

## Programme Specification

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 Medieval Studies</b>				
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	TMAMDVST_C				
5	<b>UCAS code (if applicable)</b>	N/A				
6	<b>Home Department</b>	English, Theatre and Creative Writing History, Classics and Archaeology				
7	<b>Exit Award(s)</b>	PG Dip Medieval Studies PG Cert Medieval Studies				
8	<b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>	1 year FT 2 years PT				
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>	The programme will also offer L7 option modules from other programmes in the School of Arts and the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy				
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>	N/A				
13	<a href="#"><u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u></a>	N/A				
14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>	This programme offers the opportunity to make a special study of the medieval period, considering the richness and diversity of its history, literature, material culture, art, and other cultural productions.				
15	<b>Entry Criteria</b>	At least a second-class honours degree, and an interest in and aptitude for the study of medieval culture at MA level.				
16	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>This programme encourages students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop key research skills in medieval studies, while promoting the use of modern theoretical frameworks to structure a study of the literature, people, places, artistic productions and social patterns in the medieval past.</li> </ul> <p>Students gain guided practice in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>working with a variety of types of primary and secondary sources</li> <li>generating and developing scholarly projects</li> </ul>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>learn essential research skills that may include paleography, transcription, manuscript provenance, identification, and dating</li> </ul> <p>Where necessary and possible, the programme may offer further training in languages, including Old English, Old Norse, Middle English, and Latin.</p>
17	<b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The programme is primarily taught through seminars and short lectures, which may include elements of blended online learning, and one-to-one supervisory tutorials. This may be supplemented, where appropriate, through field trips, site visits, and visits to museum collections and archives. Learning opportunities may, where appropriate, include presentations on (e.g.) topics for class discussion and work-in-progress.</li> <li>The programme also requires significant independent study in preparation for learning opportunities and coursework assignments. A module in Independent Directed Reading offers students the opportunity to develop a shorter independent research project before completing the dissertation.</li> <li>Summative assessment takes place primarily through written work in the form of coursework (including essays and commentaries). It may also include other formats such as presentations and the curation of material culture and visual arts. Formative assessment may also include presentations, written work, and the preparation of other forms of media.</li> </ul>
18	<b>Programme Description</b>
	<p>This programme offers the opportunity to encounter the Middle Ages from a range of disciplinary perspectives, including the study of literature, history, material culture, and the visual arts. At its heart is the core module Medieval Worlds, which will introduce you to the most current scholarly approaches to the Middle Ages. This module cuts across different fields to consider the riches of the medieval past from an integrated, holistic perspective, in which students will be guided by experts in interdisciplinary research methods.</p> <p>In addition to Medieval Worlds students choose three further option modules that offer the opportunity for studying the Middle Ages, and other proximate periods such as the Renaissance, in history, literature, art history, archaeology, and other related fields. They also have the option to pursue a module in Directed Reading in Medieval studies, in which they receive one-to-one support in writing a research essay on a topic of their choosing. Preparation for the dissertation is supported by the research methods module Working in the Middle Ages, which will hone the skills needed to complete the final research project.</p> <p>This programme is ideal for students approaching postgraduate study from a range of backgrounds. In addition to providing rigorous preparation for PhD research, it is equally well suited to the interests of the medieval enthusiast, those who wish to deepen their</p>

<p>knowledge of the Middle Ages, and those who are returning to study to pursue a personal passion.</p> <p>Students write essays grounded in primary research that allow them to begin situating themselves within and contributing to a given field within medieval studies. The culmination of the programme is the production of a piece of original, independent scholarly work in the form of the MA dissertation that will, in some cases, support the pursuit of the PhD. The dissertation module is supported by a compulsory module on research methods in medieval studies.</p> <p>A combination of taught core and option modules with an independent research component enables students to tailor the programme to their personal interests. The programme allows them to engage with advanced work at MA level and is also an excellent preparation for doctoral research.</p> <p>Students at Birkbeck have access to some of the best resources in the world for medieval research, being close to many renowned research libraries, galleries, museums, and manuscript repositories. This programme teaches the skills which are needed to explore those riches in original and scholarly ways.</p>
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19	<b>Programme Structure</b>			
<b>Full Time programme – 1 year</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN273S7	Medieval Worlds	30	Core
7	-	Option Module 1	30	Option
7	-	Option Module 2	30	Option
7	-	Option Module 3 (or Directed Reading in Medieval Studies AREN112S7)	30	Option
7	AREN274D7	Dissertation	60	Core
7	AREN275Z7	Working in the Middle Ages	0	Compulsory
<b>Part Time programme – 2 years</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN273S7	Medieval Worlds	30	Core
7	-	Option Module 1	30	Option
7	AREN275Z7	Working in the Middle Ages	0	Compulsory
<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	-	Option Module 2	30	Option
7	-	Option Module 3 (or Directed Reading in Medieval Studies AREN112S7)	30	Option
7	AREN274D7	Dissertation	60	Core
7	AREN275Z7	Working in the Middle Ages	0	Compulsory

Year of entry: 2022/23



**Indicative optional modules:**

AREN243S7 Songs of the Earth: Texts and Landscapes in Early Medieval England  
AREN270S7 Lessons from the Medieval Body  
SSHC488S7 Imagined Landscapes of the Middle Ages  
SSHC477S7 The Silk Road: Imagining Global Cultures from the Middle Ages to UNESCO and BRI  
AREN194S7 The Woman Question: Medieval to Renaissance  
AREN268S7 Medievalism: Re-presenting the Middle Ages  
HICL099S7 Power and Communication in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (1400-1800)  
ARVC002S7 Gothic in England: Architecture, Liturgy and Identity 1170-1360  
ENHU071S7 Magic, Science and Religion in the Renaissance  
AREN216S7 Renaissance Loves  
HICL211S7 Renaissance Florence: Society, Religion and Culture

**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	<b>Programme Director</b>	Dr Mike Bintley and Dr Kate Franklin
21	<b>Start Date</b> ( <i>term/year</i> )	October 2022
22	<b>Date approved by Education Committee</b>	Autumn 2021
23	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	Autumn 2021
24	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	5 November 2021