Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MA History of Architecture**
		PG Dip History of Architecture
		PG Cert History of Architecture
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMAAARCH_C – MA
		TPDAARCH_C – PG Dip
		TPCAARCH_C – PG Cert
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	History of Art
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Dip History of Architecture
		PG Cert History of Architecture
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	1 FT, 2 PT
9	**Mode of Study**	FT x PT x DL
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Statement**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**

The rationale for the programme is to provide a postgraduate taught degree in architectural history, a subject in which Birkbeck's History of Art department can claim uniquely wide-ranging expertise. Birkbeck's reputation for architectural history has long roots (including the great Nikolaus Pevsner) but only recently have we acquired the critical mass to teach an MA programme, which in turn will provide the launch pad for MPhils and PhDs in the subject.

We have recently been teaching several popular architectural history courses as part of the MA History of Art, so we have tested the water within the terms of the existing programme. Now we feel we can expand further as part of a raft of reforms being brought in by the History of Art department at this level, including a new core course to serve all programmes.

The proposal for an MA in History of Architecture responds to and exploits the appointment of a new professor of architectural history that has expanded staffing in this and closely related areas. The department now has Mark Crinson, Leslie Topp, and Zoe Opacic who all teach architectural history, plus Tag Gronberg and Dorigen Caldwell for whom the subject is central to their wider interests. The expertise is particularly strong on the twentieth century but also extends back to the medieval, early modern and Victorian periods. Geographically, this expertise is unique in its European-wide spread and it extends to many parts of the ex-British imperial world. Thematically, our scholarship is particularly strong in issues of

gender, space, power, and representation. We have been developing and showcasing our expertise in these areas, and providing a platform for public debate through the Architecture Space and Society Centre.

The programme will advance the College Mission in the following ways:

- By providing a programme eminently well suited to a range of potential students already working in or familiar with the areas of architecture, planning, conservation, archival and museum work. It will add depth and breadth to these and other potential students' knowledge, enabling them to further develop their careers or to turn towards academic research.

- This is an area critical to informing current debates about architecture, planning, housing, and public space. Accordingly, the programme will strengthen the College Mission's aim to '[promote] civic and public debate'. Of their nature these issues are not limited to any one area of society, so the programme will further enhance the College's engagement with students from a range of social and educational backgrounds, directly engaging issues of inclusivity, equality and diversity in architecture, urbanism and the built environment. The Architecture Space and Society Centre already addresses this area of the College Mission statement through academic and public events, now we want to develop this also through the training of postgraduate students.

The programme aims to:

- Provide students with a postgraduate-level introduction to current theoretical and historiographic issues in the study of architectural history, especially in its relation to art history.
- Enable students to study selected areas of the subject in some depth, foregrounding the most productive thematic issues and developing powers of critical reflection.
- Develop in students the confidence for direct study of buildings, primary source texts concerning them, and drawings and other documentary material.
- Develop students' ability to reflect on the process of research and to demonstrate how research questions and projects relate to the state of knowledge in the field.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	Good honours degree in a relevant subject or equivalent (for example, professional experience). For students with a degree in a subject other than history of art, the one-year part-time Graduate Certificate in History of Art and Architecture can be used as a conversion course. Students who successfully complete the graduate certificate with merit will normally be guaranteed a place on this programme.

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	On successful completion of the MA History of Architecture, students are expected to have: *Subject Specific* • Developed at postgraduate level acuity in analysing architecture (including buildings, drawings, urban plans and landscapes.)

- An enhanced understanding of architecture within the social and cultural context of its production
- Acquired knowledge of methodologies concerned with the discipline
- Engaged constructively in current debates concerning the discipline and its changing nature.

Intellectual
- Ability to select and acquire relevant visual, spatial and textual material and evidence and to analyse, present and interpret this as appropriate within the context of the course
- Developed appropriate historical and theoretical methodological frameworks and approaches
- Developed communication skills (oral and written)
- Ability to handle theoretical arguments and to research focused topics
- Ability to understand advanced abstract material
- Developed critical awareness/distance.

Practical
- Ability to work with and interpret historical structures, plans, images and documents
- Ability to debate in an atmosphere of open discussion
- Report writing
- Short and extended-length academic writing
- Ability to take responsibility for dissertation preparation
- The skillful operation of a range of audio-visual and multimedia equipment, for class presentation.

Personal and Social
- Experience of working in groups
- Experience of co-ordinating preparation and execution of presentations
- Self-motivation and time management skills

| 17 | Learning, teaching and assessment methods |

The standard format for teaching is a combination of lectures and seminars and one-to-one tutorials.

Lecturers present an overview of the main issues attached to the week's subject area, pointing students in the direction of required reading as well as further reading and research.

The seminar component of each session enables students to explore ideas and methods, to discuss both the required reading and the results of personal research and study, and to refine their own skills of argument, communication and presentation. Seminars may include structured or open debate, a close analysis of textual or visual material, small group discussions and task based work. Participation in seminar discussion is very important in all parts of the course. Classroom based work is supported and enhanced by visits to architectural sites, archives and museums.

As the MA progresses students are expected to become increasingly independent researchers. This is reflected in the fact that both the research project and dissertation

are largely self-defined rubrics (with guidance from academic members of staff). Students can choose to do a work placement module in place of the research project.

Further support and expansion of students' areas of interest comes in the form of tutorials, arranged by mutual agreement with the lecturer, allowing students to discuss issues on a one-to-one basis, especially in relation to essays, research project and dissertation.

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Work on the dissertation is further enhanced by work-in-progress seminars in the summer term.

Additional handouts and moodle resources will direct students towards supplementary information and reading.

Research seminars, symposia and lectures delivered by relevant guest speakers provide students with an opportunity to engage with current developments and debates in the field. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the events organised by the Architecture Space and Society Centre.

18	**Programme Description**

Students take the compulsory module 'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography', two option modules, a research project or work placement, and a dissertation.

Full-time students take 'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography' and the first option module in the autumn term and the second option module in the spring term. Then they either take the research project in the spring term and work on their dissertation from the summer term OR they take a work placement in the summer term and begin work on their dissertation from the spring term.

In Year 1, part-time students take 'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography' in the autumn term, the first option module in the spring term, and the research project OR the work placement in the summer term.

In Year 2 they take the second option module in the autumn term, and work on their dissertation from the spring term.

'Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography' is designed to explore key concepts, methodologies and issues involved in the current study of the art historical discipline, as well as research skills and methods. About half the elements address history of art generally, while half address history of architecture specifically. 'Frameworks' serves as the compulsory core course for the MA History of Art and MA History of Photography as well as for the MA History of Architecture.

Option modules allow students to pursue specific interests and areas of research in selected topics.

The research project offers students the chance to undertake independent research and to reflect on the process of research.

Students complete the programme with a 15,000-word dissertation.

19	Programme Structure			

Full Time programme: MA – 1 year

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional
7	AHVM042S7	Research Project OR	30	Optional
7	ARVC054S7	Work Placement		
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core

Part Time programme: MA – 2 years

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	AHVM042S7	Research Project OR	30	Optional
7	ARVC054S7	Work Placement		

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional
7	AHVM019D7	Dissertation	60	Core

Full-Time Programme: PG Dip – 1 year

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional
7	AHVM042S7	Research Project OR	30	Optional
7	ARVC054S7	Work Placement	30	

Part-Time Programme: PG Dip – 2 years

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional
7	AHVM042S7	Research Project OR	30	Optional
7	ARVC054S7	Work placement	30	

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	From a range	Option Module 2	30	Optional

Part-Time Programme: PG Cert				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC247S7	Frameworks: Histories and Theories of Art, Architecture, Photography	30	Compulsory
7	From a range	Option Module 1	30	Optional

Indicative list of optional modules				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARVC114S7	Space and Politics in Modernity	30	Optional
7	ARVC002S7	Gothic in England: Architecture, Liturgy and	30	Optional
7	ARVC230S7	This is Tomorrow: Architecture and Modernity in Britain and its Empire, 1930-1960	30	Optional
7	AHVM084S7	Rome: Place, Continuity and Memory	30	Optional
7	SSHC259S7	Archaeological Architecture	30	Optional

Status*
CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	**Regulations**
	Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf **If the programme has additional information re: Admissions please state here:** Good honours degree in a relevant subject or equivalent (for example, professional experience). In addition to the online application, students need to complete and submit a written exercise, or submit a sample recent undergraduate essay. Interviews December - September. **Credit Transfer** Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf **Programme Regulations** This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** For students with a degree in a subject other than history of art, the one-year part-time Graduate Certificate in History of Art and Architecture can be used as a conversion course. Students who successfully complete the Graduate Certificate with Merit will be guaranteed a place on the MA History of Art and do not need to provide an admissions exercise.

21	**Student Attendance Framework** – *in brief*

The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available
http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .

Principle
Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

Attendance expectation
Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

E-Registers
All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

22	**Student Support and Guidance**

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services

23	**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .

24	**Programme Director**	Professor Mark Crinson
25	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	Autumn 2019
26	**Date approved by TQEC**	May 2018
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	June 2018
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	June 2018