

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the BA **Honours Degree programme in French (3 years: London/Paris)**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2013**.

The aims of this Honours Degree programme in French are:

- to develop advanced skills in understanding, speaking and writing authentic French; this aim is fundamental to the programme;
- to broaden and deepen a student's knowledge and understanding of key aspects of the society and culture of France and of the francophone world;
- to provide a learning environment in which students from all backgrounds will be able to develop intellectually;
- to provide experience and opportunity for developing a range of transferable skills;
- to introduce all students to the methods of independent research, both in a general sense and in relation to those approaches specific to research in modern languages, literatures and cultures;

The programme is delivered in three stages which each comprise 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 UK national credits). The second and third terms of Stage Two are spent at the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP).

Students take language courses to the value of at least one and a half units in each of the three stages. The remainder of the programme is flexible, permitting students to vary the focus of their options from year to year (including up to one unit from those offered by other departments in their first year of study); this approach is designed to allow stage one courses to provide skills and approaches which can then be developed in later stages.

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, 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

- the phonetics, grammar, structure and vocabulary of the principal varieties of French;
- France and French culture, in particular of crucial aspects of the recent history of France, its social and political structures and its role in relation to other cultures, especially francophone cultures outside Europe;

- key aspects of the arts in a French or francophone context, especially philosophy, literature, theatre, aesthetics and cinema, in their comparative, contemporary or historical perspectives;
- the interaction between all three of the foregoing;
- the resources and techniques available to students and researchers in the field of French studies and in wider applications;
- chosen areas of contemporary French writing (especially journalism);
- the critical discourse which surrounds all of these, and the resources available in these fields.

Skills and other attributes

The multi-disciplinary nature of the programme in French encourages the development of a wide range of skills, both discipline-specific and transferable, including the ability to:

- understand spoken French (live and recorded) of a variety of registers, used in a variety of circumstances and for a variety of purposes;
- express ideas, requests, inquiries and responses in spoken French appropriate in register, authentic and accurate, in a variety of circumstances and for a variety of purposes, in particular to conduct sustained discussion;
- read written French with understanding and appreciation in a variety of registers and circumstances and for a variety of purposes, in particular to do this for the purpose of conducting research related to other aspects of the curriculum;
- write effectively, in a variety of registers and for a variety of purposes, French which is accurate and authentic;
- identify, analyse and discuss specific linguistic features of French using appropriate terminology and transcribe spoken French using an appropriate system of notation;
- distinguish between varieties of French both spoken and written and identify the characteristics of such varieties.
- identify, analyse, discuss and propose solutions to problems in translation and to make and evaluate translations of a wide range of text types both from French to English and from English to French;
- make effective and critical use of reference resources related to French, especially dictionaries, grammars and electronic resources including learning packages and databases;
- formulate, explain and justify critical assessments of the role of French and francophone civilisation in relation to the culture of Europe and the wider world, including the appreciation of cultural difference;
- read, understand, analyse and evaluate a wide variety of written material;*
- listen effectively and critically;*
- identify, understand and reproduce the essential arguments and structures of a variety of written material;*
- write accurately, concisely and effectively in French as well as in English;
- analyse, annotate and prepare material (written or audio-visual) with a view to presenting its content orally, in French as well as in English, and to taking an active part in a discussion and development of its subject;
- participate actively in a structured and focused discussion and to collaborate in group projects;*
- apply methods of independent research, in particular bibliographical and library skills;*
- demonstrate understanding of critical writing in a specific field and the ability to apply coherent critical approaches in linguistic, philosophical, socio-historical, literary and aesthetic discourse;
- prepare and deliver effective oral presentations, in French as well as in English, using, where appropriate, visual or other aids and written material for distribution;
- research, prepare and submit written material which conforms to recognised conventions of presentation and scholarly discourse, including an extended report deriving from personal research;*
- display the capacity for critical analysis and judgement and to articulate ideas and devise and sustain arguments;*
- assimilate and evaluate complex material and present, orally and in writing, the results of rational and coherent thinking;*
- motivate, manage and improve one's own learning and performance, especially in relation to time-management and working under pressure;*
- identify, analyse and solve problems and present solutions effectively, using a wide range of appropriate resources, both traditional ones and those supported by information technology.*

* transferable skills

[Back to top](#)

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching is carried out mainly by means of lectures, structured seminars and language classes. Language acquisition is also promoted through Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) packages, Moodle (the College's and ULIP's Virtual Learning Environment platform) and other web-based resources, appropriate audio and video material, translation work, and textual analysis using printed and electronically available materials. Language classes are conducted in French (frequently by native speakers) to encourage familiarity with the language in the classroom. The four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are integrated with the study of key grammatical structures. A wide range of sources is used to encourage familiarity with different linguistic registers and the acquisition of new vocabulary. Classes for cultural courses are conducted mainly in English, partly because of the sophistication required at university level in students' critical responses to cultural works and in essay-writing and partly in order to inculcate excellent oral and written communication skills in English in addition to those simultaneously developed by students in French. All classes and assessment undertaken at ULIP will be in French.

Learning is encouraged through strong support at every stage for active student participation in lectures and seminars, and through designated reading and directed self-study. Essays and other, shorter written pieces ensure that the skills of exposition and critique are developed and evaluated throughout the learning process. The programme is so designed that the foundations of the intellectual and transferable skills are laid in stage one and then developed, with an increasing reliance on the individual student's personal research and self-direction. All students are encouraged to acquire IT competence, in particular by registering for the IT skills programmes which become available from time to time through the [Computer Centre](#).

Most course units are assessed by a combination of coursework and end-of-year examination, carefully designed to reflect the intended learning outcomes of each course. In addition to summative assessments, which count towards the final marks for each unit, coursework also includes formative assessment to provide students with feedback from course tutors, which is important in supporting student learning. Assessed coursework exercises vary with the course unit and are selected from the following: essays, comprehension exercises and précis, analytical commentaries, guided writing in French, translations, oral presentations, participation in structured discussion and a dissertation. Course units studied at ULIP are examined in France. At the end of their time in Paris, students are required to submit a 2,000-2,500 word essay in French. The mark for this essay will not contribute the final degree classification; however, students must submit and achieve a passing grade for the essay in order to progress in the final year of study. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be found in the Detailed Course Specifications available on the School's [website](#).

[Back to top](#)

Details of the programme structure

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](#).

Stages One and Three are identical to Stages One and Four of the 4-year Single Honours French programme.)

Stage one

Students must take:

FR1001 Pratique du français (1 unit)

FR1004 Pratique du Français- du texte à l'Oral (½ unit)

FR1110 Introduction to French Literature: A Taster Course (½ unit)

FR1111 Introduction to French Literature: Critical Skills (½ unit)

and choose options equal to the value of 1½ units from a list of Stage One courses offered by the School for students on this programme.

Students may take one half or one course unit as an elective unit which can be freely chosen from those offered by other departments in accordance with College Regulations.

Stage two:

In Term 1 students must take the following courses at RHUL:

FR2301 Pratique du français (1/2 unit)

FR2304 Introduction to Translation in a Socio-Cultural Context (1/2 unit)

And:

FR2305 Subversive Desires (1/2 unit)

FR2303 French Visual Cultures (1/2unit)

In Term 2 (at ULIP), students must take:

FR2400X Pratique du Français II (1/2 unit)

FR2922X Economics Issues (Part 1) (1/2 unit)

PLUS

Options equal to the value of 1 unit (30 credits) from a list of Stage TWO courses offered by ULIP for students on this programme.

NB: **all Term Two teaching will be delivered in French by ULIP staff in Paris**

Term 3 / Summer Vacation

After the assessment period in Term 3, students will be required to remain in Paris throughout the rest of the summer term and the vacation to complete a compulsory and assessed, but non-credit bearing, essay in French. Only in exceptional circumstances will a student be dispensed from this, and it will require formal approval by the Head of School. Students will receive formative feedback on this essay from staff at RHUL in term 1 of year 3. This feedback will help the student identify their strengths and weaknesses in written French expression. This will help them with their language work for FR 3001 in the final year. The mark for this essay will not contribute the final degree classification; however, students must submit and achieve a passing grade for the essay in order to progress in the final year of study.

The essay will take one of two forms:

*EITHER a 2,000-2,500-word **Research Project** relating to one or more content courses taken in Year Two at either RHUL or ULIP or both for which additional independent research has also been undertaken by the student whilst in Paris, using the library and computing resources of ULIP and benefitting from the immense range of research resources available in Paris'.*

*OR a 2,000-2,500-word **Cultural Fieldwork Report** relating to an aspect of their experience of living or working in France designed to give added value in terms of exit velocity and transferrable skills/employability. Students choosing this option will be encouraged to take up a work placement during the summer vacation prior to the final year of study. It will be the student's responsibility to find a placement which may be either paid or voluntary and may be in any French-speaking organisation. Placements will need to be approved by the RHUL Director of the 3 year programme by the end of the summer term at ULIP at the very latest.*

The essay will be written **in French**. ULIP library and computing facilities will be available to students throughout the summer (with the exception of a two-week annual closure in August). Guidance will be provided by RHUL/QMUL staff in person or via VLE/email. Work will be submitted at the start of Year Three.

These essays are designed to develop research skills and independent study; enhance critical and cultural engagement; optimize transferable skills and further boost language skills. Students will also take a formative oral-language exam on their return to RHUL at the beginning of Stage 3. This exam will provide feedback which will help the student focus their oral work in Stage Three.

Stage three:

Students must take:

FR3009 *Pratique du Français III* (one unit).

FR3003 Advanced Translating Skills (½ unit)

FR 3119 Dissertation (1/2 unit)

and choose options to the value of 2 units from a list of Final Stage courses offered by the School for students on this programme

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. Additionally students must pass the compulsory language unit FR1009 and FR1002 to progress into the second year of study and pass FR2301, FR2304 and FR2400X (at ULIP) to progress onto the final year of study. In order to qualify for an award in the field of study, the final-year language units FR3001 and FR3002 must be passed in the final year of study.

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.

[Back to top](#)

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. Students will be assigned a Personal Advisor from ULIP staff whilst at ULIP and will maintain contact with their RHUL personal advisor via e-mail.
- **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 French Academic Co-ordinator and the Programme Director of the 3 year degree provide further, back-up sources of academic advice. 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 or Programme Director. The Programme Director will keep in touch with the students during their time in Paris.
- **Language Co-ordinator:** French 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. At ULIP students should consult the Head of Department who will be able to advise on all academic and language-related matters.
- **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) and will continue to support students as appropriate while at ULIP.
- **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. BA French (3 years: London/Paris) students will be supplied with a specially modified version of the SMLLC handbook which also includes an Appendix giving information about studying at ULIP.
- **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. At ULIP, students will have a rep on the ULIP SSC which is overseen by the SU Welfare Officer. The ULIP Head of Department ensures that procedures are followed correctly.

- **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 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. At ULIP students will have access to the Learning Resource Centre which is an integrated library, computing and multimedia study space. (http://ulip.london.ac.uk/learning_resources).

[Back to top](#)

Admission requirements

The School's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Finder](#) 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.

[Back to top](#)

Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from French degree programmes have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions, while some have continued onto Postgraduate studies. For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

[Back to top](#)

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. Approximately half of the School's French research profile is of 3* and 4* standard.

ULIP is currently repositioning itself as a centre for international level research and undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in French Studies. In this regard it is working closely with Royal Holloway and Queen Mary, University of London who are members of a Consortium established with the University of London in 2004 in order to create mutual benefit in a number of areas of academic and support activity.

[Back to top](#)

List of programmes

The programme is taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London and staff at ULIP during the Spring term and leads to an award of the University of London. This programme in French is not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in French 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). The UCAS code is given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Single Honours degree programme in French

BA French (3 years: London/Paris) (R103)