

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Joint Honours Degree programme in History and Music**. 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**.

The Joint Degree's principal aim is to allow students to pursue the study of Music alongside that of History, placing Music historical context as well as achieving an understanding of historical developments enhanced by the insights provided through the study of Music and its more significant theoretical and practical frameworks. In meeting this principal aim the programme also:

- Provides a systematic understanding and knowledge of Music theory and practice in an historical context;
- Encourages a critical awareness of problems in Music and History in terms of both their contemporary complexities and their historical bases;
- Provides theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the development and interpretation of knowledge in History and Music 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 Music.

The programme is normally delivered in three stages, 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 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.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

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 Music, and of the issues and controversies associated with these developments.
- A sound knowledge of the theories, techniques, practices and concepts used to further our understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with the fields of History and Music.
- A critical understanding of information relating to the fields of History and Music 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 Music and situate them in a wider disciplinary context.
- Apply the concepts and methods used in History and Music to the analysis of events and practice in the fields.
- Analyse qualitative data relating to the fields of History and Music.
- Evaluate current research and scholarship in the field, and evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies employed by historians and Music 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 music 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.*
- Where appropriate, develop advanced skills in performance, with either the voice and/or a specific instrument(s)*

* transferable skills

[Back to top](#)

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning on the Programme draws upon the methods and concepts used to develop skills and knowledge in the different disciplines, and to conduct historical scholarship. It is also very strongly informed by the current research interests of the teaching staff from the two departments contributing courses to the Programme. This is particularly the case with the 2nd and 3rd 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 3rd Year Dissertation. Where appropriate, music tuition will also be used.

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](#).

[Back to top](#)

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 3 years of full-time study. Students complete 12 full units.

Stage One

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

HS1002 History and Meanings Part 1 (0.5 unit)

HS1005 History and Meanings Part 2 (0.5 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 following course in Music:

MU1107 Principles of Tonal Music (1 unit)

Students are **also** required to take EITHER

MU1102 History of Music I (1 unit) OR

Two half unit courses from the following list, to the value of one whole unit in total.

MU1103 Studies in Contemporary Music (0.5 unit)

MU1104 Foundations of Composition (0.5 unit)

MU1105 Practice and Theory of Performance (0.5 unit)

MU1106 Introduction to World Music (0.5 unit)

A full list of Music Department courses for the current year can be obtained from the [Music Department](#).

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 Department of Music, 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.

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.

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

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.

Further, students **must** also take from the Music Department

MU2202 History of Music II (1 unit)

Plus **two** any Intermediate or Honours half units open to Second years, to the value of one whole unit.

Within the second year, up to 1 unit courses may be taken outside the Departments of Music or History in place of Intermediate or Honours Music courses. The courses taken outside of the Music Department must be at the equivalent level to the Intermediate or Honours Music courses that they replace.

A full list of Music Department courses for the current year can be obtained from the [Music Department](#).

Stage Three

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 the Dissertation Skills course run in the Summer of 2012. 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.

Further, students **must** also take from the Music Department **four** Intermediate or Honours half units, to the value of two whole unit. Honours courses may However, students may not take more than **two** Intermediate courses, and must take a minimum of **two** Honours courses. Students may therefore take **EITHER**

two Intermediate and two Honours half units **OR**
one Intermediate and three Honours half units **OR**
two Honours half units.

Students **may also** substitute two Honours half units in Music for one of the following final year whole unit courses:

MU3392 Special Study: Theory & Analysis (pre-requisite: MU2201)
MU3393 Special Study: Performance (pre-requisite: MU2205 or MU2210 or MU2211)
MU3394 Special Study: Composition (pre-requisite: MU2213)

Within the third year, up to 1 unit courses may be taken outside the Departments of Music or History in place of Intermediate or Honours Music courses. The courses taken outside of the Music Department must be at the equivalent level to the Intermediate or Honours Music courses that they replace, and must be consistent with the combination of Intermediate and Honours shown above.

A full list of Music Department courses for the current year can be obtained from the [Music Department](#).

[Back to top](#)

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 (see programme structure above). 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 and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. 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.

[Back to top](#)

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.

[Back to top](#)

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.

[Back to top](#)

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 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](#).

[Back to top](#)

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).

[Back to top](#)

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. Programmes in History are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in History describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the 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 Music:

BA History and Music (VW13)

[Back to top](#)