

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MA Contemporary History and Politics				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMAHI_PO_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	<u>QAA Benchmark Group</u>	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>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.</p>

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

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Subject Specific:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 an understanding of the methodologies used in the analysis and interpretation of historical documents and other forms of source material where appropriate 3.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 <p>Intellectual:</p>

	<p>5. the ability to carry out effective and critical evaluations of information, data and interpretations</p> <p>6. the use of critical reasoning</p> <p>7. the development of analytical skills</p> <p>8. the ability to synthesise different types and quantities of data and information</p> <p>9. the ability to tackle complex problems and select the appropriate evidence to solve them</p> <p>Practical:</p> <p>10. improved level of IT skills and computer literacy through experiences with word processing and internet, and where appropriate with databases and spreadsheets</p> <p>11. ability to collate, compare and analyse substantial quantities of data</p> <p>12. to carry out documentary-based research</p> <p>13. to present findings both orally and in writing</p> <p>Personal and Social:</p> <p>14. the ability to work successfully in teams</p> <p>15. the ability to work successfully on an independent basis</p> <p>16. to develop presentation skills</p> <p>17. to develop organisational skills</p> <p>18. to master time-management.</p>
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Assessment is via written work, with a different essay for each module, and a substantial dissertation.</p>
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18	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.

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme – 1 year				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSHC386Z7	Research Skills for Historians	0	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	Optional
7		(Option 2)	30	Optional
7		(Option 3)	30	Optional
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Compulsory
Part Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSHC386Z7	Research Skills for Historians	0	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	optional
7		(Option 2)	30	optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		(Option 3)	30	optional
7	SSHC027D7	Dissertation	60	Compulsory

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	Programme Director	Prof Nik Wachsmann
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2000
22	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2000
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2000
24	Date(s) updated/amended	August 2017