Programme Specification

1 Awarding body
   University of London

2 Teaching Institution
   Birkbeck College

3 Programme Title(s)
   MA Historical Research

4 Programme Code(s)
   TMAHISTO_C

5 UCAS code (if applicable)
   N/A

6 Home Department
   History, Classics and Archaeology

7 Exit Award(s)
   PG Dip, PG Cert

8 Duration of Study (number of years)
   1 year full-time; 2 years part-time

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 Group
   N/A

14 Programme Rationale & Aims
   This programme provides students with a structured masters programme in a specific
   field of historical study. It provides a framework within which preparation for doctoral
   study can be undertaken, for those who wish to progress to a research degree; but is
   focussed particularly on provision of a rich and varied experience of studying history at
   level 7. Teaching is research-led, delivered by core staff.

15 Entry Criteria
   Second-class honours degree in a humanities subject and references

16 Learning Outcomes
   Subject Specific:
   1. an awareness of contemporary historical practice
   2. an understanding of the methodologies used in the analysis and interpretation of
      historical documents and other forms of source material where appropriate
   3. to use historical sources to form interpretations about past societies
   4. to understand core debates within specific subject fields

   Intellectual:
5. the ability to carry out effective and critical evaluations of information, data and interpretations
6. the use of critical reasoning
7. the development of analytical skills
8. the ability to synthesise different types and quantities of data and information
9. the ability to tackle complex problems and select the appropriate evidence to solve them

Practical:
10. improved level of IT skills and computer literacy through experiences with word processing and internet, and where appropriate with databases and spreadsheets
11. ability to collate, compare and analyse substantial quantities of data
12. to carry out documentary-based research
13. to present findings both orally and in writing

Personal and Social:
14. the ability to work successfully in teams
15. the ability to work successfully on an independent basis
16. to develop presentation skills
17. to develop organisational skills
18. to master time-management

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning is achieved through a balance of formal pedagogy and independent study, with an emphasis upon the latter, suitable to this level of study in a humanities subject. Teaching is done primarily via seminar group, with occasional lectures; and in one-to-one tutorials as and when necessary. Where appropriate, use is made of on-line resources including Moodle.

Assessment is via written work, with a different essay for each module, and a substantial dissertation.
Programme Description
The programme consists of four taught modules and a dissertation. All students take the core module 'Mastering Historical Research' in the first term of their degree. They then have a choice of a further three option modules (taken across two years for the part-time degree, or within one year for the full-time degree). There is also skills training in preparation for the dissertation in the first part of the summer term; students received one-to-one supervision for their dissertation research, and the dissertation is then submitted at the end of September in the year in which the degree is completed.

Programme Structure

Full Time programme – 1 year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSHC247S7</td>
<td>Mastering Historical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HICL022S7</td>
<td>The Historian’s Craft</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(Option 1)</td>
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<td>SSHC027D7</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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Part Time programme – 2 years

Year 1

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Year 2

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<td>7</td>
<td>SSHC027D7</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>compulsory</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

Regulations

- Admissions
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf)

- Credit Transfer
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning
### Student Attendance Framework – in brief

The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available [here](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.

### 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/mybirkbeck/services/facilities).

### 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 [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality).
Year of entry: 2020/21

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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Dr Carmen Mangion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Start Date (term/year)</td>
<td>Prior to 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Date approved by TQEC</td>
<td>Prior to 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
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