

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts and Postgraduate Diploma in Paris: History and Culture**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **October 2011**.

This is a unique and innovatory programme. Not only is it taught by staff from a Franco-British Consortium (comprising the University of London Institute in Paris [ULIP] and, in England, Queen Mary University of London [QMUL] and Royal Holloway, University of London [RHUL]), but its contents are constituted by the city in which it takes place. All teaching takes place in ULIP premises within the historic ULIP building on Rue de Constantine, Paris (VIIe.). Teaching is provided by members of staff drawn from the departments of French, History, film studies and other related fields from within the Consortium. The teaching takes place in Paris.

The aims of the programme are to provide students with:

- a foundation from which students will understand the history and culture of the city, broadly speaking from the late eighteenth century to the present;
- a knowledge of advanced scholarship in the history and culture of the city of Paris (especially from the late eighteenth century to the present) to a level appropriate for an MA;
- to integrate course content with that of the optional courses also on offer;
- an awareness of and acquaintance with the variety of disciplinary fields through which the history and culture of modern Paris can be understood, ranging from social, political, cultural and urban history through literature, music, art, architecture and cinema;
- insight into a variety of both primary and secondary texts relating to the history and culture of modern Paris and notions of urban modernity;
- an ability to integrate traditional scholarly skills with first-hand engagement with the material traces of Paris's past;
- a general context for dissertation topics.

The programme is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or two years of part-time study (104 weeks). On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

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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 ULIP prospectus, the RHUL Academic Regulations, the PG Taught Student Handbook and in course handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst ULIP 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, ULIP 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:

At the end of the programme a student will have had the opportunity to:

- form critical approaches to, and to evaluate, relevant research at the forefront of the field, in broadly historical and cultural terms;
- analyse and critically interpret text and data at an advanced level;
- comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts and original critical ideas;
- develop capacity for argument and handling challenging ideas;
- conduct research independently at an advanced level drawing on primary and secondary sources and using both traditional and electronic resources;
- develop skills of reflection on reading and learning, and skills in information handling and retrieval;
- articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories at an advanced level, demonstrating self-direction and originality;
- present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths, drawing on current scholarship;
- master appropriate practical skills, such as compiling bibliographies, using footnote references and, where appropriate, handling relevant visual and quantitative sources;
- enhance interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints, and interacting constructively with other people;
- enhance time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks and organising work-time.

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning will be provided through lectures, seminar discussions, oral presentations, field work and study visits, guided independent study and research, coursework essays and a dissertation. The basic strategies are to nurture the interest and enthusiasm of the students for the field, to develop the student's critical and communication skills and to develop critical, research and creative skills. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by writing assignments, including a dissertation. There will be no examinations. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from [ULIP](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

The full-time programme lasts 52 weeks, beginning in October. It has five elements and students are assessed in four.

The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the PGT Student Handbook. Where weightings are indicated in brackets, these refer to weightings within the MA. The programme structure for the PgDip is as below, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation. Weightings for courses within the PgDip are proportionate, but exclude the dissertation.

Students must take the following:

Term 1: FR5991X: 'Encountering Paris' (15%) and FR5992X: 'Interpreting Paris' (15%)

Term 2: Two one term options (each weighted 15%) from an approved list of courses

In addition, students must take:

FR5980X: Dissertation (40%)

FR5990X: 'Sources and Methods' (not weighted)

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 can be obtained from the PGT Student Handbook.

Students are also expected to attend ULIP's research seminars.

Part-time programme structure

Part-time students should consult the Programme Director, but will normally take:

Year One: FR5991X, FR5990X and one option

Year Two: FR5992X, FR5980X and one option

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Progression and award requirements

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework. To pass the programme a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses which do not constitute more than 25% of the final assessment, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%, but a failure mark (i.e. below 50%) in the dissertation cannot be condoned.

The Masters degree with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Masters degree with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50% *and* has either chosen not to proceed to the dissertation, or has failed the dissertation on either the first or second attempt. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, but if they are, such condoned fails would be in courses which do not constitute more than 25% of the final assessment.

The Postgraduate Diploma with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

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Student support and guidance

Learning will be supported in the following ways:

- ULIP's Associate Programme Director will meet with the students on a regular basis to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. The Associate Programme Director acts as a point of contact for pastoral support and any questions about the programme throughout the year;
- An induction programme for orientation and introduction to ULIP, organised by the Associate Programme Director;
- Course coordinators, tutors and dissertation supervisors provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice. All Paris-based staff are available and accessible through an office-hour system;
- Detailed course handbooks including course descriptions explaining the aims, methods and structure of the course, essential reading and suggestions for independent research;
- One-to-one advice on essay topics, followed by written and oral feedback on assessed work;

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- Supervision of the dissertation through an initial, individual planning meeting, followed by a series of up to four one-to-one sessions;
- Representation on a Student-Staff Committee;
- Computing equipment and office space at ULIP;
- State-of-the-art viewing premises at ULIP;
- Guidance, where desired, on French language learning at an appropriate level;
- University of London Careers Service and University of London Students' Union;
- Library resources. Besides the ULIP Learning Resources Centre, students will be introduced through site visits to other Paris-based libraries and archives, including the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) and the Sciences-Po Library. Students specialising in film will have access to film and TV resources at the BNF, the Cinémathèque de Paris, as well as historic cinemas in the Latin Quarter.
- The intellectual environment of ULIP. Students will participate in ULIP's Research Seminar and in its other academic and scholarly activities. They will also be able to benefit from ULIP links with graduate seminars in their field of interest at the Sorbonne, Science-Po, ENS, AUP, and the EHESS.
- Access through ULIP to RHUL's Educational Support Office for students with special needs.

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Admissions Requirements

Admission to the programme normally requires a First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree in a Humanities or Social Studies subject. In addition, the applicant will supply two supportive academic references. A recognised equivalent from an accredited overseas institution or an equivalent professional qualification is also accepted. Applicants may be required to provide examples of written work and/or be interviewed. Applications from mature and 'non-traditional' students are strongly welcomed and will be treated sympathetically.

There is no French language requirement, and teaching will be through the medium of English. However, students will be directed towards appropriate private language courses according to level attained. Students with a good knowledge of French will be encouraged to work in both languages. Knowledge of French will enable them to extend the range of their reading and research, especially for the dissertation. As the language of instruction will be English, students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further details please refer to the Application Form Guidance Notes. It may also be helpful to contact Student and Academic Services at ULIP for specific guidance.

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Further learning and career opportunities

As is the case with other arts-based masters degrees, graduates from the programme will be well placed to pursue careers in a wide range of professions, including journalism, publishing and the media, advertising and marketing, the creative industry, the public sector, and teaching. The MA provides an enhanced understanding of French history and culture for students wishing to follow teaching careers, and opportunities for language acquisition and improved competence in transferable skills valued in the market place, including researching and locating sources, analysis of complex arguments, openness to a variety of viewpoints, oral and written presentation of arguments and information, and effective time-management. The MA has also been specifically designed so as to offer a grounding in research methodologies and practices appropriate for students intending to pursue doctoral work, particularly in History and in French Studies. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the University of London's [Careers Group](#).

Indicators of quality and standards

Teaching on the programme is provided by ULIP staff and by staff from departments within the Consortium, The departments most likely to supply teaching over the years will be French, History, Politics and Film Studies. All these departments have excellent RAE records as well as a high reputation for the quality of their teaching.

List of programmes

The programmes are taught by ULIP and consortium staff and the Masters leads to an award of the University of London. The Postgraduate Diploma leads to an award of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. The Banner programme codes are given in parentheses.

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Master of Arts Programme in Paris, History and Culture

MA in Paris, History and Culture (2325)

Postgraduate Diploma in Paris, History and Culture

PG Diploma in Paris: History and Culture (2326)

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