

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **minor component of Combined Honours Degree programmes in a European Language, European Literature and Cultural Studies, and Comparative Literature and Culture with Film Studies**. Please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2005**.

The aims of the programmes are (all undergraduate degree programmes having Film Studies as a minor honours subject have the same aims and outcomes for the Film Studies element of the programme):

- to provide students with an understanding of the characteristics and workings of cinema, both in relation to mainstream Hollywood cinema, and as a cultural, artistic or ideological medium;
- to equip students with analytical tools which have an application beyond the study of cinema and to thus enrich their experience of visual culture in general;
- to encourage an outlook which understands, respects and recognises the differences between cultures and lifestyles both in Europe and in the rest of the world;
- to equip students with a range of transferable skills (including research, analysis, information management, and verbal and written communication) which they will find useful during their University careers and in subsequent professional life, and to equip them to make valuable links between their university studies and events outside the university, such as lectures, conferences, films, plays, and concerts;
- to provide programmes in which teaching is informed, refreshed and enlivened by teaching staff research activity and expertise;
- to encourage students to continue their education, and where appropriate, to prepare them for higher degrees.

The programme is delivered full-time in three or four stages (if the major component is a modern foreign language), each of which comprises one year (52 weeks) of full-time study (with the exception of the year spent abroad), during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units made up of an equivalent number of whole (1) or half ($\frac{1}{2}$) units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). One full unit each year will be courses which make up the minor pathway in Film Studies. For modern foreign language students the year between Stages two and four is spent abroad, wholly in a French, German, Italian or Spanish-speaking country.

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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 in 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

- talk and write coherently about the characteristics and workings of film, both in relation to mainstream Hollywood cinema, and to world cinema;
- collect, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information;
- understand and apply different theoretical and critical approaches to various aspects of European culture;
- place cultural forms in their socio-historical and critical context both in European cultures and, more broadly, in a global context;
- understanding of European (and in some cases Latin American) film culture in many of its forms (all courses);
- understanding of where film studies fits within European and global cultural movements;
- assessing the merits of contrasting theories and approaches.

Skills and other attributes

- effectively take notes, organize materials, and ultimately, produce well-structured, well-argued essays;
- work autonomously in the planning and execution of individual essays, projects and research;
- effective identification and use of reference materials and abstracting and synthesizing information;*
- planning, designing, and executing a piece of rigorous research and writing it up competently;
- analysing and problem-solving;*
- critically interpreting texts;
- developing a reasoned argument;*
- taking responsibility for learning and developing habits of reflection on that learning;*
- Intellectual independence;*
- good written English and oral articulacy;*
- Information Management;*
- good time management;*
- research techniques;*
- resourcefulness;*
- coping with pressure;*
- competitiveness;*
- interpersonal skills;*
- dealing with authority.*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, small-group and/or one-to-one tutorials, guided independent research, guided independent study, feedback on work produced by students, class and seminar-based teaching/discussions and debates, one-to-one contact with personal advisers, training courses run by library and computer staff. These learning outcomes are best thought of as general ways of thinking which stretch across different courses and sub-disciplinary areas. As students progress through the programmes, they develop a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of a selection of these aspects of Film Studies, in particular as they relate to the cultures of Europe and the Americas. Details about the ways in which particular courses meet these outcomes can be found in the [Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to meet basic standards in information technology, training for which is provided by the College Computer Centre. Assessment is by formal written examinations, unseen film commentaries, coursework essays and dissertations.

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available optional courses offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year is provided with course preregistration documentation e-mailed to all students before they start their second and final years, and for Incoming first-year students via the course preregistration link on the School's [web pages](#).

Stage one:

Students must take:

ML1101 Reading European Film I (½ unit)

ML1102 The Birth of European Cinema (½ unit)

Plus a total of three course units in their major.

Stage two:

Students must take:

ML2101 Reading European Film II (½ unit)

Plus one option from a list of optional courses for the Minor pathway in Film Studies, provided by the School and a total of three course units in their major.

Stage three:

The year abroad is an integral part of all the degree programmes in which a language figures as a major honours subject. Students may choose between studying at an approved institution abroad, or, if English is their mother tongue, they may opt for a work placement as an English teaching assistant. The accreditation of the year abroad consists of a total of 2 course units, wholly attributed to the major language department.

Students must take:

FR/GM/IT/SN2501/02 Oral Examination in French/German/Italian/Spanish: accredits progress made in the spoken language.

And one of:

ML2201/02 Work Placement Project: accredits what has been learnt through an assistantship.

ML2401/02 Study Abroad: accredits university study.

Stage four/three:

Students must take:

ML3101 Dissertation (film studies) (1 unit)

Plus a total of three course units in their major.

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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, including the language course. On all programmes there are requirements to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage, and to qualify for a particular degree title (see programme specifications for the major component of the degree). It is a College requirement that students **complete** their Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) in order to be able to progress into the final year. Following agreed university courses to their conclusion, including the sitting of examinations, carrying out agreed work placements and completing PRA reports (where appropriate) constitute the completion of the PRA. **NB** Low or fail marks for elements that make up the thirteenth unit will pull down the average for that unit but will not prevent progression. However, **PLEASE NOTE** that students who **fail to complete their PRA as defined above will NOT normally be permitted to progress into the final year of their studies**. 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 stage four. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

With effect from September 2010, **all first year students** taking courses in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures are required to attend the course 'Academic Skills for Students of

Modern Languages' and 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 Advisors:** Each student is allocated to a particular member of academic teaching staff. Personal Advisors are available to meet their advisees regularly throughout the programme in order to advise on academic, pastoral or welfare issues and to review academic performance. Personal Advisors may also advise students on College and University support services, including the Student Counselling Service, the Health Centre and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs. When a student's usual Personal Advisor has sabbatical leave, the student is re-allocated to another colleague.
- **Office Hours:** All members of staff make themselves available for consultation by students on any academic or pastoral matter at specific hours during each teaching week of the academic year.
- **Academic Co-ordinators:** The Academic Co-ordinator provides a further, back-up source of academic advice. The Academic co-ordinator is also responsible for general oversight of Joint Honours students, liaising as necessary with Personal Advisors and with the other departments on the programme. Matters concerning programme pathways, course options and timetabling are discussed in the first instance with the student's Personal Advisor who may refer these to the Academic Co-ordinator.
- **Language Co-ordinator:** Each language has its own Language Co-ordinator, who may be consulted by students about any matters related to language courses and to the School's audio-visual and CALL resources related to these courses.
- **Period of Residence Abroad (PRA) Co-ordinators:** The PRA Co-ordinators, members of academic staff, run briefing sessions for students in Stage 2 of the programme who are going abroad the following year. The PRA Co-ordinators provide help and advice with applications, forms, accommodation plans, interviews, the British Council, and the Socrates-Erasmus Programme.
- **School Educational Support Office (ESO) Network Member:** The ESO Network Member co-ordinates the provisions made within the School for students with disabilities or special educational needs through liaison with colleagues across the School and elsewhere in College (above all the ESO itself).
- **Student Handbooks:** The *School of Modern Languages Student Handbook* is published online annually and made available to all Modern Languages students via the 'For Students' section of the SMLLC website. It comprises a complete general guide to the School, its various subject areas, and its resources, containing contact details, help available, facilities, advice on study skills, assessment, feedback, plagiarism, Student-Staff Committee, examinations, etc., and information about other sources of support offered by the College. Lists of courses available, with course descriptions, are also available on the SMLLC website.
- **Student-Staff Committee:** All years of the undergraduate programme as well as postgraduate students and teaching staff are represented on this committee, which is chaired by a student. Any student may bring matters of concern before this committee, which, after discussion, will refer them to the appropriate School or College authority for resolution.
- **Careers Advice:** Whilst the principal role is played by the University of London Careers Service, there is also a School Careers Liaison Officer who works with the Careers Service to ensure timely dissemination to students of information concerning careers, employers' forums, or other careers events. A number of these, including sessions designed to raise students' awareness of the marketability of the transferable skills acquired during their university careers, are organized on an annual basis specifically for Modern Languages students.
- **Resources:** The School is situated in the International Building where, along with Royal Holloway International, it offers students access to computer laboratories with dedicated Computer-Assisted Language Learning Software and recording facilities. The School liaises closely with the College libraries to ensure that the needs of students are appropriately met by the College's extensive collections of books, journals and electronic resources. Foreign-language videos and DVDs can be viewed in the library's viewing rooms.

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Admission requirements

The School's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Catalogue](#) web page. However, the School 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 foundation for postgraduate study at MA level and beyond in a range of disciplines, including Modern Languages and Film and Media Studies, or for further vocational training. Graduates in a Modern Language with a Film Studies minor will also be able to demonstrate a combination of interdisciplinary skills, including language abilities, critical and analytical skills, cultural and historical awareness, and a high level of visual literacy. This will equip them for careers in Britain and abroad, in areas as diverse as the media and publishing, the civil service, business, and law. For further details 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 and 18th for 3* and 4* research. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, approximately half of the research produced within the School was rated 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent' in terms of 'originality, significance and rigour'. German in particular was rated among the top 5 departments nationally in terms of proportion of 3* and 4* research, while Hispanic Studies achieved the highest score in the country for its 4* ('world-leading') research publications.

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List of programmes

All the programmes are taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in European Language with Film Studies are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Languages and Related Studies describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, 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).

Combined Honours Degree programmes in European Languages (Major component) with Film Studies (Minor component)

- BA Spanish with Film Studies (R4P3)
- BA French with Film Studies (R1P3)
- BA German with Film Studies (R2P3)
- BA Italian with Film Studies (R3P3)
- BA European Literature & Cultural Studies with Film Studies (R9P3)
- BA Comparative Literature and Culture with Film Studies (Q2P3)

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