Comparative Literature and Culture
Undergraduate Studies
School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Welcome to Comparative Literature and Culture (CLC) in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Studying CLC at Royal Holloway means standing out from the crowd. This unique, prestigious and intellectually stimulating degree provides the opportunity to study literature from across the world as well as film, philosophy and visual arts, all in their cultural contexts. CLC will help you to develop as a culturally-aware, creative and adaptable thinker and give you a critical edge in a competitive global marketplace as well as broadening your horizons, interests and passions.

CLC provides breadth, depth and flexibility. As an intellectually curious lover of literature and culture, you can tailor your studies to suit your own evolving interests. Choose from a wide variety of options, ranging across continents and centuries. You can read, watch and compare texts from Ancient Greece to the present day, from epics to crime fiction and from classics to the avant-garde. We make everything available in English translation or with English subtitles, so you do not need to have foreign language expertise (although you can opt to study or take up a language).

You will be taught by world-class experts. Our interdisciplinary, world-leading research strengths were confirmed by the results of the nationally-conducted Research Excellence Framework (2014), which saw the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures ranked 9th in the UK and top in London. We take a pride in creating a supportive environment, using group work so you can try out new ideas and participate in lively discussions. Indeed, our students have given us an impressive 93% for overall satisfaction (National Student Survey 2016).

Throughout your studies, you will have your own Personal Advisor on hand to ensure your course is aligned to your strengths, interests and career plans. We all love sharing our passions and expertise with our students and celebrating their successes, so very much look forward to welcoming you into our friendly, international and inclusive community. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do get in touch.

Dr Ruth Cruickshank
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR (Comparative Literature and Culture)
Comparative Literature and Culture

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MORE INFORMATION
This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway’s Undergraduate Prospectus and information on the School’s website at royalholloway.ac.uk/clc
It is also available as a PDF at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere

Seville Cathedral, Spain (Elena Atanasio)
Why Choose Comparative Literature and Culture at Royal Holloway?

Comparative Literature and Culture is a rich, interdisciplinary degree programme. It is distinctive in providing the opportunity to explore a world of literature as well as film, philosophy and visual arts, transnationally, across different time periods, genres and media to develop cultural awareness and impressive critical, analytical and communications skills.

Since CLC explores the ways in which we see, represent and make sense of our changing world, it is perfectly suited to people who already have broad interests in literature and want to explore film, philosophy and art. CLC combines innovation, flexibility and academic challenge to offer you the opportunity to gain a prestigious degree, enhance your thinking and acquire a sophisticated critical appreciation of literature, film, philosophy and art. Exploring literature and culture comparatively develops the skills that give CLC students a critical edge in the global marketplace.

The CLC degree programme allows culturally-aware and intellectually-curious students to develop a critical appreciation of culture in its widest sense. Our lecturers are specialists in literature from across the world and a whole range of periods, genres and movements. As well as world-class experts in literature and cultural history, philosophy and critical thought we have particular strengths in visual culture (cinema, painting, photography, sculpture, theatre and fashion). You do not need to have foreign language skills to enjoy CLC as everything is available in English translation. However, our broad range of options involves the chance to study French, German, Italian or Spanish from scratch or at advanced level. You will also have the opportunity to apply to spend an additional international year at one of our partner universities across the world.

With their lively minds and broad range of interests, CLC students are some of the most engaged on campus and thrive in our international community and its vibrant cultural life. You can join CLC students in getting involved in student and academic cultural initiatives, volunteering, writing features for Royal Holloway’s student newspaper and broadcasting on the 24-hour radio station. You can take advantage of the Student Union with its social events and wide range of societies, which cover a wealth of interests including sports, politics, creative arts, culture and languages. Of course, as a member of School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures you can also join in a range of activities including film screenings, plays, parties, study trips and short breaks to European destinations.

Royal Holloway offers an exceptionally high-quality, friendly university experience and our University of London degrees are internationally recognised for their academic excellence. You will enjoy a unique, green, safe, friendly campus with wonderful grounds, Gothic architecture and up-to-the-minute student facilities and accommodation. You will also be ideally placed to enjoy the museums, galleries, cinema, visitor attractions and nightlife of central London. Royal Holloway is wonderfully accessible: as well as train and bus links, we are just off the M25 and our proximity to Heathrow, Waterloo and St Pancras makes trips to Europe and beyond extremely convenient.

“...”

Sophia-Alexia Efstathiou
BA Comparative Literature and Culture
Degree programmes

**Single Honours**
- Comparative Literature and Culture (Q200)

**Major in Comparative Literature and Culture**
- Comparative Literature and Culture with International Film (Q2P3)
- Comparative Literature and Culture with Philosophy (Q2V5)
- Comparative Literature and Culture with History of Art and Visual Culture (Q2W6)

**Joint Honours**
- Classical Studies and Comparative Literature and Culture (Q8Q2)
- Comparative Literature and Culture and Drama (Q2W4)
- Comparative Literature and Culture and English (QQ23)
- Comparative Literature and Culture and Philosophy (QV25)
- History of Art and Visual Culture and Comparative Literature and Culture (QW26)
- Modern Languages and Comparative Literature and Culture* (RQ92)
- Translation Studies and Comparative Literature and Culture* (QQ92)
- Translation Studies and Comparative Literature and Culture with a Year Abroad* (QQ99)

*Programme under development

Cuba (Jonathan Sharman)

Lake Konstanz (Clair Pillmoor)
## Degree structure

### Year 1

**Core modules**
- Reading Texts: Criticism for Comparative Literature (30 credits)
- Tales of the City: Introduction to Thematic Analysis (15 credits)

**Optional modules**
- You will choose from a wide range of 15-credit options (totalling 75 credits for Single Honours, 45 credits for Major and 15 credits for Joint Honours), typically including:
  - The Individual and Society: Key Works in French Literature
  - Passion and Betrayal on the Spanish Stage
  - Culture and Identity in Latin America
  - Comparative Hispanic Culture
  - Visualizing Cuba
  - Politics, Religion and Love (Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio)
  - German History and Culture: Past and Present
  - Visual Arts I: An Introduction to Visual Media (Compulsory for Visual Arts Minor)
  - The Visual Image in French Culture and Society
  - International Film: Contexts and Practices (Compulsory for International Film Minor)
  - The Birth of Film (Compulsory for International Film Minor)

**Single Honours and Major CLC students who took a first-year language course may continue that language course (30 credits) at beginners’ or advanced level in French, German, Italian or Spanish.**

### Year 2

**Core modules**
- Histories of Representation (15 credits)
- Critical and Comparative Approaches (15 credits)

**Optional modules**
- At least two 15-credit core options typically including:
  - A Special Theme in the Novel: Transgressions
  - Gender and Clothing in Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture
  - Deviance, Disfigurement and Disorder in Early Modern Spanish and French Literature
  - International Film II: Readings and Representations
  - Visual Arts II: Genre and Movements (Compulsory for Visual Arts Minor)

**Single Honours and Major CLC students may also choose from a wide range of courses to the total of 60 credits (Single) or 30 credits (Major) from 15-credit options typically including:**
- Writing Romance and Desire
- Death, Desire, Decline: Thomas Mann and Franz Kafka
- Love and Marriage in Major Novels by Theodor Fontane
- Italian Crime Fiction
- Boccaccio – Decameron
- Religion and Society in the 16th- and 17th-century Hispanic World
- Rebels, Revolution and Representation in Latin America
- Representations of Childhood and Youth in Modern German Culture
- Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spanish Film
- Twentieth Century Mexican Visual Arts and Film
- Post-war Italian Cinema
- Renaissance Florence
- Cinema in France: From Modernism to the Postmodern

**Single Honours and Major CLC students who took a first-year language course may continue that language course (30 credits) at beginners’ or advanced level in French, German, Italian or Spanish.**

### Year 3

**Optional modules**
- You will choose at least two of the following 15-credit CLC options typically including:
  - The Gothic Made in Spanish and English Fiction
  - Humans and Other Animals in Twenty-First Century Fiction and Thought
  - From Aestheticism to the Avant-Garde
  - Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalisation in Contemporary Film (Compulsory for Visual Cultures and International Film Minor)

**You then also choose from a wide range of other courses to the total of 90 credits (Single Honours), 60 credits (Major) and 30 credits (Joint Honours) from options typically including:**
- 5000-word dissertation on a subject of your choice (subject to approval)
- Ethics and Violence: Murder, Suicide and Genocide in Literature and Film
- Dante – The Divine Comedy
- Wanton Women: Artists and Writers of the French Avant-Garde
- Image, Identity and Consumer Culture in Post-war Fiction and Film
- Villains and Villainy in Early Modern French Theatre
- Narrative and Identity: The German Novel
- Dark Tales: E.T.A. Hoffmann and German Romanticism
- Devotion, Deceit, Desire: Literature of the Spanish Golden Age
- Text and Image in France: From Cubism to the Present
- National Socialism and the Third Reich in German Film and Visual Culture
- Contemporary Mexican Cinema
- Seduction Nation: Spanish Cinema 1940s to 1980s
- Horror Cinema in the Hispanic World
- Shooting History: Dictatorship, Terror and Crime in Italian Film
- 5000-word Visual Arts Dissertation (Compulsory for History of Art and Visual Culture Minor)

Please note that although the College will keep changes to a minimum, new units may be offered or existing units may be withdrawn, for example, in response to a change in staff. Applicants will be informed if any significant changes need to be made. For a full list of available courses please visit royalholloway.ac.uk/CLC
Your future career

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND CULTURE GIVES YOU A CRITICAL EDGE

As culturally-aware, creative and adaptable thinkers Comparative Literature and Culture graduates stand out in a crowded global marketplace. Students of Comparative Literature and Culture are attractive to employers because they think quickly and flexibly, communicate effectively, have a rich cultural and transnational awareness and the ability to analyse closely and range broadly. With its cross-cultural perspectives and academic challenge, studying CLC will prepare you for the demands of today’s world and workplaces. Throughout the course, you will:

• develop your critical and analytical thinking and expression
• learn to analyse, evaluate and process effectively many different kinds of information
• hone impressive communication skills (written and oral)
• enhance your ability to solve problems in sophisticated and flexible ways
• develop independent research skills
• acquire teamwork and leadership skills that are highly valued by prospective employers
• gain a critical appreciation of cultural life and cultural diversity

CAREERS ADVICE AND WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLC STUDENTS

We work closely with Royal Holloway’s Careers & Employability Service, which provides tailored events for CLC students ranging from one-to-one advice from our subject’s Career Consultants to a variety of events and networking opportunities providing insights into sectors such as Creative and Media, Not-for-Profit, Marketing, PR and Event Management.

Our highly-successful micro-placement scheme helps CLC students to fine-tune their job-seeking skills and boost their careers by enabling highly-motivated second-years to compete for prestigious two-week internships which offer invaluable experience and the chance to make great contacts with prospective employers. CLC students also take advantage of other work experience opportunities, for example by participating in Royal Holloway’s Community Action volunteering programme and our Student Ambassador programme. Your Personal Advisor is on hand to support you as you decide on your career path.

THE CLC ALUMNI COMMUNITY

We all love to welcome CLC alumni back to share their experiences with current students as their careers and studies develop. CLC graduates have launched careers in diverse roles such as:

• digital content writing
• brand consultancy
• marketing and PR account management
• online acquisition marketing
• content management
• journalism
• photographic editorial
• events organisation
• retail buying and management
• corporate communications
• trade and customer operations
• business analysis
• executive recruitment
• teaching and research.

Recent graduates have already snapped up jobs with major brands and in the public and not-for-profit sectors including:

• Amazon UK
• Condé Nast Johansens
• Kuoni
• John Lewis Partnership
• OVO Energy
• Script Lab
• SAGE Publications
• Relevance Web Marketing
• RMA Cultural Analysis
• Teach First
• Civil Service
• Tate
• National Portrait Gallery

Of those who choose to study for a postgraduate degree, many stay at Royal Holloway whilst others branch out to study specialist courses (recently at places as diverse as the Courtauld Institute, Brunel University and the University of Oxford) or choose to study abroad.

For more information visit royalholloway.ac.uk/careers

This brochure was published in May 2017 and the information given was correct at that time. It is intended primarily for those considering admission to Royal Holloway, University of London as undergraduate students in 2018-19. Occasionally it may be necessary for the University to vary the content and delivery of programmes so we advise all applicants to refer to the website prior to making any application. Full terms and conditions of admission can be found at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere
Royal Holloway, University of London, is ranked in the top 30 of all UK universities. Through the dedication of our teachers, discoveries that change the world and the feel of the Royal Holloway experience, ours is a community that will inspire you to succeed academically, socially and personally.

Our university was founded by two social reformers who pioneered the ideal of education and knowledge for all who could benefit. Their vision lives on today. As one of the UK’s leading research intensive universities, we are home to some of the world’s foremost authorities in the sciences, arts, business, economics and law. As teachers and researchers they change lives, expand minds and help current and future leaders understand power and responsibility. Students and academics travel from all over the world to study and work here, ensuring a global perspective within a close knit, safe and historic campus.