Programme Specification

1. **Awarding body**  
   University of London

2. **Teaching Institution**  
   Birkbeck College

3. **Programme Title(s)**  
   MRes History

4. **Programme Code(s)**  
   TMRHISTO_C

5. **UCAS code (if applicable)**  
   N/A

6. **Home Department**  
   History, Classics and Archaeology

7. **Exit Award(s)**  
   PG Cert

8. **Duration of Study (number of years)**  
   2 year PT, 1 year FT

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 adds to the portfolio of degrees on offer within the department, allowing progression for those students who wish to follow a programme of historical research but cannot proceed to a PhD.

   This MRes in History aims to recruit students who wish to participate in a structured, taught postgraduate programme with an extended history research dissertation. It is meant to extend our masters provision by providing a unique degree, targeted to students who have successfully completed an MA and wish to do further research but are not suitable for acceptance onto a PhD programme.

   The MRes in History equips students with the advanced historical research skills necessary to complete an individual, large-scale research project. This is ideal for self-motivated and committed students.

   The programme consists of 2 core modules and a 30,000 word dissertation. The first module Planning Historical Research is meant to extend critical analytical skills and develop project management skills. The second module Practical Research Skills for Historians introduces practical skills and techniques of historical research through three main themes: locating and retrieving historical material; critiquing primary and secondary sources; and examining and organizing historical information.

15. **Entry Criteria**

   Potential students will usually have achieved a good honours degree (2.1 or above) in both their BA and their MA; at least one of these degrees should be in History. These criteria
are suggested in order for the degree to be seen and marketed as a progression from an MA.

Students who do not achieve these criteria may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.

### Learning Outcomes

Students completing the MRes History will:

- Display mastery of a complex and specialised area of knowledge and be able to engage with current debates about their subject matter
- Extend analytical, evaluative, critical and reflective capacities by
  - Demonstrating a critical awareness of the insights and limitations of different source materials
  - Evaluating and critiquing existing scholarship in the field
  - Being able to interpret and apply knowledge in an original manner
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the appropriate methodologies and techniques for study in their field
- Communicate more effectively newly acquired knowledge and understanding in large and small group discussions
- Improve transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, making oral and written presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with scholarly standards, working independently and in groups, managing their time effectively and using information technology relevant to their areas of study

### Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Most modules will be delivered through a seminar lasting two hours. The seminars will act as a discussion forum and sessions are organised to simulate student interaction; the tutors will be moderators of the discussion, not the facilitators. Teaching is varied and interactive, including short lectures, group work, discussion, student presentations and field studies (to archives). Dissertation supervision will be in the form of one-to-one tutorials.

The tutor will provide feedback where appropriate relating to communication, research, performance, knowledge.

The course includes components that are assessed and not assessed.

The Pass/Fail components are particularly geared towards promoting project management skills: defining and planning their literature review in Term 1 (and planning the dissertation in Term 2), meeting deadlines and recording and reflecting on outcomes. These assignments enable students to learn important planning skills for a large piece of research.

The assessed components include a literature view for Planning Historical Research (core module 1) and a detailed dissertation proposal for Practical Research Skills for Historians (core module 2). The literature review is key to the student placing their work within a larger historical framework. The detailed proposal will develop planning skills, but also ascertain that student has considered the historiography, sources, methodologies and/or theories pertaining to their research.
Teaching, learning and assessment modes are regularly reviewed in light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports, and peer monitoring. Students consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by email but also in person. Teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance designed to support independent learning. A detailed coursebook for each module gives contact details of course tutors, describes intended learning outcomes and includes a course outline, schedule, recommendations for weekly reading, and essential information about course organization and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class, and guidelines on dissertations, writing techniques are provided to students during the year.

The department works closely with the college Disability Office and the school's Student Learning Support Officer to enable all students to participate fully in their course.

18 **Programme Description**

The programme consists of 3 components: two core modules of 30 credits each at level 7 and a 30,000 word dissertation worth 120 credits.

19 **Programme Structure**

**Full Time programme**

**Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSHC342S7</td>
<td>Planning Historical Research</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SSHC399S7</td>
<td>The Historian's Craft (MRes)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<td>SSHC341Q7</td>
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**Part Time programme**

**Year 1**

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<td>SSHC342S7</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
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**Year 2**

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<td>SSHC341Q7</td>
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<td>120</td>
<td>Core</td>
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</tbody>
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20 **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)

- **If the programme has additional information re: Admissions please state here: (or not applicable)**
  Applications should include a 500 word dissertation proposal.

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning:
### Year of entry: 2020/21

- [Programme Regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf)

  - This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A

### Student Attendance Framework – in brief


**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](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 [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Director</th>
<th>Carmen Mangion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start Date</strong> (term/year)</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date approved by TQEC</strong></td>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date approved by Academic Board</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Date(s) updated/amended</strong></td>
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