

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MA Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity PG Dip Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity PG Cert Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip, PG Cert
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London, Online (on campus, online and flexible routes)
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u> <u>England</u>	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMADIAIP_C on-campus study, MA TMADIAON_C online study, MA TMADIAMX_C flexible study, MA TPDDIAIP_C on-campus study TPDDIAON_C online study TPDDIAMX_C flexible study TPCDIAIP_C on-campus study, PG Cert TPCDIAON_C online study, PG Cert TPCDIAMX_C flexible study, PG Cert
HECoS Code	101233
Start date of programme	Autumn 2010
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	March 2026
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Date of last revision to document	09/03/26

Admissions requirements

A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in a social sciences or arts and humanities subject is normally required.

We also welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications. Relevant work experience, professional qualifications and/or a lively interest in the subject area and commitment to study will also be taken into consideration. We actively support and encourage applications from mature learners.

Course aims

The innovative, interdisciplinary MA Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity stretches across the arts and humanities and social sciences. It offers you the opportunity to explore important subjects in this broad field of study such as histories of 'race' and racism; the connections between transcontinental histories of colonisation and contemporary social formations and inequalities; postcolonial political communities, social identities and cultures and how local debates on inequality are shaped by the global geopolitics of the twenty-first century.

The programme is part of the Birkbeck Flexible Master's UK which gives students the choice of how they want to study – on campus, online or via flexible learning which combines both.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time - 1 year					
7	FDRE017S7	'Race' Empire Postcoloniality (hyflex)	30	Core	T1
7	FDRE012S7	Culture Community Identity (hyflex)	30	Core	T2
7		Option 1	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7		Option 2	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module/Dissertation (online)	60	Core	T1-3
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	FDRE017S7	'Race' Empire Postcoloniality (hyflex)	30	Core	T1
7		Option 1	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 2					
7	FDRE012S7	Culture Community Identity (hyflex)	30	Core	T2
7		Option 2	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module/Dissertation (online)	60	Core	T1-3

Indicative Optional Modules

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Likely teaching term(s)	Likely Delivery
7	SSPA067S7	Lacanian Psychoanalysis: Theory & Practice	30	T3	Hyflex
7	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research: Birkbeck Approaches	30	T1	Hyflex
7	SSHC386Z7	Research Skills For Historians	0	T2	In person
7	POSO007S7	International Political Economy	30	T1	Hyflex
7	POSO044S7	Nationalism, Religion, & Conflict	30	T2	In person
7	SSPO120S7	Emerging Powers In World Politics	30	T3	Hyflex
7	SSGE011S7	Environment & Policy	30	T2	Hyflex
7	SSGE112S7	Climate Mitigation and Energy Futures	30	T1	Hyflex
7	PSSL040S7	Theories & Sites Of The Psychosocial	30	T1	Hyflex
7	SSPA152S7	Sociology For New Worlds	30	T1	Hyflex
7	SSGE125S7	International Development & Social Justice	30	T1	Hyflex
7	ARVC059S7	Museum Cultures: Approaches, Issues, Skills	30	T1	In person
7	ARCL064S7	Imagining the Nation	30	T2	Hyflex
7	LACN021S7	Contemporary Criminological Theory	30	T1	Hyflex
7	POSO022S7	Political Theory And Contemporary Politics	30	T3	Hyflex
7	POSO020S7	Power & Politics in the UK	30	T2	Hyflex
7	SSGE128S7	Rebels, Riots & Revolutions In International Development	30	T3	Hyflex
7	LACN019S7	Regulating Sex & Sexuality	30	T2	Hyflex
7	SSHC483S7	Narrative Medicine	30	T1	Hyflex
7	ARCL065S7	Memory and History	30	T3	Hyflex
7	SC03003S7	Public History & Heritage: Theories, Issues & Practice	30	T1	Hyflex
7	POSO025S7	Public Policy: Interests, Ideas, Institutions	30	T1	Hyflex
7	AREN166S7	Modernising Victorians	30	T1	Hyflex
7	LACN021S7	Contemporary Criminological Theory	30	T1	Hyflex
7	LADD027S7	Gender, Sexuality & Criminal Justice	30	T3	Hyflex

Note: All core modules are delivered via hyflex allowing in-person and online attendance.

Options may vary each academic year and are subject to change. Those currently planned for in-person, online or hyflex delivery for 2026-27 indicated. Options for students taking the fully online route are restricted to hyflex and online modules.

Core: Module must be taken and passed.

Option: Student can choose to take this module as a special subject option module.

How you will Learn

Your learning and teaching are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and 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 about each of your

modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists and information about how and when you will be assessed.

The programme utilises a range of learning and teaching methods:

- Formal lectures
- Seminars, tutorials, group and individual supervision
- A research programme composed of taught sessions and workshops on methods, research design and writing a dissertation
- A Summer Programme including public lectures, film screenings, specialist workshops and dissertation support sessions.

The programme is offered in-person and there is also a fully online route. Students may also choose to take some modules in-person and some online, subject to meeting any in-person attendance requirements for visas or funding. Options for students taking the fully online route are restricted to hyflex and online modules.

How we will assess you

Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

The core modules of the programme will be assessed through methods such as essays and presentations. Forms of assessment for option modules will vary.

Students will also complete a dissertation of 10,000-12,000 words or alternatively a practice-based dissertation which consists of a work such as a film, a series of photographs or a curated exhibit that is accompanied by a 5000 – 6000 word written essay.

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 a rigorous understanding of a range of approaches on histories and cartographies of 'race' and racism, multicultural and postcoloniality
- Demonstrate a thorough multidisciplinary understanding of the connections between histories of colonisation and contemporary social formations and inequalities
- Demonstrate an innovative, interdisciplinary understanding of the connections between interlocking colonial histories across the globe and our ordinary, local, everyday life here in contemporary Britain
- Demonstrate a practical understanding of postcolonial methodologies for empirical research
- Carry out a piece of independent research on a subject of your choice
- Develop a range of critical yet transferable skills in analysis, argumentation, reasoning and writing
- Demonstrate the capacity to apply knowledge developed to a range of contexts and phenomena
- Communicate complex ideas to a range of audiences
- Manage your own independent learning and complete your assignments

Careers and further study

This course will appeal to working professionals, recent graduates and international students alike. Graduates have pursued new career paths and progressed into influential roles in local, national and international organisations and charities concerned with:

- human rights
- criminalisation and policing
- sexual violence
- migration, refugees and asylum
- homelessness
- imprisonment
- addiction
- youth and community work

They have also entered fields such as:

- journalism
- IT
- film, fiction, poetry and music
- health and social work
- teaching
- academic research and policy
- cultural heritage and curatorship
- architecture
- law, advocacy and activism
- psychoanalysis and psychotherapy
- postcolonial, cultural and urban studies, history, psychosocial studies and sociology

There are currently several graduates undertaking doctoral research in this subject area at Birkbeck and also in other universities in the UK and across the world.

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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