

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MRes English, Theatre and Arts				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMRENTHA_C				
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A				
6	Home Department	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert English, Theatre and Arts				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	One or two years				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				

11	Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable) <i>(include URL to PSRB)</i>	N/A				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u> (or not applicable)	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims	<p>This MRes in English, Theatre and Arts aims to recruit students who wish to participate in a structured, taught postgraduate programme with an extended research dissertation. It is meant to extend our masters provision (and contribute to the college's mission) by providing a unique degree, targeted to students who have successfully completed an MA and wish to do further research but are either not yet at the point of entry suitable for acceptance onto a PhD programme, or not certain that they wish to pursue doctoral study.</p> <p>The aim of this programme is to extend our postgraduate provision for able students who wish to conduct high quality research. It is designed to facilitate research-oriented study for those students in a position to continue beyond MA, helping them to develop advanced skills in primary research, and giving them experience of writing at an extended length.</p> <p>It addresses, therefore, a range of potential constituencies, including one of Birkbeck's typical cohorts: students who have come late to study, or who for reasons of disciplinary shift will benefit from such study. The focus on a single topic will benefit all students and allows them to take advantage of the unique resources of London, and will allow students with unusual specialisms to develop these after obtaining a solid grounding at MA level. It also allows students who have not been accepted at MPhil/Phd level to develop projects which may, with an extra period of study, become viable for the higher degree.</p> <p>To fulfil these aims, the proposed programme brings together modules drawn from existing MA provision and a module drawn from the basic preparation for MPhil/ Phd training (Research Skills); a core emphasis on structure and shape supported by a supervisor and a key element of a long dissertation.</p>				
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15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>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 a closely relevant disciplinary area. These criteria are suggested in order for the degree to be seen and marketed as a progression from an MA.</p> <p>Students who do not achieve these criteria may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.</p>
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 • Develop the research, structuring and writing elements of Level 7 study • Develop independent working practices • Development research skills including eg palaeography; bibliography; ethics • Develop planning skills and skill in the choice and framing of topics.
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Students will select one MA module from the Department's current provision, thus introducing an element of tailor-made selection. This module will be selected to confirm and extend study of the critical field, ensure that the student has a structured cohort with cognate interests and extend the student's engagement with the field through the 1:1 work with the supervisor as well as seminars and field-related research skills. The Postgraduate Research Skills runs throughout the year and teaching is varied and interactive, including short lectures, group work, discussion, student presentations and discussion of archives. Dissertation supervision will be in the form of one-to-one tutorials.</p> <p>The supervisor provides a stable figure throughout, as appropriate to a research-led MA, and will offer feedback with regard to communication, research, performance, knowledge in the completion of the assessments:</p> <p>Term 1: Portfolio Task (5,000 words)</p> <p>Term 2: Portfolio Task (5000 words)</p> <p>Term 3 Dissertation (30,000 words)</p> <p>The programme includes components that are assessed and not assessed.</p> <p>The assessment tasks are particularly geared towards promoting project management skills and preparing students to write a long piece of work: defining and planning their Critical Bibliography and Literature review in Term 1, developing the research proposal in Term 2, and writing the dissertation in Term 3 (or according to the part-time schedule laid out below). These assignments</p>

	<p>are designed to enable students to learn important planning skills for a large piece of research and to help them to execute it.</p> <p>The staged writing exercises are supported by a carefully structured programme balancing teaching and support (as in a taught MA) and Research Skills. The Research Skills module, where students take as a module the training course normally only available to first year MPhil students, is taken over terms 1 and 2 and combined with a module in Advanced Academic Research (Research Methods MRes English, Theatre and Arts), a module selected from the appropriate MA within the department (or, less usually, potentially the School).</p> <p>These lead into the full dissertation supported by the supervisor on adequate completion of the proposal.</p> <p>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. A full handbook will be provided. The department is supported by links with the disability office; ethics statements and equality and diversity policies.</p>
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18	Programme Description
	The programme consists of 3 components: two compulsory 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				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN261S7	Research Skills (MRes English, Theatre and Arts)	30	compulsory
7	AREN262S7	Advanced Academic Research (MRes English, Theatre and Arts)	30	compulsory
7	AREN263Q7	Dissertation (MRes English, Theatre and Arts)	120	core
Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN261S7	Research Skills (MRes English, Theatre and Arts)	30	compulsory
7	AREN262S7	Advanced Academic Research (MRes English, Theatre and Arts)	30	compulsory
7		Commence dissertation under supervision		
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN263Q7	Dissertation (MRes English, Theatre and Arts)	120	core

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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions <p>This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) N/A
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21	<p>Student Attendance Framework – in brief</p> <p>The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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22	<p>Student Support and Guidance</p> <p>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</p>
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23	<p>Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .</p>
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24	Programme Director	S. Wiseman /as appropriate from English, Theatre and Creative Writing
25	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2020
26	Date approved by Education Committee	Summer 2020 (Chair’s action)
27	Date approved by Academic Board	TBC
28	Date(s) updated/amended	5 Aug 2020