

## 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 Contemporary History and Politics</b>				
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	TMAHI_PO_C (September start) TMAHI_PJ_C (January start)				
5	<b>UCAS code (if applicable)</b>	N/A				
6	<b>Home Department</b>	History, Classics and Archaeology				
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 Group</u></a>	N/A				

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>
	<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	<b>Entry Criteria</b>
	Second-class honours degree in a humanities subject and references

16	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
	<p>Subject Specific:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. an awareness of contemporary historical practice</li> <li>2. an understanding of the methodologies used in the analysis and interpretation of historical documents and other forms of source material where appropriate</li> <li>3. to use historical sources to form interpretations about past societies</li> <li>4. to understand core debates within specific subject fields</li> </ol> <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><b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b></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	<b>Programme Description</b>
	<p>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.</p> <p>The January start is the same as the September start, but students take Mastering Historical Research in the Spring term, and complete their dissertation in early January instead of September.</p>

19	<b>Programme Structure</b>			
<b>Full Time programme – 1 year</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
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
<b>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	SSHC247S7	Mastering Historical Research	30	Compulsory
7	SSHC386Z7	Research Skills for Historians	0	Compulsory
7		(Option 1)	30	optional
7		(Option 2)	30	optional
<b>Year 2</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
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	<b>Programme Director</b>	Prof Nik Wachsmann
21	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2000
22	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2000
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2000
24	Date(s) updated/amended	14 Sep 2022