

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution: Queen Mary, University of London

Teaching institution (if different from above): n/a

If accredited by a professional/statutory body, please give the name, date of last accreditation visit, approximate date of next visit and details of exemptions that will be given to QMUL graduates.

n/a

Name of the final award: MA in History

Duration of Study/Period of Registration 1 year (full time) or 2 years (part time)

Programme title: MA in History

UCAS code: n/a

Criteria for admission to the programme:

Normally an upper second honours degree with History or another Humanities subject, together with 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 welcomed and will be treated sympathetically.

Aims of the programme:

The programme aims to provide a flexible by intellectually coherent and rigorous course of study in History from the Middle Ages to the present day. Specifically it aims:

- To introduce students, in the core course, to the main themes and approaches in twentieth-century historiography, from the Annales school to the present
- To encourage the transfer of approaches and concepts from the core course to the other areas of history they study
- To enable students to select optional core modules which provide specialist training relevant to study within particular historical periods
- To enhance advanced analytical and critical thinking
- To stimulate students to develop critical approaches to a number of areas of history
- To develop comparative perspectives on their work
- To provide a methodological and conceptual framework for more specialised research in the dissertation

Learning outcomes for the programme:

In completing the programme, students will be able to demonstrate:

- A broad understanding of the ways in which history has been researched and written over the last century
- An ability to write coherently and clearly about key historical topics in a way which is informed by current historical scholarship
- Specialised knowledge of different historical periods and topics
- A developed capacity for argument and handling challenging ideas
- An ability to identify relevant sources, both primary and secondary, to analyse them and to formulate sustained arguments based upon them
- Mastery of appropriate practical skills, such as compiling bibliographies, using footnote references and, where appropriate, handling relevant visual and quantitative sources
- An ability to research and write a dissertation based on original sources in such a way as to make a contribution to historical understanding

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies:

a) Teaching

Teaching will normally be provided in weekly seminars (with twelve students as the target seminar size). Seminars will be led by staff members with original research qualifications and interests in the area. Seminars will be based on specified set texts, which may include primary and secondary materials, and which in some cases be provided within a course pack. Students will be encouraged to discuss key issues, including theoretical approaches and interpretative procedures, and to assume an active role in shaping the direction and scope of the discussion. Participation will also be encouraged through seminar presentations, and by the creation of a supportive, attentive, and considerate environment conducive to the exchange of ideas. Seminars will be supplemented by consultations with advisers, with option course leaders, and with dissertation supervisors, which will include opportunities for one-to-one discussions of course content and plans for written work. In addition there will be guided visits to libraries and other archives. Students will be expected to engage in private study in preparation for the seminars and in the production of essays and the dissertation. Each course is supported by a detailed reading list.

The dissertation supervisor will be allocated in the light of the student's outline topic proposal, which is formulated during the Spring Semester in consultation with the adviser (with input as needed from option course teachers). The supervisor will have expertise in the area of the student's proposed topic, and will help the student refine and develop his or her plans. Supervision may include discussion of methodology, research resources, the scope of appropriate reading, the conduct and structure of the argument, the quality of submitted drafts and bibliographical procedures. Supervision will be provided in an initial, individual planning meeting, followed by a minimum of three one-to-one meetings.

b) Learning

Learning will be supported by

- An academic adviser, allocated to each student at the beginning of the session, who advises on personal, practical and academic issues, including written work, goals and progress, and the dissertation topic proposal
- Detailed 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
- Supervision of the dissertation through an initial, individual planning meeting, followed by a series of four one-to-one meetings.
- Library resources, including the resources of the College Library, the University of London Senate House Library, the British Library, as well as other specialist London libraries and archives introduced through the research methods course. Students have access to the holdings of all other London college libraries.
- The intellectual environment of the Department; students will be able to participate in the Department's Graduate Seminar, and in events organised by the Graduate School in the Social Sciences and Humanities and by the Institute for Historical Research

c) Assessment

Course options are assessed by written essays of 4000 words. Students will be able to formulate their own essay topics in consultation with the course leader (essay topics must be formally approved by week 10 of each semester). The course leader will also provide guidance on planning and development of essays in one-to-one sessions during the second part of the semester.

Written reports on all written work (both essays and dissertations) will be provided by first and second markers. All written work will be returned to students individually by the course leader or the supervisor in feedback sessions. In order to provide written and oral feedback in good time, essays will be returned, without grades, but with written reports, before the numerical grade has been formally approved by the external examiner (the grades will be added once the externals have completed their work).

There will be no examinations.

Programme structure(s) and requirements, levels and courses

Students take a compulsory core course and three one-semester options from existing Master's programmes within the Department, and write a dissertation. They also take a compulsory (non-assessed) research methods course. It is possible for students to opt for an option course from another Master's programme within the college, subject to the approval of the course convenor. Part-time students will normally take the research methods course, the core course, and one other option in their first year. They will normally begin work on their dissertation in the first year of study, but will register for the dissertation, and two other options courses, in the second year.

Indicators of Quality (please include details of: SSLC meetings, student feedback mechanisms, personal tutor arrangements, programme induction, programme review and monitoring.)

- **Staff Student Liaison Committee** MA students have two representatives on the committee who can raise student concerns. There is also a mechanism for forwarding individual written suggestions directly to the committee. Reports of the committees and discussed by the MA Committee.
- **Course Evaluation** All modules will be evaluated by written student questionnaires, while the programme and student experience will be evaluated in a student satisfaction survey. **Advisors** Students will be assigned to an Advisor at induction. At the beginning of each semester students will meet the Advisor to discuss practical and academic issues, to set goals etc. A record of these meetings will be kept in the student's file. Other meetings will be arranged to discuss essay and or dissertation plans and, at the end of the semester, to review progress. In addition advisers will keep a specified MA Office Hour each week, at which they will be available to discuss issues with advisees or course members.
- **Student files** Advisers will maintain a file on each advisee, which will include records of beginning-of-semester meetings, copies of assessment reports, correspondence with the student and any medical/special needs documentation supplied by the students. Another file will be maintained in

the Department Office, which will include copies of adviser reports, college documentation and other records. These will be maintained in accordance with the data protection act.

- **Course Teachers** All MA teachers will provide support, not only within the classes, but in one-to-one advice sessions to discuss progress and essay plans, or to provide feedback on presentations or assessed work.

Career Implications

The MA will provide a grounding in research methodologies and practices for students intending to pursue doctoral work; an enhanced understanding of Jewish history appropriate for students wishing to follow teaching careers; 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 programme will equip students with excellent employee skills of a sort consonant with a good arts degree at masters level from a good department in a good university. The international contacts of the Leo Baeck Institute to potential employers might also prove useful to some students.

Employers Links

Please provide details of any links with employers e.g.

- **Details of advisory panels that include current or potential employers;**
- **Organisations that regularly employ graduates from this programme and the roles that graduates undertake.**
- **Student prizes donated by organisations that may offer employment to graduates from this programme.**

If there are no links with employers consider the learning outcomes and transferable skills and explain how these might be used to inform employers about the qualities and skills a graduate from this programme might be expected to have.

As the programme details make clear, the programme will equip the students with excellent employee skills of a sort consonant with a good arts degree at masters level from a good department in a good university.

Person Completing Programme Specification	Colin Jones
Person responsible for management of programme	Colin Jones
Date programme specification agreed by Department or teaching and learning committee	
Date of completion of programme specification:	
Date of approval by Faculty Board/EB:	June 2007
Date of update/amendment:	