (½ unit)

SN2113 Twentieth-Century Mexican Visual Arts and Film (½ unit)

SN2118 Religion and Society in the 16th and 17th-century Hispanic World (½ unit)

The current listing of courses can be found via the Hispanic Studies Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-Hispanic-Studies.html>.

Stage Three

This is an extra-curricular year, taken at one of the EU-partner University of either the Department of History or the School of Modern Languages in France, Germany or Spain (depending on Degree registration); at a Latin American University (for History and Spanish), with the specific agreement of the Department of History. Students are required to take a year of academic study at their assigned overseas University, equivalent to a full-time load that a degree-seeking student would take at that institution. The grades achieved overseas will be averaged, and added to the Royal Holloway degree programme as a thirteenth unit (HS3400), which will be counted as a final year unit when the final degree classification is calculated.

The administration of the year abroad will be undertaken by the School of Modern Languages, Literature and Culture (SMLLC), in consultation with the Tutor for International Studies (Erasmus Programmes) in the Department of History. The programme of study overseas will have to be approved by both the Department and the School. For current information on overseas placement via the SMLLC, please see the following link <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Students/SMLLC-Handbooks.html>.

Stage Four

Students **must** take the following courses in the Department of History:

One Group 3 course (taught course and Dissertation) from the available History options (2 units).

Note: Students should also take HS3105 Dissertation Research Skills as an extra-curricular unit, although they do not need to produce assessed written work for this course. This course offers invaluable assistance in planning and writing a dissertation.

The optional course will vary from year to year and the full list of those available will be promulgated prior to the commencement of each academic session.

The current listing of Group 3 whole unit courses (both the examination courses and the linked dissertations) can be found via the History Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at http://www.rhul.ac.uk/History/undergrad/undergrad_coursecatalogue.html.

In each year the options chosen must equal 2 full units from each 'side' (SMLLC/History) of the student's chosen programme. Student therefore **must** also take the equivalent of two whole units from the School of Modern Languages, Literature and Culture (SMLLC) appropriate to their degree registration, from either the Department of French, or German, or Spanish.

For **French and History**, students must take

FR3001 Pratique de l'écrit: Communiquer et Convaincre (½ unit)

FR3002 Pratique de L'oral: Reflexions et Debats (½ unit)

In addition, students **must** take two courses from the following courses:

FR3101 Advanced French Linguistics (½ unit)

FR3108 Repression and Rebellion: The Father and the Father's Law (½ unit)

FR3109 Desire and Transgression in Early-Modern French Literature (½ unit)

FR3110 Redefining the Erotic in Contemporary French Literature and Film (½ unit)

FR3111 Fictions of History: Narrative, Film and Event in Early Modern France (½ unit)

FR3112 Image, Identity and Consumer Culture in Post-war Fiction and Film (½ unit)

FR3113 Text and Image in France: from Cubism to the Present (½ unit)

FR3114 Ethics and Violence: Murder, Suicide and Genocide in Literature and Film (½ unit)

FR3115 Marcel Proust's A la recherche du temps perdu (½ unit)

FR3116 The Libertines: Narratives of Experience in Early Modern France (½ unit)

FR3118 The Troubadours: Courtly Love and Court Society (½ unit)

Students may substitute a Link Essay half unit (where available) for one of the above list of half unit courses.

The current listing of courses can be found via the French Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-French.html>.

For **German and History**, students must take

GM3005 German Language III (A) (½ unit)

and three ½ units from the following list:

GM3105 Schiller's Drama (½ unit)

GM3111 Racism and Anti-Semitism (½ unit)

GM3118 German Philosophy from Nietzsche to Habermas: the Critique of Modern Culture (½ unit)

GM3123 German Romanticism: Aesthetics, Science and Literature (½ unit)

GM3124 The GDR and its Legacy: Literary Responses from Socialist Realism to 'Ostalgie' (½ unit)

GM3125 Modern Austrian Literature (½ unit)

Students may choose to write a Link Essay (½ unit) of 3,000-5,000 words on an approved topic linking their two subjects.

The current listing of courses can be found via the German Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-German.html>.

For **Spanish and History**, students must take

SN3001 Spanish III (1 unit)

and two ½ units from the following list:

SN3108 Project (5000 words) (½ unit)

SN3109 Short Fiction by Women in post-Civil War Spain (½ unit)

SN3111 Contemporary Mexican Cinema (½ unit)

SN3116 Culture and Society in Early Modern Spain (½ unit)

SN3118 Seducing the Nation: Spanish Film: 1940s to 1980s (½ unit)

SN3119 Conflict in 20th-century Latin American Literature and Culture (½ unit)

The current listing of courses can be found via the Hispanic Studies Department's undergraduate course catalogue online, at <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Modern-Languages/Courses/Courses-Hispanic-Studies.html>.

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme taught at Royal Holloway. On some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage, or to qualify for a particular degree title. This would be particularly important with respect to the grades achieved while studying overseas in the student's third year. Progression through the programme is monitored through attendance and performance in coursework assignments and the completion and passing of courses each year. Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two, three and four and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stages three and four combined. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

In addition, with effect from September 2010, all first year students on single, joint or combined honours programmes offered by the Department of History 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 Merit 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 [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: *Conditions for progression to the next stage*) but fail

to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser in each department who meets with them in the induction week and then regularly through the programme. The tutor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- All tutors and academic staff, including the Head of Department, are available for consultation at advertised office hours.
- The Departmental Academic Coordinator provides guidance and advice on a range of academic, administrative, pastoral and welfare matters.
- The Department operates an 'open door' policy such that any member of staff may be consulted by students.
- Induction programme to the Department and College for orientation at the start of the first year.
- Detailed and comprehensive Departmental Student Handbook.
- The Departmental Staff/Student Committee acts as a channel of communication between staff and students.
- Extensive supporting material and learning resources available from the College libraries. In addition students also have access to a wide range of resources available through other University of London libraries.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Education Support Unit for students with special needs.

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Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Catalogue](#) web page. 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. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

The programmes provide a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and some of the more successful graduates can expect to go on to postgraduate programmes in both Royal Holloway and elsewhere. The programmes also provide graduates with a range of intellectual, personal and social skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment opportunities. Careers which will especially suit International Relations and History graduates include work in the civil service, local government, public and private sector management, political research and lobbying, teaching, and journalism and the media. Students on the programmes are able to take full advantage of the resources available at the College [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

A Teaching Quality Assessment (TQA) carried out by the Quality Assurance Agency in November 1993 rated the Department's educational provision as 'excellent'. In designing and delivering its programmes, the Department draws extensively upon the research activities and expertise of its staff, particularly in final year undergraduate course units and dissertations, and postgraduate programmes.

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 and 18th for 3* and 4* research. The Department of History was ranked joint 10th in the top 10 universities in the country in terms of proportion of 3* and 4* research. Sixty percent (60%) of the Department's research profile is of 3* and 4* standard. A further eight departments are in the top 10 ranked by proportion of 3* & 4* research: Biological Sciences (joint 3rd), Drama (joint 9th), Earth Sciences (joint 7th), Economics (joint 9th), Geography (joint 9th), German (joint 5th), Media Arts (joint 6th) and Psychology (joint 5th).

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List of programmes

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to awards of the University of London. The programme in International Relations and History is not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in International Relations and in History describe the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in these subjects, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Joint Honours Degree programmes in History and Modern Languages, Literature and Culture:

- BA French and History (RV11)
- BA German and History (RV21)
- BA History and Spanish (VR14)

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