

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

|                                                                                                         |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Name, title and level of final qualification(s)                                                         | <b>Graduate Diploma French Studies</b><br>(Level 6)   |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s)                                                             | Grad Cert                                             |
| Awarding Body                                                                                           | University of London                                  |
| Teaching Institution(s)                                                                                 | Birkbeck, University of London                        |
| Home school/other teaching departments                                                                  | Creative Arts, Culture and Communication              |
| Location of delivery                                                                                    | Central London                                        |
| Language of delivery and assessment                                                                     | English and French                                    |
| Mode of study, length of study and normal start month                                                   | Full-time (1 years)<br>Part-time (2 years)<br>October |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body                                                              | N/A                                                   |
| <u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u><br><u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u><br><u>England</u> | Languages, Cultures and Societies                     |
| Birkbeck Course Code                                                                                    | GDGFRENH_C                                            |
| HECoS Code                                                                                              | 100322 (French studies)                               |
| Start date of programme                                                                                 | Autumn 2010/11                                        |
| Date of programme approval                                                                              | Summer 2010                                           |
| Date of last programme amendment approval                                                               | Spring 2023                                           |
| Valid for academic entry year                                                                           | <b>2026-27</b>                                        |
| Programme Director                                                                                      | Ann Lewis                                             |
| Date of last revision to document                                                                       | 16/01/2023                                            |

## Admissions requirements

Applicants will normally have a first degree in a subject other than French Studies or Modern Languages, and/or a BA not equivalent to UK honours standard, and they will be expected to have language skills in French equivalent to A-level plus one year (French 3).

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.

International Entry Requirements: If English is not the applicant's first language or they have not previously studied in English, our usual requirement is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 6.5, with not less than 6.0 in each of the sub-tests.

## Course aims

This programme provides a one-year full-time qualification in French Studies. It can also be taken via a two-year part-time route if a student prefers to split the modules across two years. It is designed particularly to appeal to students who wish to take an MA with a French component but who require further training at undergraduate level before entering at postgraduate level. The programme will allow students to work on French language skills and to increase their knowledge of French culture, as well as improving their research and study skills.

This is an undergraduate-level qualification that will prepare students for postgraduate study.

## Course structure

Students need to obtain 120 credits at Level 6 for the award of this Graduate Diploma. Students must take one 30-credit French language module (French 4 or French 5) together with 90 credits of French culture or comparative optional modules.

| Level                      | Module Code            | Module Title                                          | Credit | Comp Core/ Option | Likely teaching term |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Full-time – 1 year</b>  |                        |                                                       |        |                   |                      |
| 6                          | AREL072S6 or AREL096S6 | French 4 or French 5                                  | 30     | Compulsory        | T1-3                 |
| 6                          |                        | Content/comparative option (1 x 30 or 2 x 15 credits) | 30     | Option            | T1, 2 or 3           |
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| 6                          |                        | Content/comparative option (1 x 30 or 2 x 15 credits) | 30     | Option            | T1, 2 or 3           |
| <b>Part-time – 2 years</b> |                        |                                                       |        |                   |                      |
| <b>Year 1</b>              |                        |                                                       |        |                   |                      |
| 6                          | AREL096S6 or AREL072S6 | French 4 or French 5                                  | 30     | Compulsory        | T1-3                 |
| 6                          |                        | Content/comparative option (1 x 30 or 2 x 15 credits) | 30     | Option            | T1, 2 or 3           |

| <b>Year 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |  |                                                          |    |        |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------|----|--------|------------|
| 6                                                                                                                                                                               |  | Content/comparative option<br>(1 x 30 or 2 x 15 credits) | 30 | Option | T1, 2 or 3 |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                               |  | Content/comparative option<br>(1 x 30 or 2 x 15 credits) | 30 | Option | T1, 2 or 3 |
| Full time and part-time students must take at least 90 credits from the French 'content'/comparative options and at least 30 credits from the relevant French language modules. |  |                                                          |    |        |            |

French Language options:

AREL096S6 French 4

AREL072S6 French 5

(only one may be taken by full-time students as only one language level can be studied per academic year)

Indicative Content/Comparative Options:

ARLL008S6 Contemporary Literature in French (Level 6)

AREL003H6 Sensibility and Sociability in the Eighteenth-Century French Novel

AREL093H6 Writing the Self: Autobiographical Narratives in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries (Level 6)

ARLL034S6 Masterpieces of French Literature and Culture: From the Enlightenment to Postmodernity (Level 6)

SC04059S6 Poetics, Politics, History: Themes in African and Caribbean Literatures in French (Level 6)

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.

Learning and teaching methods vary between Language modules and 'Content' modules, but in all cases the programme builds on tried and tested methods, and the collective experience and expertise deployed in existing modules within the Department.

- Classes (90 minutes) adopt a mixed-mode delivery, part lecture, part student activity either singly or in small groups, part open discussion. The range of methods deployed is effective in retaining students' attention after a day's work. Varied use is made of the full range of available support materials and technologies, including Moodle. Supervised group and pair-work and short student presentations serve to vary the pace of classroom activity. Presentations also offer the opportunity for formative feedback, and may be used to prepare a written assignment.
- Language classes are 2.5 hours long. Activities are varied and are designed to promote student participation. Regular homework is given and returned to students, with extensive feedback, usually within a week.

## 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.

- For Language classes, assessment takes place at regular intervals throughout the academic year and takes a variety of forms as appropriate to the language-level of the module, including in-class tests, oral presentations, essays and other written tasks.
- Assessment for 'content' modules is usually via a combination of assessed essays and in-class tests.

## 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:

### Subject Specific:

#### A. Use of the target language\*\*

1. Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in French, with competent or native speakers of French.
2. Be able to exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, to contextualise a broad range of materials in written or spoken French appropriate to the level attained.
3. Be able to apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.
4. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of French.
5. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse French. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)

#### C. Knowledge of related studies

6. 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 of French-speaking countries.
7. Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of the cultures and societies of French-speaking countries gained through one or more of the creative media of French.

#### D. Intercultural awareness and understanding

8. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies, other than the student's own.
9. Demonstrate an ability to describe, analyse and evaluate the similarities and dissimilarities of one or more French-speaking culture or society in comparison with the student's own.

### Intellectual

10. Identify and describe problems and to devise effective strategies for their resolution.
11. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding.

### Practical

See Subject-specific skills, plus the following:

12. Gather, process and evaluate critically information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources.
13. Use IT effectively, both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning.

## **Personal and Social**

14. Communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both orally and in writing with due regard to the target audience.
15. Be responsive to the discipline of working with others and to work effectively as part of a team.
16. Be an effective and self-aware independent learner.

**\*\* NB** these are the LOs for BA French Studies, to which this programme links. Students will be tested on entry, and may be deemed to have already achieved these outcomes in their previous study.

## **Careers and further study**

Graduates can pursue career paths in international organisations or businesses, translating and teaching, research and journalism. Possible professions include:

- translator
- teacher
- researcher
- journalist
- diplomatic services operational officer
- interpreter.

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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