

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA Art History and Language (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese) - BA Art History and French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese OR - BA Art History with French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese (Level 6)
Name and title of interim exit qualification(s)	Dip HE Art History and Language Cert HE Art History and Language
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Historical Studies (home); Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English (and relevant language)
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years); Part-time (4 years) Full-time with FY (4 years); Part-time with FY (6 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for England</u>	History of Art, Architecture and Design Languages, Cultures and Society
UCAS code	V353; V354 (with FY)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAAHLN_C (full-time, 3 years) UBAAHLNG_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFAHLN_C (full-time with FY, 6 years) UBFAHLNG_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100306 History of Art Languages and area studies, inc: 100322 French studies 100324 German studies 100327 Italian studies 101143 Brazilian studies 100765 Iberian studies 101168 Japanese studies 101212 Korean studies (101164) Chinese studies
Start date of programme	Autumn 2019
Date of programme approval	Summer 2018
Date of last programme amendment approval	June 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Date of last revision to document	01/12/2025

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: 112 points, A level – BBC (for Foundation Year entry 48 points)

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

This degree helps you to develop a range of key skills, from critical thinking and writing, to historical research and visual analysis, enriched by the study of a modern language taught by expert linguists. We will explore the cultural and political contexts of artworks, buildings and exhibitions, and think more broadly about the role of images within society. Our modules make a creative and enjoyable use of the art galleries, museums, and other facilities in London and beyond, including a study trip abroad every spring.

The languages component of the programme aims to enable students to reach a high level of competence in a modern foreign language (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean or Mandarin Chinese), and to study the associated culture(s) of the language.

If a student completes fewer than 150 (but at least 90) credits on the Language side, this constitutes a 'Minor' pathway, and the award title becomes, e.g. Art History with Italian, etc.

We teach art history as a rich and dynamic topic, encompassing architecture, installation, exhibitions, print culture, and digital media as well as painting, sculpture and photography. You will be taught by brilliant teachers who are also published writers of ground-breaking art history in periods from medieval to contemporary.

You will be part of a diverse, vibrant and stimulating student community in central London. allows you to combine studying with work or taking up volunteering opportunities during the day, and the programme will support you in making the first steps towards working in the arts. Alumni of the department now work in a variety of arts and art-related organizations, or progress to postgraduate studies.

The programme aims to:

- Offer a structured programme of intellectually stimulating and challenging modules which provide a sound training in Art History
- to allow students to reach a reasonable to high level of competence in a modern foreign language (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean or Mandarin Chinese)
- Offer the opportunity to study the associated culture(s) of the language
- Offer students the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills
- Offer a broad range of learning experiences
- Provide relevant courses for those working, or seeking to work, in the visual arts in the UK or abroad, and opportunities to develop subject-specific skills

Language - aims and distinctive features:

The aims of the Language component of the programmes are:

- to allow students to reach a reasonable to high level of competence in a modern foreign language (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, or Mandarin Chinese).

- to study the associated culture(s) of the language.
- to acquire advanced knowledge of a range of comparative cultural topics.

The distinctive nature of the languages component of the programmes lies in the flexibility of our languages offering, which extends to the full range of languages taught at Birkbeck (currently French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean and Mandarin Chinese) and allows entry at a variety of levels of language competence.

- For the European languages included in this programme, language entry levels are at one of five levels, as defined in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): Level A1 (Beginners); Level A2 (GCSE or equivalent); Level B1 (AS/A level or equivalent); Level B2 (A level + or equivalent); Level C1 (Proficiency).
- For Japanese there are four basic entry levels, all pegged to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT): Beginners, Upper Beginner, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate.
- For Korean, there are three levels, pegged towards the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK): Beginners for Korean 1, Post-beginners for Korean 2 (entry with just under TOPIK 1), and Pre-intermediate for Korean 3 (entry with post-TOPIK 1 but under TOPIK 2).
- For Mandarin Chinese, there are three levels, pegged towards the Chinese proficiency test Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK): HSK1 for Chinese 1, HSK2 for Chinese 2, HSK3 for Chinese 3.
- After three years (full-time), students who start at approximately A-level standard language competence will attain a level which conforms to the 'typical' exit level equivalent to CEFR Level C1/C2, as defined in the QAA benchmark statement for 'Languages, Cultures and Societies', or JLPT Level N2.
- Those full-time or part-time students who start at CEFR A1 or JLPT N5 (Language 1) or fulltime students who start with CEFR A2 will exit with either CEFR B2 or JLPT N4-N3 (Language 3) or CEFR C1 or JLPT Level N3-N2 (Language 4).
- For Korean, students will start from beginners and exit after three years with close to TOPIK 2 (entry to Korean 1, exit with Korean 3).
- For Mandarin Chinese, students will start from beginners and exit after three years with close to HSK3 proficiency (entry to Chinese 1, exit with Chinese 3).
- PLEASE NOTE: All Language modules are taken over three terms (10+10+4 weeks, 2.5 hours per week)
- Students normally complete 210 credits on the Art History side of the programme and 150 credits on the Language side of the programme.
- If a student achieves the exit level of CEFR C2 (European Language 5) or JLPT Level N3 or above (Japanese 4/5) in their language, and has 150 credits on the Language side of the programme, the eventual award title is:
 - BA Art History and French
 - BA Art History and German
 - BA Art History and Italian
 - BA Art History and Japanese
 - OR
 - BA Art History and Spanish
- If a student completes at least 150 credits on the Language side but does not achieve CEFR C2 (European Language 5) or JLPT Level N3 or above (Japanese 4/5), the degree awarded is BA Art History with Language (either French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese).
- If a student completes fewer than 150 (but at least 90) credits on the Language side, this constitutes a 'Minor' pathway, and the award title also becomes, e.g., Art History with French, etc. Please note for the award of a language minor degree with 90 credits of

language, ie Art History with Language (either French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese), students must achieve a language level of at least 3.

- For Korean and Mandarin Chinese, **only the 'with Korean/Chinese' award title is currently available**, because we currently do not offer levels beyond Korean 3 or Chinese 3 for an exit level Korean/Chinese proficiency.

For Foundation year aims, please see the Arts Foundation year specification.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Comp	T1
4	ARVC294S4	The Artwork in History	30	Comp	T1-2 (+ one session in T3)
4	AHVM091S4	Debates in Art History	30	Comp	T3
4		Language 1, 2, 3 or 4	30	Core	T1-3
Year 2					
5	ARVC221S5	Research Portfolio	30	Comp	T1-3 (Briefings only in T1&2)
5 6		Language 2, 3 or 4 OR Language 5	30	Core	T1-3
5	ARVC239S5 AHVM011S5 AHVM10S5 Various LCAL	Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance OR Art and Society between 1900 and the Present OR Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century OR Language-specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel /Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Comparative module e.g. ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3

5	ARVC239S5 AHVM011S5 AHVM10S5 Various	Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance OR Art and Society between 1900 and the Present OR Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century OR Language-specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel /Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Comparative module e.g. ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures Students must complete at least one art history module in T1 or T2	30	Option	T1, T or 3
Year 3					
6	ARVC220S6	Dissertation (Art History)	30	Comp	T1-3 (briefings only in T1&2)
6		Language 3, 4 or 5 OR	30	Core	T1-3
5		Language 'culture' module if Language 5 taken in Year Two	30	Option	T1 OR 2
6		1 Level 6 option module (closed choice art history)	30	Option	T1 OR 2
6		Language 'culture' module(s)	30 OR 15+15	Option	T1 OR 2
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	ARVC206S4	Doing Art History	30	Comp	T1
4	ARVC294S4	The Artwork in History	30	Comp	T2
4		Language 1, 2, 3 or 4	30	Core	T1-3
Year 2					
4	AHVM091S4	Debates in Art History	30	Comp	T3
5		Language 2, 3 or 4 OR	30	Core	T1-3
6		Language 5	30	Core	T1-T3
5	ARVC239S5	Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance OR	30	Option	T1, T2 or T3
5	AHVM011S5	Art and Society between 1900 and the Present OR	30	Option	

5	AHVM010S5	Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century OR	30	Option	
5	Various	Language-specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel/Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Language Comparative module e.g. ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	
Year 3 (Students must take 30 credits at Level 6)					
5	ARVC221S5	Research Portfolio	30	Comp	T1-3 (Briefings only in T1&2)
6		Language 3, 4 (taken at Level 6 if final stage in pathway) OR	30	Core	T1-3
6		Language 5 OR	30	Core	T1-3
5/6		Language 'culture' module(s) (if Language 5 taken in Year Two)	30 or 2x15	Option	T1 OR T2
5	ARVC239S5	Art and Society in the Middle Ages and Renaissance OR	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
5	AHVM011S5	Art and Society between 1900 and the Present OR	30	Option	
5	AHVM010S5	Art and Society in the Nineteenth Century OR	30	Option	
6		1 x Level 6 option module (closed choice art history) OR	30	Option	
5	Various	Language-specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel/Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Language Comparative module e.g. ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	
Year 4					
6	ARVC220S6	Dissertation (Art History)	30	Comp	T1-3 (briefings only in T1&2)
6		Language 3, 4 or 5 OR	30	Core	T1-3

5		Language 'culture' module (if Language pathway completed)	30	Option	T1 OR 2
6		or Language 'culture' module(s)	30 OR 15+15	Option	T1 OR 2
6		Level 6 option module (closed choice art history)	30	Option	T1 OR 2
Foundation year – full-time (Year 0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
3	SC03015S3	London: Places, Objects, Ideas	30	Core	T1
3	SC04048S3	The Humanities and Social Sciences: Global Issues in Historical Perspective OR Level 4 Language module	30	Option	T2-3
Then Years 1-3 as shown for BA Art History and Language full-time above					
Foundation year – part-time					
Year 0A					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
Year 0B					
3	SC03015S3	London: Places, Objects, Ideas	30	Core	T1
3	SC04048S3	The Humanities and Social Sciences: Global Issues in Historical Perspective OR Level 4 Language module	30	Option	T2-3
Then Years 1-4 as shown for BA Art History and Language part-time above					

Note: Students who choose to follow a joint award (Art History **and** Language) need to take at least 150 credits on the Language side of the programme. Students who choose to follow a minor award in language (BA Art History WITH Language) might replace some language culture or survey optional modules with art history, or other modules from the college, at the appropriate level as approved by the course director, provided they pass at least 90 credits of Language core modules and achieve a minimum language level of 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

Indicative list of Language survey/culture options:

Indicative **level 5** options:

ARLL012S5 Themes in the European and Japanese Novel

ARLL011S5 Themes in European and Japanese Cinema

ARCL088H6 Contemporary Literature in French
 ARLL031S5 German and Italian Fascism: History, Culture and Memory (Level 5)
 ARMC145S5 Popular Culture of East Asia
 ARLL005S5 Word and Image: Constructing the Other in the Hispanic World
 ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures
 LNLN024S5 Representations of Love, Desire and Sexuality

Indicative **level 6** options:

ARMC187S6 Manga and Anime
 AREL003H6 Sensibility and Sociability in the Eighteenth-Century French Novel
 AREL049H6 The French Novel of Disillusionment
 ARCL054H6 The Twentieth-Century German Novel
 AREL086H6 Culture in the Weimar Republic
 ARCL078S6 Sex, survival and la dolce vita: Neorealist to Contemporary Italian Film
 ARCL057H6 The Spanish Noir: Crime and Detection in Contemporary Fiction

Indicative L6 Art History Options:

ARVC219S6	Art Nouveau Across Europe at the Fin-de-Siècle
AHVM066S6	The Gothic Cathedral
ARVC277S6	Impressionist Paris: Modernity and Difference
AHVM007S6	Art and Architecture in Rome c 1500 - 1527
ARVC292S6	The New Art and Cultures of Display around 1900
AHVM049S6	Portraiture in England in the Long Eighteenth Century
SC03032S6	Women, Art and Photography in the 20 th Century

(note: not all options are available every year, and options running may vary from those shown)

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 course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

From the outset, you will work with us to design a degree path which is tuned to your interests and goals. You can choose between French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean or Mandarin Chinese starting at the level of language learning that suits you, whether you are a complete beginner or a native speaker. Teaching on this course combines lectures and seminars, employing a variety of methods such as small group work, student presentations, debates, and guest speakers. You may also encounter field-trips, the use of film, audio-visual facilities and web-based learning tools. Lectures from our nationally top-ranking staff will introduce you to the key concepts, debates, events and institutions in world politics. Seminars will train you in the construction of collaborative knowledge alongside the diverse community of

your fellow students. Modules at all levels include the analysis of primary and secondary sources, as well as, in some cases, images and film.

Language classes are normally 2.5 hours long. Activities are varied; the Languages department pioneered the use of learning software for languages, and this has now been extended to Moodle, which allows access to additional targeted language learning materials. Regular homework is given and returned to students, with extensive feedback, usually within a week. All classes are conducted in the target language.

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. Your degree award will be based on a wide array of assessment—including quizzes, seminar logs, oral presentations, and research essays—across core and option modules. Essays and tests are encountered more often as you progress. These assessments are designed to build your skills cumulatively across the program. To complete the degree, you may design, research, and write a dissertation. Written feedback on essays is provided to you within three weeks of submission, and you have the opportunity to clarify any feedback by contacting your lecturers and seminar leaders.

Assessment methods in Languages include a variety of exercises testing skills in writing, reading, speaking and listening, including (but not limited to) short coursework assignments, in-class written tests, oral and listening comprehension tests; at Level 5 students complete a self-reflexive essay; and at Level 6 they undertake a short project.

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.

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

- understand and employ the main concepts and theories used in the analysis of global politics, globalisation and international relations;
- critically examine arguments concerning the nature of the ‘global’ and the ‘international’ and the relationship between the two;
- understand the major transformations that have taken place in the international political and economic system in the modern period, and evaluate various explanations of these transformations;
- understand and critically assess the relationship between the state and the international system, as well as the role played by war in international politics;
- demonstrate a clear awareness of the importance of the relationship between theory and empirical evidence in the study of politics;
- demonstrate proficiency in the employment of key analytical skills in the study of politics; and
- use the skills developed in the programme for vocational and personal purposes, and potentially in further academic study.

Additionally, on successful completion of the Language component of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

French, German, Italian, Spanish:

A. Use of the target language

- Demonstrate appropriate use of the French, German, Italian and/or Spanish language. Our courses have been mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) as follows:
 - Stage 1 A1-A2
 - Stage 2 B1
 - Stage 3 B2
 - Stage 4 C1
 - Stage 5 C1/C2
 The aims and objectives for each of these stages can be found in each corresponding module proposal.
- Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in the target language (TL), with competent or native speakers of the TL, to a level approximately equivalent to CEFR level B2 to C2, depending on starting level.
- Be able to exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, to contextualise a broad range of materials in written or spoken TL appropriate to the level attained.
- Be able to apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.

B. Explicit knowledge of language

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of TL.
- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse TL. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)

C. Knowledge of related studies

- Demonstrate an ability critically to evaluate through appropriate methodologies one or more aspects of the arts, cultures, histories, institutions or linguistic situation of the societies in which TL is spoken.
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of the cultures and societies of countries in which TL is spoken gained through one or more of the creative media of TL.

D. Intercultural awareness and understanding

- Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies, other than the student's own.

Japanese:

A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Japanese at natural speed using audio-visual materials; to use original texts from a variety of sources and subject fields to develop their reading techniques including scanning and skimming for key information, reading extended paragraphs and complex sentences, and in-depth reading; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire academic-level verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations; to write substantial reports and short essays based on texts read and discussed in class, using their knowledge of between 800-1,000 kanji characters and of appropriate compositional structure.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Japanese.

B-D. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key moments and concepts in the cultural/social history of modern Japan.

Korean:

A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Korean at natural speed using audio-visual materials; to use original texts from a variety of sources and subject fields to develop their reading techniques including scanning and skimming for key information, reading extended paragraphs and complex sentences; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Korean.

B-D. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the modern Korean society and culture.

Mandarin Chinese:

A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Mandarin Chinese at natural speed using audio-visual materials; to use original texts from a variety of sources and subject fields to develop their reading techniques including scanning and skimming for key information, reading extended paragraphs and complex sentences; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Mandarin Chinese.

B-D. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the modern Sinophone societies and cultures.

(For Foundation Year learning outcomes, please see Arts Foundation Year specification)

Careers and further study

You will find Art History and Language graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- arts management
- conservation and policy
- education
- marketing
- publishing
- the museums and heritage sectors
- research and academia.

Birkbeck's BA Art History and Language graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

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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