

## Programme Specification

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| 1  | <b>Awarding body</b>   | University of London  |   |    |   |    |
| 2  | <b>Teaching Institution</b>                                  | <b>Birkbeck College</b>   |   |    |   |    |
| 3  | <b>Programme Title(s)</b>                                    | <b>MA/MRes Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages)</b> |   |    |   |    |
| 4  | <b>Programme Code(s)</b>                                     | TMALITCS_C (MA)<br>TMRLITCS_C (MRes)  |   |    |   |    |
| 5  | <b>UCAS code</b>   | N/A   |   |    |   |    |
| 6  | <b>Home Department</b>                                       | Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics                                 |   |    |   |    |
| 7  | <b>Exit Award(s)</b>   | PG Dip, PG Cert   |   |    |   |    |
| 8  | <b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>                   | 1 year full-time; 2 years part-time   |   |    |   |    |
| 9  | <b>Mode of Study</b>   | FT  | x | PT | x | DL |
| 10 | <b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>                                 | 7   |   |    |   |    |
| 11 | <b>Other teaching depts or institution</b>                   | N/A   |   |    |   |    |
| 12 | <b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b> | N/A   |   |    |   |    |
| 13 | <a href="#"><u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u></a>               | N/A   |   |    |   |    |

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| 14 | <b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>  |
|    | <p>The programme is designed to rationalize provision, building on the success of the Comparative Literature programme while also making language-specific postgraduate provision viable. It is designed to be flexible and responsive to student demand.</p> <p>It aims to allow students to explore the cultures of the variety of language-speaking areas in which we specialize (French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish and Latin American Studies) while giving them a thorough grounding in the theoretical basis of postgraduate studies in comparative literary and cultural studies in the context of Modern Languages. Students can choose whether they wish their focus on the programme to be broadly comparative or whether they wish to engage in more depth with one or more specific language-speaking areas. If they choose a language-specific point of focus their degree title will reflect this (see below). Students will also be able to choose whether they study texts in the original language or in English translation.</p> <p>The programme brings together the specialisms of our teaching team who are experts in a variety of different areas – cultural studies, visual studies, linguistics, comparative literatures and cultures, history, thought – across the six language areas we teach and research and beyond these across other cultural contexts. It is structured in a way which is responsive and adaptable to the interests of students, tapping into these multiple areas of expertise to offer research-led teaching in both larger seminar and smaller workshop groups.</p> |

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| 15 | <b>Entry Criteria</b>  |
|    | Normally a 2.2 or above in an undergraduate degree in an arts or humanities subject.   |
| 16 | <b>Learning Outcomes</b>   |
|    | <p>Subject Specific:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. demonstrate advanced level knowledge of key dimensions of the theoretical frameworks of comparative literary and cultural studies in the context of Modern Languages</li> <li>2. work productively with these theories when cultural artefacts from a variety of cultural contexts</li> <li>3. understand and work with concepts relevant to the comparative study of literature and cultural studies</li> <li>4. demonstrate detailed knowledge of specific, paradigmatic dimensions of the cultures of one or more of the cultural areas being studied</li> <li>5. demonstrate an understanding of what it means to study cultures from a comparative perspective</li> </ol> <p>Intellectual:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. demonstrate skills of critical understanding, analysis and reasoning</li> <li>7. evaluate and assess</li> <li>8. consider and solve complex problems</li> <li>9. formulate a coherent argument both orally and in written form</li> </ol> <p>Practical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. use IT skills</li> <li>11. use the library and internet research resources</li> <li>12. work with historical documents and other source materials</li> <li>13. work with visual artefacts</li> <li>14. demonstrate essay writing skills, including referencing and creating a bibliography</li> </ol> <p>Personal and Social:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. work in teams</li> <li>16. demonstrate communication skills</li> <li>17. work independently</li> <li>18. demonstrate self-awareness</li> <li>19. show planning and organizational skills</li> <li>20. demonstrate continuous learning skills</li> <li>21. demonstrate presentational skills</li> <li>22. show cultural awareness</li> </ol> |
| 17 | <b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b>   |
|    | <p>Most teaching takes place in small teacher-led seminar groups which promote active student participation. As well as allowing students to gain subject specific knowledge, these sessions encourage the development of skills such as critical understanding, analysis and reasoning and the ability to consider and solve complex problems. Some seminars are student-led with one student preparing a presentation which is then discussed by the group. The presentation is the result of independent work by an individual student and encourages the development of planning and organizational skills, amongst others. The resulting discussion fosters communication skills and team work. Research skills sessions</p>  |

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|    | encourage the development of practical skills, such as using library and research internet facilities and learning correct referencing procedures.   |
| 18 | <b>Programme Description</b>   |
|    | <p><b>On the MA</b> all students start the programme with a core module, Studying Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies in Modern Languages, taught over the autumn and spring terms. The first half of the module focuses on key theories, texts and methods to give students a thorough grounding in comparative literary and cultural studies in Modern Languages, drawing on the fields of literary studies, linguistics, cultural, visual and comparative studies, history and thought. The second part of the core module consists of different strands which allow students to pursue the ideas engaged with in the first half of the module in ways that speak to their specific interests. Shortly before the start of each academic year we will identify those (language-speaking and theoretical) areas in which the cohort is most interested (in discussion with the students) with a view to establishing the precise content of the second part of the core for that year. Strands offered in any given year are likely to include a Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies one, a French Studies one and a Comparative Literature one. If demand is high enough we may also be able to offer German- or Japanese-focused strands.</p> <p>We will also offer three option modules a year, one taught in each of the autumn, spring and summer terms. Each option module tackles a broad theme in order to allow for a variety of tutors to teach their different specialisms each year and in accordance with student interests. The three option modules initially offered will be Memory and History, Imagining the Nation and Interrogating the Self. Like the core course, each of these will have five weeks in which students explore theoretical issues related to the module topic before following in the second five weeks a project strand related to their specific interests which will culminate in the writing of a project on a subject chosen by the student and supervised by one of the staff. The project-based assessment pattern is designed to develop the students' skills towards the writing of the dissertation.</p> <p>Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imagining the Nation</li> <li>• Memory and History</li> <li>• Interrogating the Self</li> </ul> <p>With the permission of the programme director, students may take up to 30 credits from a cognate programme in the School of Arts.</p> <p>Students will also take a zero-weighted Research Skills module which has three parts. Part 1 allows students to develop the key research skills needed for comparative literary and cultural studies in Modern Languages. Part 2 encourages students to engage with the research environment in the Department, the College and beyond by attending research events about which they will be asked to blog. Part 3 provides students with support for the dissertation and is assessed via a presentation and annotated bibliography.</p> |

Students will also write a 15,000 word 60 credit dissertation.

The default degree awarded will be MA Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages). However, students can choose to focus on a specific language-speaking area or areas and to be awarded a degree that reflects this specialization. In order to be awarded one of the following degrees (or similar), assessment for at least 90 credits of the degree must be related to the language-speaking area reflected in the degree title. If two language-speaking areas are mentioned, students must do 60 credits-worth of assessment in each language-speaking area. Students with named language-speaking area(s) in their degree title will normally be expected to work with cultural artefacts in the original language(s).

List of degrees to be awarded:

- MA Spanish and Latin American Studies
- MA Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- MA German Studies
- MA French Studies
- MA Japanese Studies
- MA Italian Studies
- MA French and German Studies
- MA French and Spanish and Latin American Studies
- MA French and Japanese Studies
- MA French and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- MA French and Italian Studies
- MA German and Spanish and Latin American Studies
- MA German and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- MA German and Italian Studies
- MA German and Japanese Studies
- MA Japanese and Spanish and Latin American Studies
- MA Japanese and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- MA Japanese and Italian Studies
- MA Italian and Spanish and Latin American Studies
- MA Italian and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- MA Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies

**The MRes** is designed for those who wish to pursue a more research-oriented pathway through the programme. Students will take the core module, an option module and the research skills module and write a 30,000 word, 120 credit dissertation. Student who produced a dissertation related to a specific language-speaking area or areas may be awarded an MRes which name the language or languages (as above). Students with named language-speaking area(s) in their degree title will normally be expected to work with cultural artefacts in the original language(s).

| <sup>19</sup> <b>Programme Structure</b> |             |  |         |            |
|--|-------------|--|---------|------------|
| <b>MA Full Time programme – 1 year</b>   |             |  |         |            |
| <b>Year 1</b>                            |             |  |         |            |
| Level                                    | Module Code | Module Title   | Credits | Status*    |
| 7  | ARCL059S7   | Studying Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies in Modern Languages                   | 30      | Core       |
| 7  |             | Option   | 30      | Option     |
| 7  |             | Option   | 30      | Option     |
| 7  |             | Option   | 30      | Option     |
| 7  | ARCL060Z7   | Research Skills Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages) Parts 1 & 2 | 0       | Compulsory |
| 7  | ARCL061Z7   | Research Skills Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages) Part 3      | 0       | Compulsory |
| 7  | ARCL062D7   | Dissertation   | 60      | Core       |
| <b>MA Part Time programme - 2 years</b>  |             |  |         |            |
| <b>Year 1</b>                            |             |  |         |            |
| Level                                    | Module Code | Module Title   | Credits | Status*    |
| 7  | ARCL059S7   | Studying Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies in Modern Languages                   | 30      | Core       |
| 7  |             | Option   | 30      | Option     |
| 7  | ARCL060Z7   | Research Skills Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages) Part 1 & 2  | 0       | Compulsory |
| <b>Year 2</b>                            |             |  |         |            |
| Level                                    | Module Code | Module Title   | Credits | Status*    |
| 7  |             | Option   | 30      | Option     |
| 7  |             | Option   | 30      | Option     |
| 7  | ARCL061Z7   | Research Skills Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages) Part 3      | 0       | Compulsory |
| 7  | ARCL062D7   | Dissertation   | 60      | Core       |
| <b>MRes Full Time programme – 1 year</b> |             |  |         |            |
| <b>Year 1</b>                            |             |  |         |            |
| Level                                    | Module Code | Module Title   | Credits | Status*    |
| 7  | ARCL059S7   | Studying Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies in Modern Languages                   | 30      | Core       |
| 7  |             | Option   | 30      | Option     |
| 7  | ARCL060Z7   | Research Skills Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages)             | 0       | Compulsory |
| 7  | ARCL063Q7   | Dissertation   | 120     | Core       |

Year of entry: 2021/22



| <b>MRes Part Time programme – 2 years</b>   |                    |  |                |                |
|---|--------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Year 1</b>   |                    |  |                |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Status*</b> |
| 7   | ARCL059S7          | Studying Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies in Modern Languages                   | 30             | Core           |
| 7   |                    | Option   | 30             | Option         |
| 7   | ARCL060Z7          | Research Skills Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (Modern Languages) Parts 1 & 2 | 0              | Compulsory     |
| <b>Year 2</b>   |                    |  |                |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Status*</b> |
| 7   | ARCL061Z7          | Research Skills (Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies) Part 3                       | 0              | Compulsory     |
| 7   | ARCL063Q7          | Dissertation   | 120            | Core           |
| <b>List of Optional modules:</b>  |                    |  |                |                |
| <b>Level</b>  | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Status*</b> |
| 7   | ARCL064S7          | Imagining the Nation   | 30             | Option         |
| 7   | ARCL065S7          | Memory and History   | 30             | Option         |
| 7   | ARCL066S7          | Interrogating the Self   | 30             | Option         |
| With the permission of the programme director, students may take up to 30 credits from a cognate programme in the School of Arts. |                    |  |                |                |

**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*

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| 20 | <b>Programme Director</b>              | Mari Paz Balibrea |
| 21 | <b>Start Date</b> ( <i>term/year</i> ) | Autumn term 2018  |
| 22 | <b>Date approved by TQEC</b>           | October 2017      |
| 23 | <b>Date approved by Academic Board</b> | November 2017     |
| 24 | <b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>         | November 2017     |