

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA Arts and Humanities (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE Cert HE
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	School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication (Home) 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 (3 years)* Part-time (4 years)* Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years) October,
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not Applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Not Applicable
UCAS code	Y402; Y403
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAARTH_C (3 years, full-time)* UBAARTHM_C (4 years, part-time)* UUBFARTH_C (4 years, full-time with FY) UBFARTHM_C (6 years, part-time with FY)
HECoS Code	100314 humanities
Start date of programme	Autumn 2026
Date of programme approval	Summer 2025
Date of last programme amendment approval	March 2026
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Programme Director	TBC
Date of last revision to document	30/03/26

**Note: 3-year full-time and 4-year part-time routes suspended for 2026/7 entry*

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:

3 years full-time: 112 points (e.g. A-levels BBC)

4 years full-time with Foundation Year: 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

How do the arts and humanities contribute to our understanding of the world's most significant challenges and opportunities? How can the arts and humanities be harnessed to respond to and intervene in these conditions to produce positive change?

This programme allows students to explore questions posed by some of today's global challenges and to consider potential answers to them through an engagement with the Arts and Humanities. Via the knowledge, skills and practical approaches offered by disciplines including Literature, Languages, Film, Media, Journalism, Theatre, Creative Industries, Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Art History and History, students will learn to understand the cultural, social, economic and political forces that have shaped today's world, how contemporary challenges have emerged and how and why they are experienced differently by different people. Students will explore the many different ways we can communicate with each other about issues that concern us and how we might think about them in new and productive ways. Throughout the programme students will engage actively with the core employability skills the Arts and Humanities allow them to develop and will learn how to prepare for a career after their studies.

With its long and proud history of teaching and researching the Arts and Humanities, delivering contemporary programmes across disciplinary boundaries and teaching for employability, Birkbeck's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is ideally placed to deliver this programme.

This programme is for those who:

- are keen to know more about today's global challenges and explore solutions to them through a variety of different disciplinary perspectives;
- want to understand more about human society and human creativity and our relationship to the natural world, in the past, now and in the future;
- want to understand their own experiences in the context of those of others at different times and in different places;
- want to develop knowledge and skills in relation to Arts and Humanities disciplines;
- want to understand the relevance of the knowledge and skills developed to a world beyond the university, particularly in relation to a future career;
- want to develop key employability skills and prepare effectively for the career they want to have;
- want to develop and practice key transferable skills in the classroom and through innovative assessments;

- want to share a university experience with exciting teachers whose own cutting-edge research informs their teaching, peers who share their interests and industry professionals who will help them understand the practical application of your learning outside the university.

Students can complete the programme during the day by taking the Core Daytime Programme. This comprises 90 credits of modules relating to three 'global challenge' themes ('Identities', 'Places' and 'Futures') and 30 credits of 'Employability' modules in each year of study. If there is sufficient demand these compulsory modules can be run in the daytime and the evening, and students could be offered the opportunity to 'build their own timetable' between 2-9pm.

The 'Global Challenge' themes will be multi-disciplinary, and each module will be taught by a small team of disciplinary and cross-disciplinary specialists.

Each year, all students will be required to take 30 credits of 'Employability' modules, as well as 60 credits of the 'global challenge' theme modules. The other 30 'global challenge' theme credits can be swapped for an optional module. An optional module is any level-appropriate module without pre-requisites taught in the School Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies or a 'College-wide' module like those taught as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'. Optional modules must be agreed with the programme director. Optional modules are likely to be delivered in the evening.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years* or 4 years with Foundation Year					
Foundation Year (0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Compulsory	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Compulsory	T2-3
3	ARAR008S3 OR SC03015S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities OR London: Places, Objects, Ideas	30	Option	T1
3/4	SC04048S3 Various	The Humanities and Social Sciences: Global Issues in Historical Perspective OR Level 4 Language modules (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese)	30	Option	T1/T2/T3
Year 1					
4	SC04038S4	<i>(Global Challenge theme 1: Identities)</i> Identity and Culture	30	Compulsory if taken	T1
4	SC04039S4	<i>(Global Challenge theme 2: Place)</i> Placemaking	30	Compulsory if taken	T2
4	ARMC157S4	<i>(Global Challenge theme 3: Futures)</i> Introduction to Digital Culture	30	Compulsory if taken	T3
4	SC04041S4	<i>(Employability)</i>	30	Compulsory	T1-3

		Career Development and Professional Pathways in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences			
4	One of the Global Challenge theme modules can be swapped for a Level 4 module taught in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies, or a 'College-wide' module, e.g. one delivered as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'		30	Option	Any
Year 2					
5	SC03036S5	(Global Challenge theme 1: Identities) Who were we? Who are we? Who will we be?	30	Compulsory if taken	T1
5	SC04042S5	(Global Challenge theme 2: Places) Cultures of Citizenship	30	Compulsory if taken	T2
5	SC04043S5	(Global Challenge theme 3: Futures) The Arts of Social Change	30	Compulsory if taken	T3
5	SC04008S5 ARMC124S5 SC04037S5 CASC002H5 AND CASC001H5	(Employability) Writing in the Workplace OR Working in the Creative and Cultural Sector OR The Art of Public Speaking OR Micro-Placement AND Your Career Development	30 30 30 15 15	Compulsory	T1, 2 or 3 T2 T3 T3
5	One of the Global Challenge theme modules can be swapped for a Level 5 module (without pre-requisites) taught in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies, or a 'College-wide' module, e.g. one delivered as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'		30	Option	Any
Year 3					
6	SC03035S6	(Global Challenge theme 1: Identities) Mind, Body, Self	30	Compulsory if taken	T1
6	SC03037S6	(Global Challenge theme 2: Places) Global Environmental Humanities	30	Compulsory if taken	T2
6	SC03038S6	(Global Challenge theme 3: Futures) Apocalypse and Utopia	30	Compulsory if taken	T3
6	ARAR010S6	(Employability) Industry Placement / Career Development Report	30	Compulsory	T1 & T2

6	One of the Global Challenge theme modules can be swapped for a Level 6 module (without pre-requisites) taught in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies, or a 'College-wide' module, e.g. one delivered as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'		30	Option	Any
Part-time – 4 years* or 6 years with Foundation Year					
Foundation Year					
0A					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Compulsory	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Compulsory	T2/T3
0B					
3	ARAR008S3 SC03015S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities OR London: Places, Objects, Ideas	30	Option	T1
3/4	SC04048S3 Various	The Humanities and Social Sciences: Global Issues in Historical Perspective OR Level 4 Language modules (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese)	30	Option	T1/T2/T3
Year 1					
4	SC04038S4	(Global Challenge theme 1: Identities) Identity and Culture	30	Compulsory if taken	T1
4	SC04039S4	(Global Challenge theme 2: Places) Placemaking	30	Compulsory if taken	T2
4	SC04041S4	(Employability) Career Development and Professional Pathways in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	30	Compulsory	T1&2
4	One of the Global Challenge theme modules can be swapped for a Level 4 module taught in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies, or a 'College-wide' module, e.g. one delivered as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'		30	Option	Any
Year 2					
4	ARMC157S4	(Global Challenge theme 3: Futures) Introduction to Digital Culture	30	Compulsory if taken	T3
5	SC03036S5	(Global Challenges theme 1: Identities) Who were we? Who are we? Who will we be?	30	Compulsory if taken	T1
5	SC04008S5	(Employability) Writing in the Workplace OR	30	Compulsory	T1, 2 or 3 T2

	ARMC124S5	Working in the Creative and Cultural Sector OR	30		T3
	SC04037S5	The Art of Public Speaking OR	30		T3
	CASC002H5	Micro-Placement AND	15		
	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15		
4/5	One of the Global Challenge theme modules can be swapped for a Level 4 module, if a Level 4 swap was not made in year one , or a 5 module (without pre-requisites), as appropriate, taught in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies, or a 'College-wide' module, e.g. one delivered as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'		30	Option	Any
Year 3					
5	SC04042S5	(Global Challenge theme 2: Places) Cultures of Citizenship	30	Compulsory if taken	T2
5	SC04043S5	(Global Challenge theme 3: Futures) The Arts of Social Change	30	Compulsory if taken	T3
6	ARAR010S6	(Employability) Industry Placement / Career Development Report	30	Compulsory if taken	T1 & T"
5	One of the Global Challenge theme modules can be swapped for a Level 5 module (without pre-requisites), if a Level 5 module was not made in year two , as appropriate, taught in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies, or a 'College-wide' module, e.g. one delivered as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'		30	Option	Any
Year 4					
6	SC03035S6	(Global Challenge theme 1: Identities) Mind, Body, Self	30	Compulsory if taken	T1
6	SC03037S6	(Global Challenge theme 2: Places) Global Environmental Humanities	30	Compulsory if taken	T2
6	SC03038S6	(Global Challenge theme 3: Futures) Apocalypse and Utopia	30	Compulsory if taken	T3
6	One of the Global Challenge theme modules can be swapped for a Level 6 module (without pre-requisites), as appropriate, taught in the School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication or the School of Historical Studies, or a 'College-wide' module, e.g. one delivered as part of the 'Environment and Sustainability Minor Pathway'		30	Option	Any

*Note: 3-year full-time and 4-year part-time routes suspended for 2026/7 entry

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 programme. 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.

Teaching on this course will mostly be in seminar groups and workshops, although you may also be asked to engage with pre-recorded lectures. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare. Workshops require you to participate in tasks and challenges in the classroom, individually or in groups. You may also be required to engage with learning materials offsite (e.g. a visit to an exhibition or to the theatre). Employability modules may require you to engage with work-related tasks onsite, or offsite at a place of work if you undertake a micro-placement or a placement.

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 the following types of assessment.

Short written exercises, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments, case studies, problems to solve, 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, you should be able to:

Demonstrate an understanding how the arts and humanities allow you to engage with and both consider and apply solutions to contemporary global challenges.

Understand different disciplinary norms and work practices across the Arts and Humanities and be able to reference these in your own thinking and work.

Demonstrate a range of skills needed to analyse cultural objects from different time periods and different cultural contexts and to engage with historical and philosophical texts.

Demonstrate knowledge of a range of Arts and Humanities subject areas and topics, relevant to understanding and acting in the contemporary world.

Demonstrate a range of transferable skills, including written and oral communication, problem-solving, critical reflection, collaborative working, digital and media-handling, creativity.

Understand the relevance of the skills and knowledges gained on the programme for employability.

Reflect on your own employability needs and how your studies will help you to meet these.

Engaged with a range of assessment types, designed to allow you to practice and deepen your learning.

Careers and further study

Eight of the 10 fastest-growing sectors in the UK economy (e.g. financial, legal and professional services, information and communication, and the creative industries) employed more graduates from SHAPE than any other disciplines (Source: [Qualified for the Future, the British Academy](#) 2020).

SHAPE stands for Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy and includes the disciplines that you will engage with on this programme.

The case studies in the 2022 British Academy report [SHAPE Skills at Work](#), profile SHAPE graduates who have gone on to the following jobs:

Video and Film Editor
Product Lead, Android Machine Learning
Neurodiversity Consultant and Trainer
Community Engagement Officer
Director of Strategy
Director – Planning
Chief Sustainability Officer
Vice Chairman, Managing Partner, Mergers Acquisitions and Technology
Content Designer
Senior Data Journalist
Business Manager and Event Manager
Senior Software Engineer Consultant

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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