

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name and level of programme	Arts Foundation Year (Level 3)
Name and codes of programmes with this foundation year	BA Art History with Foundation Year (UUBFHART_C/UBFHIART_C) BA Art History and Language with Foundation Year (UUBFAHLN_C/UBFAHLNG_C) BA Art History with Curating with Foundation Year (UUBFHICR_C/UBFHIACR_C) BA Arts and Humanities with Foundation Year (UUBFARTH_C, UBFARTHM_C) BA Creative Writing with Foundation Year (UUBFCWRT_C/UBFCWRIT_C) BA Creative Writing and English with Foundation Year (UUBFCWEN_C/UBFCWREN_C) BA Digital Media with Foundation Year (UUBFDMED_C/UBFDMEDI_C) BA Digital Media and Language with Foundation Year (UUBFDGLN_C/UBFDGLNG_C) BA English with Foundation Year (UUBFENGL_C/ UBFENGLS_C) BA English and Linguistics with Foundation Year (UUBFENLG_C/UBFENLGC_C) BA English and Language with Foundation Year (UUBFENLG_C/UBFENLNG_C) BA Environment, Culture and Communication with Foundation Year (UUBFENVC_C, UBFENVCC_C) BA Film and Media with Foundation Year (UUBFFILM_C/UBFFILMM_C) BA Film, Media and Language with Foundation Year (UUBFFMLN_C/UBFFMLNG_C) BA Health and Social Care with Foundation Year (UUBFHECA_C/UBFHESCA_C) BA Health and Social Care with Professional Practice with Foundation Year (UUBFHEPR_C/UBFHEPRP_C) BA Japanese Studies with Foundation Year (UUBFJAPN_C/UBFJAPAN_C) BA Journalism and Media with Foundation Year (UUBFJRME_C, UBFJRMED_C) BA Journalism and Language with Foundation Year (UUBFJRLN_C/UBFJRLNG_C) BA Liberal Arts with Foundation Year (UUBFLIBE_C/ UBFLIBER_C) BA Linguistics and Culture with Foundation Year (UUBFLICU_C/UBFLICUL_C) BA Linguistics and Language with Foundation Year (UUBFLNGN_C/UBFLNGLN_C) BA Language Teaching and Languages with Foundation Year (UUBFLNLN_C/UBFLNLNT_C) BA Modern Languages with Foundation Year (UUBFLNMD_C/UBFLNMDR_C) BA Theatre Studies with Foundation Year (UUBFTHST_C/UBFTHSTD_C)

Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication, School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (4 years total – 1 year of foundation) Part-time (6 years total – 2 years of foundation) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
UCAS code	As on programme specifications for individual programmes listed above.
Birkbeck Course Code	As listed above
HECoS Code	As on programme specifications for individual programmes listed above.
Start date of programme	Autumn 2019
Date of programme approval	Autumn 2019
Date of last programme amendment approval	August 2021
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Programme Director	TBC
Date of last revision to document	11/06/2024

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 48 (A-levels: DD)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a [tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

Information on this programme specification refers to the Foundation Year (year zero) only. For information about the main degrees (years one to three full-time, one to four part-time), please refer to the individual specifications for the programmes listed above.

Foundation Year Rationale and Aims:

- To provide support to those students who do not meet the formal entrance requirements for direct entrance onto the degree (but who can demonstrate the ability to complete the degree) in order to provide them with a grounding in one or more disciplinary areas in the Arts and Humanities and help them develop the foundational skills and knowledge required for successful completion of the degree.

The Foundation Year is designed to provide a broad-based introduction for students who wish to study an Arts and/or Humanities subject before allowing them to continue their studies in these areas in more depth or to specialize in a specific field of study. In the first year (or first two years on the part-time programme) they will improve academic study and research skills in the core modules 'Fundamentals of Study' and 'Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge'. They will take one further core module, 'The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities', which will introduce them to key ideas, concepts and methods in the Arts and Humanities and one option module, either 'The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World', allowing them to deepen your understanding of the Arts and Humanities, or one of five language modules at beginners or advanced beginners levels (French, German, Italian, Japanese or Spanish). After the Foundation Year they can either continue to study a broad range of Arts and Humanities topics in increasingly in-depth ways on the BA Liberal Arts or specialize in a particular field by continuing their studies on one of the degrees in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Languages or in the Art History section of the School of Historical Studies.

For details of main undergraduate programme (years one to three full-time and years one to four part-time), see the specification for the individual undergraduate programme.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time Foundation Year (Year 0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
3	ARAR008S3 OR SC03015S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities OR London: Places, Objects, Ideas (for students in the School of Historical Studies)	30	Core	T1
3/4		One Option from:	30	Option	
3	ARAR009S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World	30	Option	T2-3
4	AREL062S4	French 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	AREL067S4	French 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL106S4	French 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	AREL065S4	German 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	AREL074S4	German 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL108S4	German 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL039S4	Italian 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL040S4	Italian 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL103S4	Italian 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL104S4	Italian 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARMC161S4	Japanese 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARMC164S4	Japanese 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL101S4	Japanese 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL102S4	Japanese 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	SC04010S4	Korean 1 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARIB106S4	Spanish 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARIB115S4	Spanish 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL112S4	Spanish 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL113S4	Spanish 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
Part-time Foundation Year					
Foundation Year 0A					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
Foundation Year 0B					
3	ARAR008S3 OR SC03015S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities OR London: Places, Objects, Ideas (for students in the School of Historical Studies)	30	Core	T1
3/4		One Option from:	30	Option	
3	ARAR009S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World	30	Option	T2-3

4	AREL062S4	French 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	AREL067S4	French 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL106S4	French 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	AREL065S4	German 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	AREL074S4	German 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL108S4	German 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL039S4	Italian 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL040S4	Italian 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL103S4	Italian 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL104S4	Italian 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARMC161S4	Japanese 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARMC164S4	Japanese 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL101S4	Japanese 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL102S4	Japanese 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARIB106S4	Spanish 1	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARIB115S4	Spanish 2	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL112S4	Spanish 3 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	ARCL113S4	Spanish 4 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3
4	SC04010S4	Korean 1 (Level 4)	30	Option	T1-3

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this foundation year will be organised around a number of interactive lectures for large groups. Otherwise teaching will take place in smaller seminar and workshop groups that support the development of knowledge, skills, confidence and self-awareness.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through short written exercises, essays, reflective pieces, and presentations.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, students should have

1. A foundational understanding of some of the different disciplinary areas that make up Arts and Humanities.
2. More detailed knowledge of key concepts in one or more of these.
3. If appropriate, beginners to lower intermediate level language skills in one of five languages.
4. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of Arts and the Humanities.

Careers and further study

On successful completion of the foundation year, students progress onto year 1 of one of the BA programmes listed above.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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