



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	MA in Translation and Adaptation Studies
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 academic year
Queen Mary programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	Languages, Cultures and Societies
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

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

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

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Programme outline

The MA in Translation and Adaptation Studies offers a comprehensive programme for students to explore a broad range of theories and practices within these two distinct but related fields. Its combined focus on translation and adaptation – unique within the UK – widens the scope of Translation Studies to address movement not only between languages but also between different media, creating an opportunity for innovative work within these fields. It is also a thoroughly global programme: the teaching staff, which includes prizewinning translators, offer expertise in theories and practices of translation from all over the world, including China and the Middle East, and linguistic expertise in Arabic and Chinese as well as Catalan, French, Spanish, German, Russian, and Portuguese. We may also, depending on staff availability, be able to offer linguistic expertise in Hindi and Urdu

At the heart of the programme are three compulsory elements: a module which introduces students to modern translation theory, from linguistic approaches to recent postcolonial critiques; a module to introduce them to the theory and practice of Adaptation; and a dissertation, constituting either a research thesis or an extended translation/adaptation and commentary. Beyond these elements, the programme is distinguished by its flexibility, offering pathways for students based on their expertise and career goals. Those interested primarily in translation, for instance, might supplement the compulsory modules with an option in translation and literary theory. Those who have a second language to an advanced standard may also choose the option in practical Translation Skills, in which students can build a portfolio of their own translation work. Similarly, for those

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more drawn to adaptation, an applied module in adaptation through scriptwriting is available. The running of the elective modules is subject to sufficient student enrolment.

This unique MA programme is designed to welcome students interested in both the academic and creative elements of Translation and Adaptation Studies. The training it provides in a range of academic and vocational skills will prepare students for successful careers not only in literary, academic and professional translation but also in creative and professional fields from media and publishing to finance, PR, the arts, education, and academia.

Aims of the programme

This programme will attract students who

- are working toward professional careers in translation and/or adaptation
- are working toward academic or research careers in languages and cultures, literature, film studies, or translation/adaptation
- are interested in careers in creative writing, screenwriting, or content writing
- are more generally interested in world literatures, languages and cultures, translation/adaptation, and creative writing

The programme aims to:

- produce students with a thorough and broad grounding in translation and adaptation theory and the fields of Translation and Adaptation Studies
- develop students' skills in critical thinking and reflection through readings focusing on key political and ethical issues in Translation and Adaptation studies
- for those students interested in professional adaptation/translation careers, provide a thorough grounding in practical translation/adaptation skills as well as a portfolio of original work for presentation to employers
- for those students interested in more academic or research careers, provide multiple opportunities for developing independent research skills, for instance through the research dissertation module and theory modules
- strengthen students' teamwork and cooperative skills through modules which emphasize collaborative work (group presentations, translation workshops, etc.)
- enhance students' oral and written communication skills through a wide variety of assignments, including presentations, translations, adaptations, essays, commentaries, dissertations, etc.

What will you be expected to achieve?

MA Translation and Adaptation students will be able to demonstrate the following graduate skills and attributes as specified by QAA Languages, Cultures and Societies Subject Benchmark (2019)

(4 Subject Knowledge and Understanding)

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the languages, literatures and cultures into and from which students are adapting/translating
- compare between different world languages and cultures and demonstrate sensitive awareness of the extent to which different languages/cultures engender different politics and worldviews
- demonstrate knowledge of how linguistic systems and cultural contexts relate to one another and of the techniques which permit mediation between languages and cultures, e.g. through translation

(5.1 Language-related skills)

- For translation students, demonstrate advanced productive and receptive skills in the target language
- demonstrate critical understanding of other cultures and practices other than one's own

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- demonstrate critical understanding of one's own culture
(5.2 Subject-related skills)
- Select and use primary and secondary source materials relevant to the subject or target language/culture
- Develop skills in textual analysis, critical study of cultural products, discourse analysis, and linguistic analysis
(5.3 Generic skills)
- use language creatively and precisely for a range of purposes and audiences
- engage with, summarise and interpret layers of meaning within texts and other cultural products
- reflect critically and make judgements in light of evidence and argument
- engage in analytical and evaluative thinking
- develop problem-solving skills
- work autonomously, manifested in self-direction, self-discipline and time management
- research effectively in libraries and handle bibliographic information
- develop the ability to work creatively and flexibly with others as part of a team
- demonstrate ethical awareness and inter-cultural competence

Academic Content:	
A 1	Systematic knowledge and understanding of key questions, debates and problems in the fields of Translation and Adaptation Studies
A 2	Thorough critical engagement with debates and theories of translation and adaptation from around the world
A 3	Advanced practical translation and adaptation skills applicable to a wide range of textual and cultural genres

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Communicate orally and in writing in a lucid, precise manner across a range of modes and registers appropriate to a range of target audiences
B 2	Demonstrate practical knowledge of critical-analytical methods within the field and apply them with reference to a variety of literary, technical and cultural texts from around the world
B 3	Critically analyse and evaluate complex current theoretical questions and debates
B 4	Produce high-quality translations and/or adaptations that demonstrate a precise use of language and understanding of genre and mode
B 5	
B 6	

Attributes:

C 1	Enhance critical awareness of cultural difference and strategies for intercultural communication
C 2	Cultivate sensitivity toward divergent worldviews and points of view on major political, aesthetic, and ethical questions
C 3	Develop independent research and writing skills and engage in self-directed and autonomous learning
C 4	Develop teamwork skills and learn to problem-solve collectively
C 5	Foster a global awareness and understanding of the scholarly fields of translation and adaptation studies, as well as of translation practice more broadly
C 6	

How will you learn?

The teaching and learning on this MA programme varies from module to module, but consists of a mix of in-person discussion seminars, small group workshops, field trips, coursework, and independent study. These different teaching strategies are appropriate to the range of practical, academic, and research skills in which this programme offers training. They are designed to ensure the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of key theoretical issues in Translation/Adaptation Studies as well as the development of communication and analytical skills, and the encouragement not only of independent, self-directed research but also of team-based problem solving and discussion.

The two-hour weekly seminars are discussion-based and highly participatory, with students expected to prepare for each seminar with readings, microtasks, and note-taking. Each module has a certain amount of coursework attached, ranging from essays to commentaries, presentations, and translation/adaptation samples, and students will be supported in the preparation of this coursework through weekly guidance in seminars and office hours. They are strongly encouraged to attend office hours and make the most of their lecturers' availability and guidance with individual problems and questions as they arise. The dissertation module will be completed over the summer with the guidance of individual supervision, and modules from Sem 2 are also designed to prepare students either for advanced research projects or advanced translation/adaptation projects, depending on which option students choose for the compulsory dissertation module. All of the modules will make full use of QM+ to provide essential and additional resources, notes, and information.

Finally, MA students will have access to all of the learning support networks established at SLLF, including the SLLF Writing Centre, the PASS (Peer Support Scheme). Library skills sessions appropriate to graduate students in the humanities will be provided.

How will you be assessed?

The MA programme is designed to produce well-rounded graduate students in the humanities, with advanced oral and written communication skills, a precise understanding of key theoretical and ethical questions within their discipline, and a thoroughly global cultural and political awareness. The assessment design and variety reflects these goals.

Across the different modules, assessment includes: essay assignments, in-course assessment (e.g., reflection papers, translation exercises), translation/adaptation portfolios, translators'/adaptors' commentaries,, and either an independent research project or a translation/adaptation and commentary. Students will have opportunity to prepare for these assessments through unassessed drafts, peer review and commentary on drafts, teamwork, in-class presentations, and other forms of formative assessment.

The diversity of these tasks is designed to offer full support to each student no matter which pathway they take through the programme (research-focused; practical adaptation-focused; practical translation-focused; etc). As such, Semester A assessment items are focused on developing writing and research skills of different kinds, while in Semester B, students will have the option to deepen their research skills through additional theoretical modules and/or to focus on practical translation/adaptation skills, preparing them either for the research dissertation or the translation/adaptation project in the summer. Both of these options include a significant amount of independent study and research.

The assessment on the programme will follow the established policies and guidelines of SLLF, including plagiarism and academic

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honesty policies moderation, written feedback as well as timely turn-around (3 working weeks). These processes are set out in the SLLF Student Handbook as well as the SLLF Exams Handbook.

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.

The MA in Translation and Adaptation Studies is a one-year full-time academic programme.

In Semester A, all students complete two modules (60 credits total), one in Translation Studies and one in Adaptation Studies:

COM 7210 Compulsory module: Translation Theory I: Problems, Theories, Terms (30 credits)

COM 7212 Compulsory module: Adaptation in Theory and Practice (30 credits)

In Semester B, all students choose two elective modules (60 credits total) from a list of option modules at level 7:

Options may include:

COM 7211 Translation Theory II: Translation, Empire, and Law (30 credits)

COM 7213 Practical Translation Skills (30 credits)

COM 7214 Screenwriting: Prose to Film (30 credits)

SML7200 Translation Studies II: Translation and its Technologies (30 credits)

From Semester 2 – End of Summer, all students complete one of the two following core modules:

COM 7215 Core module: Translation and Adaptation Research Dissertation (60 credits)

A 10,000-word MA research dissertation within the field of Translation and Adaptation Studies

OR

COM 7216 Core module: Translation and Adaption Practice Project (60 credits)

A 10,000-word translation or adaptation of a chosen text accompanied by a critical commentary (included in word count)

NB: The running of the elective modules is subject to sufficient student enrolment.

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Translation Theory I: Problems, Theories, Terms	COM 7210	30		Compulsory		
Adaptation in Theory and Practice	COM 7212	30		Compulsory		
Translation and Adaptation Research Dissertation	COM 7215	60		Core		
Translation and Adaption Practice Project	COM 7216	60		Core		

What are the entry requirements?

A UK 2:1 honours degree (or equivalent) in a Humanities or Social Sciences subject.
IELTS level 7 overall.

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

The MA will follow the processes for feedback, evaluation, and student voice already established at Departmental and School levels. This includes informal mid-semester module evaluations as well as student feedback gained in office hours, end of the term module evaluations, regular programme reviews by both the Department of Comparative Literature and Culture and annual reviews by the SLLF Education Committee.

The student feedback gained at module and programme level will be integrated into all curriculum and programme review activities via the mechanisms already established in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film and the Department, as set out in the Student Handbook. At the module level, this includes mid-semester and end of semester module evaluations (the latter coordinated and overseen by the School's Director of Education and its Education Committee). Finally, the quality and parity of feedback will also be assessed through module assessment moderation and the annual process of External Examining.

At the programme level, dedicated student course representatives will be part of the Departmental SSLC (which meets twice per semester) as well as the SLLF-wide SSLC. This regular, multi-level feedback provide in-depth knowledge of what is working well and what might need improving. These regular meetings also allow us to respond to any issues raised in a timely and proactive manner.

This feedback will directly feed into the annual programme review. The outcomes of the annual programme review will then be forwarded for consideration to the Queen Mary Senior Executive (as part of a summary); the Senate (as part of a summary); the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean for the Humanities and Social Sciences; the Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning; the Dean for Education for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Academic Registry and Council Secretariat, as laid out in the Annual Programme Review Regulations or relevant regulations in place at that time.

What academic support is available?

Each student's academic progress and personal welfare is monitored by an academic advisor within the Department of Comparative Literature and Culture, with whom regular meetings are scheduled. Advisors are the designated members of staff with whom students can raise issues and problems and from whom they can seek advice and guidance. Furthermore, all teaching staff hold regular office hours (or online consultation hours) in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress. There is a dedicated Senior Tutor in SLLF who works with academic staff to assist students in need of support. Both the Senior Tutor and all Advisors are able to refer students where appropriate to the relevant professional service departments in the College, including Welfare and Counselling. QMUL has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service that supports students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. This service is available to all QMUL students and is widely advertised by advisors. Moreover, there is a dedicated student support team in SLLF, comprising a Senior Tutor and Student Support Officer who work with academic staff to assist students in need of support.

All students will take the dissertation module, and they will have their work supervised by a suitable member of academic staff who will be responsible for monitoring and encouraging progress. By working closely with this appointed supervisor, any additional support needs can be identified and addressed. Finally, the SLLF Writing Support Centre offers help with all aspects of essay writing for SLLF students. Library workshops are also on offer to assist students with navigating access to research materials.

Programme-specific rules and facts

The programme will follow QMUL's Academic Regulations, as set out by the university, including regulations for existing PGT degrees. The programme will follow the SLLF MA Exam Board deadlines and procedures.

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

Students on this programme will be accommodated within established teaching and learning structures. Learning materials for existing modules are already available on QMPlus, and will be made available in advance for new modules specifically created for the programme. Q-Review or equivalently accessible audiovisual recordings are routinely made of lectures and then made available on QMPlus each week. The learning outcomes and reading lists for each module are made clear on module outlines accessible online on QMPlus.

Since 2021-22,, all existing SLLF modules as well as all new modules have been presented on QMPlus using a template structure overseen by the School's Teaching and Learning Manager to ensure accessibility and technical operability. Contingency planning for online delivery of all teaching has also been undertaken, and all required reading for the programme will be available online via the library.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

N/A

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Will McMorran and Hannah Scott Deuchar

Person responsible for management of programme:

Kathryn Richardson, Head of School

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

January 2024

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: