

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Joint Honours Degree programmes in History and Philosophy**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2013**.

The Joint Degree's principal aim is to allow students to pursue the study of History alongside that of Philosophy, placing History in general, and the history of ideas in particular, in a broader philosophical context as well as achieving an understanding of Philosophy enhanced by the insights provided through the study of History and its more significant historiographical frameworks. In meeting this principal aim the programme also:

- Provides a systematic understanding and knowledge of the development of Philosophy in an historical context.
- Exposes students to a broad and coherent philosophical curriculum that draws on both the European and Anglo-American traditions.
- Provides a sound and extensive basis for the study of History, meeting the general requirements of the History subject benchmarking statement in the development of knowledge, understanding, and intellectual, discipline-specific and key skills.
- Provides students with sufficient choice to allow them to pursue their philosophical interests where possible.
- Provides a flexible and progressive structure in which students are able to gain knowledge, understanding, and appropriate skills relating to distinctive research specialisms.
- Encourages a critical awareness of current debates within the fields of History and Philosophy, in terms of both their contemporary complexities and their historical bases; presents an appreciation of History and Philosophy that stresses their pertinence to areas of intellectual inquiry.
- Inculcates an active sense of the interplay between intellectual-historical and ahistorical dimensions of philosophical enquiry.
- Provides theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the development and interpretation of knowledge in History and Philosophy and to the evaluation of current research and scholarship in the fields.
- Prepares students to engage critically with the work of modern and contemporary philosophers.
- Fosters an independent learning ability for continued intellectual development.
- Engenders a range of subject-specific and general intellectual skills through a variety of learning activities geared to the study and practice of philosophy.
- Produces graduates with a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education, who are able to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community.
- Provides an opportunity for students to obtain an undergraduate qualification in History and Philosophy.

The programme is normally delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study or two years of part-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 of the programme, with more freedom to choose 'optional' specialist courses in the second and third years, and with an extended essay in the final stage. Whilst the development of fundamental 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 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 Philosophy, and of the issues and controversies associated with these developments.
- A grounding in some central theories in the fields of logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics and philosophy of mind.
- 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 Philosophy.
- An informed awareness of some of the topics that are of interest to philosophers today.
- A critical understanding of data relating to the fields of History and Philosophy and of the results of analysis based thereon.
- The knowledge to situate historically and conceptually central figures in the history of philosophy, and the diversity of philosophical methods, styles and problems.
- A grasp of the methodological and conceptual relations between History and Philosophy.
- An ability to interpret and critically engage with key philosophical texts, constituting a variety of traditions and ranging historically from the Ancient through to the contemporary.
- A grounding in some central theories in the fields of logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics and philosophy of mind.

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 Philosophy and situate them in a wider disciplinary context.
- Apply the concepts and methods used in History and Philosophy to the analysis of the History of Ideas.
- Evaluate current research and scholarship in the field, and evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies employed by historians and philosophy 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 philosophical and/or historical topic or issue and produce a coherent written account.
- An ability to summarise complex philosophical arguments and to present critical evaluations both orally and in writing.
- Command a wide vocabulary of appropriate critical and theoretical terminology in History and Philosophy.
- The ability to read sensitively and contrast critically philosophical works from different periods and exemplifying different styles of reasoning.

- 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.*

* transferable skills

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Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning on the programme draws on the methods and concepts used to investigate historical and philosophical issues and to conduct scholarship in these disciplines. 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 most 2nd and all 3rd Year options, 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.

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 of History](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#).

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Details of the programme structure

Please note that the list of options offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department of History](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#).

BA History and Philosophy

Stage One

Students must take the following courses:

- HS1002 – History and Meanings I (½ unit)
- HS1005 – History and Meanings II (½ unit)
- HS1107 – Republics, Kings and People (1 unit)
- PY1001 – Fundamental Questions in Philosophy (1 unit)
- PY1002 – Introduction to Modern Philosophy (½ unit)
- PY1541 – Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (½ unit)

Stage Two

Students must take the following courses:

HS2271 – Modern Political Ideas (1 unit) or HS2311 – The Lever of Riches: Perspectives on the Making of Capitalism (1 unit)
PY2001 – Introduction to European Philosophy I: From Kant to Hegel (½ unit)
PY2002 – Mind and World (½ unit)

PLUS

HS2300 Independent Essay (½ unit)
One Group 1 from the available History options (½ unit)

Options equal to one unit from the following:

PY2003 – Introduction to European Philosophy II: The Critique of Idealism (½ unit)
PY2004 – Varieties of Scepticism (½ unit)
PY2005 – Philosophy and the Arts (½ unit)
CL2553 – The Dialogues of Plato (1 unit)
PR2490 – Contemporary Political Theory (1 unit)

In addition, students on this joint degree programme are expected to 'audit' HS2301 Research Skills, to assist with the writing of their Independent Research Essay. Students will receive no formal credit for auditing this half-unit.

Stage Three

EITHER

PY3001 Dissertation (1 unit)

PLUS

One unit of the following Philosophy courses equivalent to one full unit:

PY3002 – Modern European Philosophy I: From Husserl to Heidegger (½ unit)
PY3003 – Modern European Philosophy II: Poststructuralism and its Critics (½ unit)
PY3004 – Recovering Reality (½ unit)
PY3005 – The Self and Others (½ unit)
CL3652 – The Philosophy of Aristotle (1 unit)
CL3661 – Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics (1 unit)
PR3540 – Radical Political Theory (1 unit)
PR3560 – The Politics of Toleration (½ unit)
PR3570 – Social Justice: From Theory to Practice (½ unit)
PR3630 – Issues in Democratic Theory (1 unit)

PLUS

One Group 3 taught course from the available History options (1 unit)
One Group 2 course from the available History options (1 unit)

OR

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

PLUS

Two units of taught courses from the following Philosophy options, at least one unit of which must be PY-coded courses:

PY3002 – Modern European Philosophy I: From Husserl to Heidegger (½ unit)
PY3003 – Modern European Philosophy II: Poststructuralism and its Critics (½ unit)
PY3004 – Recovering Reality (½ unit)
PY3005 – The Self and Others (½ unit)
CL3652 – The Philosophy of Aristotle (1 unit)
CL3661 – Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics (1 unit)
PR3540 – Radical Political Theory (1 unit)
PR3560 – The Politics of Toleration (½ unit)
PR3570 – Social Justice: From Theory to Practice (½ unit)
PR3630 – Issues in Democratic Theory (1 unit)

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

Part-time students would normally be expected to take the following:

Year One (Stage One A): PY1001 and HS1002 History & Meanings I and HS1005 History & Meanings II

Year Two (Stage One B): PY1002, PY1541 and HS1107 – Republics, Kings and People

Year Three (Stage Two A): PY2001, PY2002, and either HS2271 – Modern Political Ideas or HS2311 – The Lever of Riches: Perspectives on the Making of Capitalism

Year Four (Stage Two B): One Group One History course (½ unit), HS2300 Independent Essay and optional courses in Philosophy from the list above for full-time route to the value of 1.0 unit.

In addition, students on this joint degree programme are expected to 'audit' HS2301 Research Skills, to assist with the writing of their Independent Research Essay. Students will receive no formal credit for auditing this half-unit.

Year Five and Six (Stage Three): An appropriate combination of courses in line with the requirements stated above, normally including a dissertation in either subject. Should students choose to take a dissertation in History they must complete the associated taught course in the same academic year.

BA History and Philosophy with an International Year (4 years)

Stage one:

As Stage one, listed above.

Stage two:

As Stage two, listed above.

Stage three, part 1 - Extra-curricular year:**

Students must take courses at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Programmes. The equivalent of a full academic load at the overseas university must be taken. The courses to be taken overseas are to be agreed with the Tutor for International Studies in History. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and count as a thirteenth unit, HS3400. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks.

Stage three, part 2 – Final year in the History Department:

As Stage three, listed above. These courses will contribute 80% to the final stage three marks.

**Students commencing stage three, part 1 on this four year programme will not be permitted to transfer back to one of the three year programmes offered by the Department of History. The Department will give consideration in the case of extreme hardship, documented by extenuating circumstances and supporting material, as it normally would, should a student not be able to complete their year abroad.

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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. 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. 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%.

All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science 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 [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.

To be awarded the degree of History and Philosophy, students must successfully complete all their stage one courses, HS2271 or HS2311, and the 3rd year dissertation (whether in History or Philosophy).

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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 Adviser'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.
- For the Philosophy side of the degree the PIR Academic Coordinator and the Undergraduate Philosophy Programme Director provide guidance and advice on a range of academic, administrative, pastoral and welfare matters; In History the First Year Tutor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- The Departments operate an 'open door' policy such that any member of staff may be consulted by students.
- Induction programme to the Departments and College for orientation at the start of the first year.
- Detailed and comprehensive Departmental Student Handbooks.
- The Departmental Staff/Student Committee in each department acts as a channel of communication between staff and students. Students from each year group are recruited to serve as representatives on each Staff/Student Committee, and include representatives from the History and Philosophy degree programme.
- 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

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. In the 2008 RAE, 90% of the History Department's research publications were judged to be in the top three categories, including 20% in the category of 'world leading'.

Royal Holloway began developing its philosophy portfolio in 2007 with the introduction of a series of Philosophy minor degrees. The first set of joint honours Philosophy degrees were established in 2010, and a PPE degree began in 2012. Members of staff teaching on the philosophy component of the degrees are also known nationally or internationally for their work either in philosophy specifically or in the more theoretical aspects of their particular disciplines. The philosophy teaching team now comprises four dedicated philosophy staff alongside staff in Politics and International Relations, English and Drama. Philosophy is now based within the Department of Politics and International Relations.

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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 History and Philosophy is not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in History and in Philosophy 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 Philosophy

BA History and Philosophy (VV51)

BA History and Philosophy with an International Year (Banner code 2653)

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