

Programme Title: BA (Hons) Cultural History with a Year Abroad



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	BA (Hons) Cultural History with a Year Abroad
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	Four years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	V143
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of History

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

### Programme outline

QMUL's Cultural History BA offers an exciting opportunity to study cultural history from the Middle Ages to the modern day, and to work with a range of historical sources, from art and architecture, to film and media, and to artefacts and material culture. Students can personalise their degree programme by selecting modules from the broad range offered by the School of History. Immerse yourself in Victorian home life by taking a room-by-room 'tour' of the Victorian home, examining family life, from birth to death, and from diet to recreational activities. Delve into the world of Jane Austen in our module on Georgian England, or explore medieval London through its pubs, plague-pits and monuments. Consider the development of New York as a cosmopolitan city, or study the history of video games, from Pacman to Pokemon. You'll have access to the full range of cultural, social, political and intellectual history modules taught by our internationally-renowned experts.

The year abroad would serve to introduce students to a new culture, and to enhance and consolidate their skills and knowledge-base. The School of History currently have exchange programmes with the following partners (with number of outgoing students for each year in brackets): Uppsala University (2), University of Copenhagen (2), Humboldt University Berlin (2), Koç University Istanbul (3). It is intended to expand the number of agreements in place as the programme develops. This is in addition to QMwide agreements, managed by the International Office. The cap on study abroad places is based on the limited places for each exchange programme.

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If a student will fail the year abroad completely, they would be able to revert back to a three-year degree. This should be presented and discussed in the School's Examination Board.

### Aims of the programme

The programme - Cultural History as delivered by the School of History at Queen Mary, University of London aims:

to provide students with a thorough grounding in key aspects of cultural history;  
to equip students to understand the unique problems of dealing with the challenges of cultural history;  
to introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of methodological approaches;  
to expose students to political, cultural, religious, social and economic themes as appropriate drawn primarily from the School's strengths in African, British, European, North American, Islamic, South Asian and Global history;  
to encourage and support students to design their own coherent pathways of study drawing from units offered both within the School of History and by other Schools within the University;  
to equip students with the generic and transferable skills as defined in the History Benchmarks including self direction, independence of mind, ability to gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information, structure, coherence, clarity and fluency of both oral and written expression, intellectual integrity.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

Please refer to the learning outcomes.

### Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

#### Academic Content:

A 1	To demonstrate understanding of major political, cultural, social and economic systems and different historical periods around the world.
A 2	To develop an awareness of continuity and change over an extended time-span.

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A3	To show awareness of historiographic argument.
A4	To provide students with a comparative perspective on culture, society and academia.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B1	To demonstrate familiarity with bibliographic skills relevant to historical studies, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of scholarly conventions.
B2	To demonstrate research skills including the gathering together of relevant research materials.
B3	To show evidence of effective communication skills, both orally and in written assignments, participate in group discussions.
B4	To understand the significance of different historiographical approaches.
B5	To demonstrate the ability to work independently and to manage time effectively.
B6	To communicate with international peers and faculty.

Attributes:	
C1	To acquire a robust and detailed knowledge of at least one other historical period and its primary sources.
C2	To appreciate the need to identify continuity and change and an ability to analyse elements of continuity and change.
C3	To show awareness of the significance of historical research within the wider discipline and evaluated the significance of research.
C4	To develop a mature writing style and a clear and effective style of oral presentation.
C5	To present written work clearly and effectively, drawing on information technology as appropriate.
C6	To develop confidence in presenting arguments and ideas.
C7	To have gained the confidence to evaluate ICT sources of information and been effective in using ICT for presentation purposes.

### How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with the School's Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy. The broad aims of this strategy are:

- to foster a sense of community amongst students and staff in the pursuit of teaching and learning history;
- to promote the relationship between staff research, teaching and student learning;
- to provide a flexible curriculum, supported by the intercollegiate system of the University of London which maximizes students' choice;
- to expose students to a diverse set of approaches to the study of history and to a number of specialisms including interdisciplinary collaboration;
- to encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and progress and to develop qualities of self-discipline and self-direction;

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to inspire intellectual independence in students;  
to employ a variety of assessment methods and emphasize progression;  
to prepare graduates for training and/or employment, or further academic study, through the acquisition of transferable skills;  
Teaching takes a number of forms:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Field Trips
- Individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- Individual feedback on written work including examinations

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed bibliographies, providing guided reading for each module
- The provision of key materials, in libraries, in specified books or module packs
- Appropriate assessment exercises with each module
- Encouraging active participation by students in seminar discussions
- Encouraging students to reflect on historical methods through dedicated modules
- Review of individual student progress in conjunction with advisers

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme, closely related to the desired learning outcomes of each module within the programme.

Forms of assessment include:

- Essays (from 2,000 to 5,000 words as appropriate)
- Unseen examinations
- Dissertations (10,000 words)
- Gobbet work
- Project work
- Translation and editing exercises
- Book reviews
- Literature reviews
- Log books

Copies of the full Teaching and Learning Strategy including specific practices relating to teaching, learning and assessment can be obtained from the School of History.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Year 1

Students take modules with a cumulative value of 120 credits from a range of thematic and skills modules at level 4 in the School of History, including a compulsory skills and reflection module 'History in Practice' (20 credits), and other compulsory modules in cultural history.

Compulsory modules:

HST4621 History in Practice (20 credits)

HST4321 Unravelling Britain: British History since 1801 (20 credits)

HST4622 Global Encounters: Conquest and Culture in World History (20 credits)

HST4624 Screening History: Representing the Past in the Contemporary Historical Film (20 credits)

PLUS 40 credits of other level 4 HST modules

To successfully progress from Year 1 to Year 2 students must pass a minimum of 90 credits, and achieve an average mark of 40.0 or higher across all the credits taken.

Year 2

Students take modules with a cumulative value of 120 credits from a wide range of modules, with a minimum of 90 credits at level 5 in the School of History. Module choices are made with the guidance of the student's academic adviser in History. The flexibility of the system enables students to design their own coherent pathway of study in accordance with their developing intellectual interests.

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**Compulsory modules:**

HST5901 History Research Project (15 credits)

PLUS 105 credits of other level 5 HST modules

At the discretion of the School of History and with the permission of the host School/Department, students may take up to 30 of the 120 credits in another School within Queen Mary, providing these are at level 4 or 5, or another History Department within the University of London, providing these are at level 5 ("Group 2" in UoL terminology). All School of History modules must be taken at level 5.

To successfully progress from Year 2 to the year abroad students must pass a minimum of 90 credits in Year 2, and have passed a minimum of 195 credits in total from Year 1 and Year 2, and achieve an average mark of 60.0 or higher across all the credits taken. NB the average mark of 60.0 is weighted rather than being a year 2 average (weighted 1-3 for years 1 and 2).

**Year 3**

Students will embark on a year abroad in a carefully selected partner university. There they will select modules of at least 60 ECTS (120 QM credits). Students would be encouraged to study the local language, but their studies would not depend on it, as a comprehensive range of relevant modules would be delivered in English. The students will choose their modules in consultation with their QM advisors and the international exchange officer, assuring the modules would maximize their academic trajectory.

To successfully progress from Year 3 to the final year students must take 120 credits while abroad and pass 105 with an average mark of 40.0 (not weighted, in that case). If students fail to meet this requirement they still progress into the final year but are moved back to the non-study abroad version.

**Year 4**

Students take modules with a cumulative value of 120 credits, with a minimum of 90 credits at level 6 in the School of History if the Special Subject is in the School of History, or a minimum of 60 credits at level 6 in the School of History if the Special Subject is at another History Department within the University of London. Module choices are made with the guidance of the student's academic adviser in History.

60 credits must come from a Special Subject, either as a combination of a 30 credit Special Subject and the 30 credit HST6700 History Research Dissertation in the School of History, or as a 60 credit Special Subject which includes a dissertation ("Group 3" in UoL terminology) at another History Department within the University of London. The Special Subject requires independent research and extensive engagement with primary sources.

At the discretion of the School of History and with the permission of the host School, students may take up to 30 of the 120 credits in another School within Queen Mary, providing these are at level 5 or 6. All School of History modules must be taken at level 6.

**Academic Year of Study**    FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
History in Practice	HST4621	20	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Unravelling Britain: British History since 1801	HST4321	20	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Global Encounters: Conquest and Culture in World History	HST4622	20	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Screening History: Representing the Past in the Contemporary Historical Film	HST4624	20	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
40 credits of level 4 HST modules		40	4	Elective	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
75 credits of level 5 HST modules		75	5	Elective	2	Semester 1 or 2
30 credits of level 5 HST modules, or level 4 or 5 modules in another School, or UoL intercollegiate Group 2 modules		30		Elective	2	Semester 1 or 2
History Research Project	HST5901	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 1 or 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Year overseas at a partner university, taking modules of at least 60 ECTS (120 QM credits)		120		Elective	3	Semester 1 or 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
History Research Dissertation (HST6700) + History Special Subject, or UoL intercollegiate Group 3 Special Subject		60	6	Compulsory	4	Semesters 1 & 2
30 credits of level 6 HST modules		30	6	Elective	4	Semester 1 or 2
30 credits of level 6 HST modules, or level 5 or 6 modules in another School		30		Elective	4	Semester 1 or 2

## What are the entry requirements?

The entry requirements are as stated in the Queen Mary prospectus for current entry, and on the Queen Mary website <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/coursefinder/index.html>

## How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

Overall administrative responsibility and QMUL accountability for the programme rests with History. The Programme Convenor will be responsible for the academic content and quality of the programme and any changes to the curriculum, ensuring consistent quality of teaching across the programme.

The History undergraduate office is responsible for the overall administrative delivery of the programme, including any issues relating to registration, complaints, pastoral care, appeals, and award for the programme.

The overall management and enhancement of the programme lies with the Department of History's undergraduate Teaching and Learning Committee chaired by the Director of Taught Programmes.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year. The school operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

The School operates an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

## What academic support is available?

All students beginning to study on the programme participate in a series of Welcome Week activities, which involve introductions to the programme and specific inductions in the use of the online learning environment. These events also include opportunities for social interaction, and scheduled small group and individual meetings with personal advisers. Each student's academic progress and personal welfare is monitored by an adviser in each School with whom regular meetings are scheduled. Advisers are the designated members of staff with whom students can raise issues and problems and from whom they can seek advice and guidance.

All teaching staff hold regular office hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress. There is a dedicated Director of Student Support in the School who works with academic staff to assist students in need of support.

Both the Director of Student Support and all advisers are able to refer students, where appropriate to the relevant professional service departments in the College, including Disability and Dyslexia, Welfare, and Counselling.

A dedicated post of E-Learning Manager supports students in their use of online learning environments used on all modules. The School of History collaborates with the College's Thinking Writing team and Language Learning unit to support students in



the development of their writing skills. Additional support is regularly provided by professional writers working in the College as Royal Literary Fund Fellows.

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

All staff in the School of History are required to integrate School principles on equality, diversity and inclusion into the design and planning of teaching modules. This is organised primarily through 'Reflective Practice' guidelines, which were developed in 2018-19 through a series of workshops in the School. They cover a range of topics, including: 'Articulating Perspectives', 'Making the Curriculum More Diverse', 'Accessibility', and 'Communicating Expectations'. All new module proposals are asked to demonstrate how they have taken these guidelines into account, with the proposals scrutinised by a Committee composed of staff and students.

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

Students who fail the year abroad will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

History has a reputation as a serious and respected discipline, which develops an understanding of the modern world and valuable research, analytical and communication skills, making history graduates very attractive to employers. Queen Mary History graduates often find employment in areas such as business, education, finance, government and the media. Others continue their studies at postgraduate level, or pursue more directly related careers as academic historians, librarians, archivists or history teachers. Graduates have found work for organisations as diverse as BP, BBC, Mansion House Consulting and Investec.

Graduates of the programme can expect to have developed:

communication skills, as students are challenged to express themselves in both speech and writing;

presentation skills, as students are asked to introduce seminars, make points clearly and effectively, maintain discussion, and field questions;

reading skills, using a range of approaches to tackle different kinds of texts;

analytical abilities, as students respond to and assess their underlying agendas and meanings;

writing abilities, through preparing a range of assignments (including reports, learning journals, and research essays);

research skills, locating, sifting and interpreting a range of sources (from printed books to electronic journals);

time management skills and the ability to work under pressure, as students organise and fulfill extensive reading commitments and written assessments;

team-working skills, as students participate with peers in seminars and group research presentations;



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Every year the School sees a number of students progress to take higher degrees, both at Queen Mary and elsewhere.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Matt Latham

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Dan Todman

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by  
School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

29 Nov 2021

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught  
Programmes Board:**